

Subject: FW: Letter from Chair of Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee and Background Links
Attachments: 2015-VFCYJC- Letter to CRD et al.doc

From: Secretary Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee [mailto:vfamcourt@gmail.com]
Sent: November 20, 2015 4:35 PM
To:

Subject: Fwd: Letter from Chair of Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee and Background Links

Good Afternoon Everyone,

Please find attached a letter from the Chair of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee.

I have also attached below links to background information on this issue.

Marnie Essery, Secretary,

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

Background information can be found at:

<http://calltoaction-victoriabar.weebly.com/>

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/british-columbia-set-to-review-secure-care-youth-detainment-program/article27013119/>

<http://www.rcybc.ca/reports-and-publications/reports/vancouver-city-council-resolution-supports-rcy-report-paigess-story>

cc. Municipal Administrators

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT		
For Information:		
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RECEIVED: NOV 24 2015		
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Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

November 20, 2015

All Capital Region Municipal Councils,
The Capital Regional District Board, and
School Districts of the Capital Region

Dear Mayors, Councillors and Capital Regional District Directors, and School Board Chairs and Trustees,

The Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee is charged with being aware of the circumstances of youth and families who may come into contact with the Justice system. According to the UN, Children's Rights include general principles including non-discrimination, that the best interests of the children be a primary consideration, that the child has the right to be heard and addresses specific rights (protection from physical or mental harm, the highest attainable standard of health, education, play, etc.)

In July BC's Children's Representative spoke to Vancouver City Council about "Paige's Story" (www.rcybc.ca) and they passed a resolution in response advocating for the government to do more to address the issues of children like Paige including ending the automatic aging out of care, increasing Rapid Response capacity, and adopting the May 2015 recommendations from the Representative. We hear from our police resources that they experience the loss of a child in the Capital Region at the rate of about one per year. The committee and our resource members find that unacceptable.

Local law and children's rights advocates are concerned by the actions that continue to plague interventions in the name of protection and request that we adhere to the principles enunciated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. We therefore ask that the CRD Board, every Municipal Council and every School Board of the Capital Region bring forward the following resolution:

That (the Boards and Councils of Greater Victoria unanimously) request that the BC Government take action to redress the failings of the systems that continue to plague intervention into children's lives in the name of 'protection' and adhere to the principles enunciated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Day
Chair, Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee