



Vancouver Island
Crisis Society

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT
For Information:

CAO Mayor/Council

RECEIVED: MAY 31 2016

Referred:

For Action For Response COTW
 For Report Council Agenda IC

Mayor Barbara Desjardins
1229 Esquimalt Rd,
Esquimalt, BC V9A 3P1

Dear Sir or Madam,

**97% of Canadians Use Mobile Phones At Home
Canada Leads the World in Internet Usage**

The Vancouver Island Crisis Line is an emergency service and statistics show that reaching out to talk to someone in a time of crisis can prevent thoughts of suicide from becoming actions. This service saves lives daily and it should be a priority that it is available to all, no matter the age or the vicinity. In the past year many of our community partners reported that their clients only have the ability to communicate via text due to financial strain or isolation.

**Last Year the Crisis Line Received Over 30,000 Calls
15% Involved an Element of Suicide – 45% Were Mental Health Related**

The world is changing and it is incumbent on us to keep up with these changes. It can be difficult to incorporate new technology but if we don't the people we support will soon be left behind. When providing services for people we are cognizant of the needs of the people we serve. Many groups from some of our smaller islands or on the north end of the Island are isolated and may not be using land lines. Now they too have an avenue to connect to support services. As well, some people suffer from social anxiety and can only reach out through social media to connect for emotional support.

**Crisis Text & Chat – A Huge Hit for All Ages
35% under 18 - 56% between ages 19 – 40 - 9% Over age 40**

Crisis Chat is just coming up on the 3rd anniversary for the Vancouver Island Crisis Society and in the past year has seen a 27% increase while Crisis Text, which is a mere 1½ years old, has seen a climb in the last year of 53%. Surprisingly enough those connecting for support are of all ages.

Since offering Chat & Text ages 18 & under accessing support has more than doubled!

Crisis Chat and Crisis Text are currently limited from 6 to 10 nightly despite numerous requests for expanded hours. Unfortunately, these services are at risk of being shut down as sustainable funding is unavailable. The addition of these two services is currently funded completely by private donation. In order to continue operating Crisis Chat and Crisis Text we need \$40,000 this year.

EVERY DOLLAR HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE A LIFE!

Knowing that you and your organization care deeply about the people in our community, we hope that you will consider adding the Vancouver Island Crisis Society to your list of donation recipients this year. We are delighted to have a representative meet with you to speak about our programs and answer your questions, at your convenience (please call 250-753-2495). We have served this community for the past 45 years and are committed to sharing these important messages. Together, we can lessen the impact of suicide and increase access to support for all ages.

Thank you for your generous consideration. As well, we share our heartfelt thanks once again to those organizations and individuals who have previously supported the Crisis Society. We hope you will continue to do so to help make our community Suicide Safer.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "E. Newcombe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Elizabeth Newcombe
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