



May 1, 2024

Nicole Duncan
Chair, Board of Education, School District No.61
556 Boleskine Road
Victoria, BC V8Z 1E8

Email: nduncan@sd61.bc.ca

Dear Ms. Duncan

On April 18, 2024, City of Victoria Council passed the following motion:

That Council request the Mayor to write to the Chair of the Board of Education for School District 61:

- 1. requesting information on the rationale informing its decision to end the police school liaison officer program,*
- 2. urging SD61 to engage directly with diverse community interests,*
- 3. and further requesting reinstatement of the Police School Liaison Officers.*

As requested, I am writing on behalf of the Victoria City Council to express our concerns regarding the decision to terminate the Student Police Liaison Officer Program within School District 61.

Our council acknowledges the intricacies of this decision and the impact the program has on diverse students and families. As our city navigates various challenges, it is critical that we prioritize measures to ensure a safe learning environment for youth in the City of Victoria. The decision to end this program warrants a thorough understanding of the rationale behind it. My Council welcomes more information from you on the rationale informing your Board's decision.

My Council urges School District 61 to actively collaborate with a diverse range of community interests to ensure complete, comprehensive input is provided on this matter. It is essential that all voices are heard regarding this decision, fostering inclusivity and informed decision-making. The absence of a unanimous agreement among our Council Members on this motion emphasizes the complexity of this topic and the importance of obtaining comprehensive input.

The reinstatement of the Police School Liaison Officer program in School District No. 61 has the potential to cultivate a positive relationship between law enforcement and the youth in our community.

Thank you for your consideration, I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter.

"The City of Victoria recognizes the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations in whose traditional territories we live and work "Hay swx qa"

THE CITY OF VICTORIA



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Sincerely,



Marianne Alto
Victoria Mayor

CC: Mayor Dean Murdock and Saanich Council
Mayor Barb Desjardins and Esquimalt Council
Mayor Kevin Murdoch and Oak Bay Council
Mayor Sid Tobias and View Royal Council
Honourable Rachna Singh, Minister of Education
Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
Honourable Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Chief Ron Sam and Songhees Nation Council
Chief Jerome Thomas and Esquimalt Nation Council

"The City of Victoria recognizes the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations in whose traditional territories we live and work "Hay swx qa"

From: Jonah Ross
Sent: May-03-24 1:27 PM
To: Mike Brown; Sarah Holloway
Subject: FW: SPLO program

Copy of correspondence forwarded to:
Mike Brown, VicPD
Sarah, Deputy Corporate Officer – Late Item, May 6

Jonah Ross, (He/Him)
Corporate Services Assistant, Township of Esquimalt
Lekwungen Territory
Tel: 1-250-414-7153 | www.esquimalt.ca

Honoured & privileged to work on the ləkʷəŋən traditional territory and respectfully acknowledge the people of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.
Nətsəmat (We are all One) həyšxʷqə.



This message is intended only for the designated recipients and may contain information that is privileged, confidential, or exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient or acting on their behalf, please notify the sender immediately and delete this e mail from your system. Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: Bart Van Tine [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2024 10:35 AM
To: Council <Council@esquimalt.ca>; Barb Desjardins <Barbara.Desjardins@esquimalt.ca>; mayor@victoria.ca; shammond@victoria.ca; mayor@saanich.ca; council@saanich.ca; mgardiner@victoria.ca; mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca; mayorandcouncil@viewroyal.ca; susan.brice@saanich.ca; judy.brownoff@saanich.ca; nathalie.chambers@saanich.ca; zac.devries@saanich.ca; karen.harper@saanich.ca; teale.phelps.bondaroff@saanich.ca; colin.plant@saanich.ca; mena.westhaver@saanich.ca; obcouncil@oakbay.ca; mayor@oakbay.ca; aappleton@oakbay.ca; hbraithwaite@oakbay.ca; cgreen@oakbay.ca; csmart@oakbay.ca; epaterson@oakbay.ca; lwatson@oakbay.ca; mayortobias@viewroyal.ca; dbrown@viewroyal.ca; dkowalewich@viewroyal.ca; glemon@viewroyal.ca; amackenzie@viewroyal.ca; rmattson@viewroyal.ca; jrogers@viewroyal.ca; Ken Armour <Ken.Armour@esquimalt.ca>; Andrea Boardman <Andrea.Boardman@esquimalt.ca>; Duncan Cavens <Duncan.Cavens@esquimalt.ca>; Jacob Helliwell <Jacob.Helliwell@esquimalt.ca>; Tim Morrison <tim.morrison@esquimalt.ca>; Darlene Rotchford <Darlene.Rotchford@esquimalt.ca>; ccoleman@victoria.ca; skim@victoria.ca; kloughton@victoria.ca
Subject: SPLO program

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Township of Esquimalt Network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I am contacting you as a voter, community member [REDACTED] living and working in the Greater Victoria area to voice my support towards the School Police Liaison Officer program, and my genuine dismay that the SD61 Trustees continue to undermine the public outcry for the return of the program.

The School District, the BC Teachers' Federation, and the Greater Victoria Teachers' Association recently reaffirmed their opposition the SPLOs in mid-April. These opinions do not reflect the greater membership and consultation of all teachers has never happened. The 3 years of review that the SD61 Board of Trustees conducted on SPLO Programs was a flawed process where the front-line staff and community partners were not consulted, including the Four Houses, MYST, all teachers, school counsellors, etc. SD61 SPLO committee only included two representatives from various organizations, proving the process is not sufficient enough to make such an important decision that directly affects the safety and well-being of students and school staff.

I am so proud of Saanich Mayor and Council, Oak Bay Mayor and Council, View Royal Mayor and Council, and Mayor Marianne Alto, Council Members Krista Loughton, Chris Coleman, Stephen Hammond, and especially Marg Gardiner for bringing this motion forward. This motion proves the City's commitment to being an inclusive city where "everyone is included welcomed and respected and the City's commitment to community health and well-being."

SD61 has demonstrated a lack of respect for the teachers, educators, councillors, principals parents, students and our Indigenous partners. I will acknowledge the B.C. Human Rights Commissioner who publicly called on Trustees to end School Police Liaison Officer programs. Using American data and relying on an article funded by her office, written by Dr. Kanika Samuels-Wortley, in 2021, is not sufficient evidence, as all other school districts across BC continue to run their SPLO program. Additionally, SD61 is the only district that continues to have closed meetings, only available on Zoom, shutting themselves off to open dialogue with the public.

Student safety should be the highest priority in our community, SPLO presence addresses the factors that lead students into gangs since most children do not know that they are involved in gang activity until they have become indebted. Gang grooming is not limited to the marginalized, it has expanded to any child, and as young as 10 years old. I believe there are so many uses of taxpayer dollars for preventing youth crime while strengthening the overall health of the community, including having police officers in our schools. Since the SPLO program has ended, student involvement in gang-related activities has skyrocketed in the Tillicum area. To say that there is no correlation between the two is to ignore the necessity of having

I understand Council members Susan Kim, Matt Dell, Jeremy Caradonna, and Dave Thompson who opted for more information and evidence that these programs are genuinely effective. I suggest a consultation with the front-line staff of SD61, including partners such as MYST, former SPLOs from Saanich, Oak Bay and the RCMP, and proper consultation with the Four Houses, in order to have the right information to equip us to serve the interests of the entire community.

I sincerely thank you for your time and consideration,

Bart Van Tine

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]