

DATE OF MEETING | OCTOBER 16, 2024 |

AUTHORED BY | ART GROOT, DIRECTOR, POLICE SERVICES |

**SUBJECT | NANAIMO RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report**

To present the Finance and Audit Committee with an overview and update of the Nanaimo Restorative Justice Program and to obtain Council approval for increased annual funding starting in 2025. |

### **Recommendation**

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council:

1. Add increasing the annual operating grant from \$50,000 to \$85,000 in 2025, for the Nanaimo Restorative Justice Program, as a decision point to the 2025 budget deliberations for Council's consideration; and,
2. Refer the report to a future Public Safety Committee Meeting.

## **BACKGROUND**

The City of Nanaimo contributes \$50,000 annually towards restorative justice services within the community and has consistently maintained that level of funding since 1998. These funds have been managed by the Connective Support Society (formerly John Howard Society) for over 25 years. Since 1998, the program has one of the highest rates of referrals in British Columbia with cases being referred from the Nanaimo RCMP, Federal and Provincial Crown Counsels, Youth Probation, local schools, community organizations and individuals.

Based on client and community feedback, the Nanaimo Restorative Justice Program benefits the community through:

1. Increasing public safety through criminal recidivism reduction in both youth and adults by addressing root causes of behaviour including trauma, substance use, intergenerational harm and mental health concerns.
2. Meeting the needs of victims of crime and offering them a voice and input into the justice process while designing Restorative Justice Agreement Terms that address repair, education and prevention.
3. Providing early intervention with youth clients (50% of the files) to support them to set a healthy foundation for the rest of their lives.
4. Providing indigenous victims and offenders a justice process that prioritizes cultural support and incorporates traditional forms of indigenous justice practices.

5. Offering meaningful opportunities for volunteerism in their community. During the last year, restorative justice volunteers spent over 300 hours mentoring youth clients and supporting Restorative Justice Dialogues. |

## **DISCUSSION**

Over the last 25 years, 4,000 youth and adult files have been successfully completed, and Nanaimo Restorative Justice is a trusted leader in the promotion of community and Indigenous-based restorative justice practices. The program delivers services at no cost for a wide spectrum of files including assault, theft, drug trafficking, medical discrimination, break and enters, mischief, uttering threats, intimate partner violence, sexualized violence and racially motivated harm. Nanaimo Restorative Justice's mandate is to meet the justice needs of victims of crime, as well as provide wraparound support to offenders so they can take meaningful accountability, engage in repair and make positive life choices.

In the last year, Restorative Justice Nanaimo provided services to over 75 responsible parties (offenders) and 88 affected parties (victims). The program worked with over 50 families, 8 elementary and high schools and 7 community partner agencies. Over 85% of files were closed with full compliance, meaning the offender successfully completed all their Agreement Terms. Agreement Terms focused on addressing root causes of behavior, preventing future harm, educating the offender and repairing with the victim. Specifically, Restorative Justice Dialogues and Healing Circles, counseling and substance use recovery support, courses on anger management, healthy relationships and parenting, letters of apology, financial restitution, community service volunteering and employment program completion were some agreement terms included in the last year.

Interest in restorative justice has risen considerably with a 50% increase in referrals at Nanaimo Restorative Justice in the last decade. The Nanaimo RCMP have one of the highest rates of restorative justice referrals in the province. The 5-year average is 45 files per year. The RCMP are strong proponents of the restorative justice process and have included it as a key priority in their *2024-2027 Strategic Plan* and the *BC RCMP Strategic Plan 2021-2023*. These plans highlight the importance of restorative justice as an alternative justice measure and part of ongoing policing excellence. Additionally, the *City Plan: Nanaimo Reimagined* speaks to supporting “services that utilize evidence-based practices for crime prevention and reduction” and multi-sectoral initiatives that “value diversity and address neighbourhood needs” (C3.1.5 and C3.1.8).

Complexity in files has risen and an increase in both staff hours as well as specialized training is required. Complexity has increased both in terms of the type and severity of offenses being referred to Nanaimo Restorative Justice and the accessibility needs of clients due to mental health concerns; substance use and financial and employment barriers. Referrals in the last year have included serious crimes including family and intimate partner violence, sexualized violence, hate crimes and racially motivated harm, and illegal substance possession and trafficking.

There has been an increased call to make restorative justice more available to Indigenous clients and community members. Nanaimo Restorative Justice has worked extensively with local Nations (including with the Snuneymuxw Justice Committee) to meet the needs of indigenous clients. Positive feedback received from indigenous clients demonstrate that restorative justice can more closely align with the traditional justice practices from their home Nations. Many of the indigenous restorative justice clients receive cultural support throughout the restorative justice process,

including with Elders supporting Restorative Justice Dialogues, Healing Circles and Ceremonies. The work in this area is supported by the Nanaimo Indigenous Justice Centre and other local agencies like Kw'umut Lelum and Tsow Tun Le Lum.

The impact and benefits of the Nanaimo Restorative Justice Program brings to the community have been recognized and acknowledged by multiple individuals and organizations across the community and there is common interest in building this program to meet the increased need.

### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Nanaimo Restorative Justice has received \$50,000 per year from the City of Nanaimo since 1998. That amount has remained unchanged since then.

As program costs have increased and funding sources have remained limited the level of services available to the community have been decreased over the last couple of years. In response to the limited funding available Nanaimo Restorative Justice has adjusted to continue operation by:

- Terminating the Indigenous Team Lead/Case Manager staff role.
- Terminating the General Case Manager Staff role.
- Initiating a two-month program and staff break with a pause on new referrals.
- Implementing case waitlists.
- Returning some complex files that would take up too much resources.
- Decreasing the number of referrals being received from the Nanaimo RCMP.
- Adjusting resources to dedicate staffing hours to seeking grant-based funding rather than direct services.

The Nanaimo Restorative Justice team has applied for over three million dollars in unsuccessful grant applications in the last year, and many of the grants that used to fund their program during COVID-19 have now been discontinued. Restorative Justice Programs across BC continue to advocate for increased funding from provincial and federal government as well.

The Nanaimo Restorative Justice Program will also be making a funding increase request to the Regional District of Nanaimo Board, in the very near future.

The current Nanaimo Restorative Justice Program manager has provided a summary of current and proposed funding and its direct relation to program staffing. All current and proposed amounts also cover 15% administration (office rent, insurance, etc), staff mandatory employment related costs and benefits (if applicable) and \$5,600 in yearly direct program costs (office supplies, staff development, client materials, trainings for volunteers, etc.);

1. Current Funding: \$50,000
  - Provides 0.7 FTE (25 hours per week) Program Manager
2. Proposed Funding Model #1: \$85,000 for 2025 with a 2% annual increase and on a 5-year term (Service Agreement)
  - Provides 1.0 FTE (35 hours per week) Program Manager
  - Provides 0.07 FTE (2.5 hrs per week) Case Worker
3. Proposed Funding Model #2: \$100,000 for 2025 with a 2% annual increase and on a 5-year term (Service Agreement)
  - Provides 1.0 FTE (35 hours per week) Program Manager

- Provides 0.3 FTE (10.5 hours per week) Case Worker
4. Proposed Funding Model #3: \$150,000 for 2025 with a 2% annual increase and on a 5-year term (Service Agreement)
- Provides 1.0 FTE (35 hours per week) Program Manager
  - Provides 0.83 FTE (29 hours per week) Case Worker

When it was first instituted in 1998, the \$50,000 contribution from the City allowed the program to consist of one permanent full-time staff. Over twenty years later, the same contribution only allows for 0.7 of one permanent staff.

Over this time, the program's scope has changed to meet the needs of the community, with complex cases making up most of the referrals. Complex cases are defined as those that involve one or more of the following:

- A serious type of offense,
- Complex relational dynamics between participants, and/or
- Participants with intersectional, serious mental health issues, substance use/addictions, lower cognitive functioning/neurodiversity, and/or systemic barriers.

If the original \$50,000 from 1998 had seen an annual 2% increase, the 2025 funding amount from the City would be approximately \$85,000 per year, which still would not cover the cost of Nanaimo Restorative Justice's ideal funding model outlined in option three above.

The program has navigated these challenging landscapes as they have arisen with creativity and pragmatism; however, complex cases require an increased level of time, skill and support – one staff alone cannot fulfill all these requirements at current referral rates.

All the above possible increased funding models will still require the program to seek grant-based funding for the support of their current projects and priorities, including:

1. Supporting Indigenous clients (reinstating the Indigenous Team Lead/Case Manager role that they used to have prior to funding cuts and honoraria for Elders and other cultural support).
2. Offering the Youth Mentorship Project (recruiting and training volunteers, providing associated mentorship program costs).
3. Engagement with local schools (meeting School District 68's request for Restorative Justice training for principals, teachers and students, offering time sensitive in-school Restorative Justice services).

## **OPTIONS**

1. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council:
  1. Add increasing the annual operating grant from \$50,000 to \$85,000 in 2025, for the Nanaimo Restorative Justice Program, as a decision point to the 2025 budget deliberations for Council's consideration; and,
  2. Refer the report to a future Public Safety Committee Meeting.

- The advantages of this option: Increased funding support for Nanaimo Restorative Justice would allow for ongoing direct restorative justice programming and services within in the community and support Community Safety and Security Policies in the City Plan.
  - The disadvantages of this option: Increased costs to offer restorative justice programming inhibits the amount of direct programming available and without additional financial support the community will see a continual decline in direct programming and services. Without this program there could be an increase in crime.
  - Financial Implications: Decision slide will include alternative funding models for Council's consideration. Any increase to the annual operating grant would be funded from property taxation.
2. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council provide alternative direction.

### **SUMMARY POINTS**

- Nanaimo Restorative Justice has received \$50,000 per year from the City of Nanaimo with no increase in funding since 1998.
- Complexity in files has risen and an increase in both staff hours as well as specialized training is required to continue programming and services at a level that meets community need.
- Funding increase will allow for additional staff resources to expand services within the Nanaimo Restorative Justice program.
- Restorative justice is strongly supported by the RCMP as a key priority for alternative justice and policing excellence.
- Nanaimo RCMP are the highest referral agency to the program.

**Submitted by:**

Art Groot  
Director, Police Services

**Concurrence by:**

Andrew Burton  
Superintendent, Nanaimo RCMP & OIC

Richard Harding  
General Manager, Community Services &  
Deputy CAO

Wendy Fulla  
Director, Finance

Laura Mercer  
General Manager, Corporate Services

Dale Lindsay  
CAO

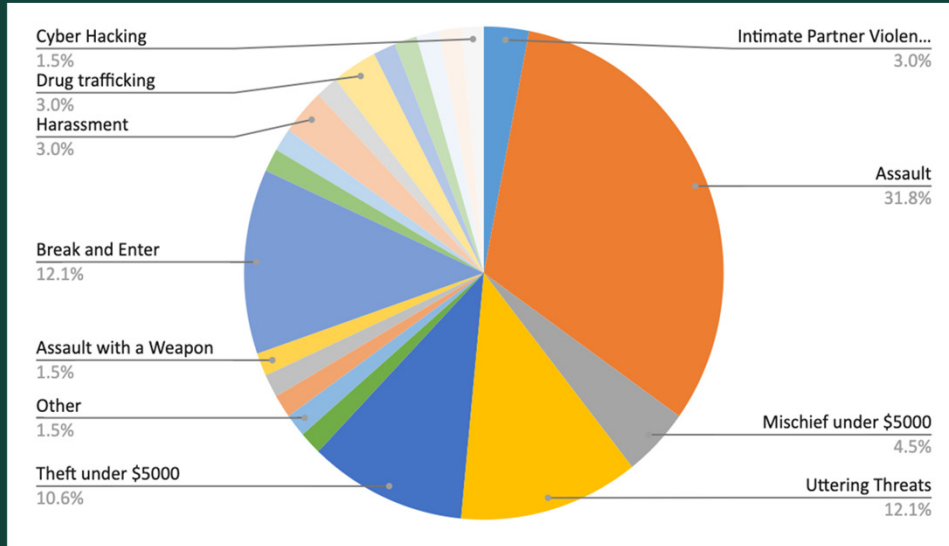


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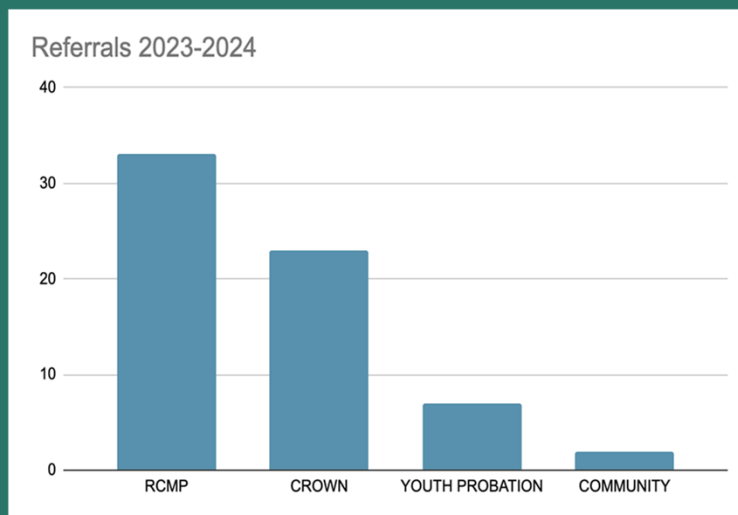
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# Offences Referred to Restorative Justice



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# Referrals for 2023-2024



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## Impact Study

Before



After



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## Restorative Justice Strengths

- Early intervention for youth
- Increase in public safety
- Victim satisfaction and healing
- Reduced costs for City and community
- Culturally-informed justice
- Tailored processes
- Addressing root causes

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## Sample Agreements

### Adult:

- Treatment Centre
- Counselling (10 sessions)
- Community Service (50 hrs)
- Apology letter
- Parenting Skills Program
- Employment Program
- Good Faith commitments to family and recovery

### Youth:

- Restorative Dialogue
- Youth Mentorship Sessions
- Community Service (4 hrs)
- Referral to Y-STAR Nanaimo
- Managing Anger and Stress educational sessions
- Good Faith commitment to school

**REPAIR + PREVENTION + EDUCATION**

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## Impacts of Low Funding

- Staff Reduction
- Program Break
- Waitlist
- Reduced Complex Files
- Decrease in Referrals
- Low Capacity

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# Community Needs

- Operational Capacity
- Complex Files
- School Engagement
- Youth Mentorship Project
- Increased Indigenous Support
- Diversity Advocacy

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# Funding Models

Request: That Council invests in the Nanaimo Restorative Justice Program to meet the justice needs of City of Nanaimo citizens

**Current Funding: \$50,000**

0.7 FTE (25 hours per week) Program Manager

**Proposed Funding Model #1: \$85,000**

1.0 FTE (35 hours per week) Program Manager

**Proposed Funding Model #2: \$100,000**

1.0 FTE (35 hours per week) Program Manager  
0.3 FTE (10.5 hours per week) Case Worker

**Proposed Funding Model #3: \$150,000**

1.0 FTE (35 hours per week) Program Manager  
0.83 FTE (29 hours per week) Program Manager

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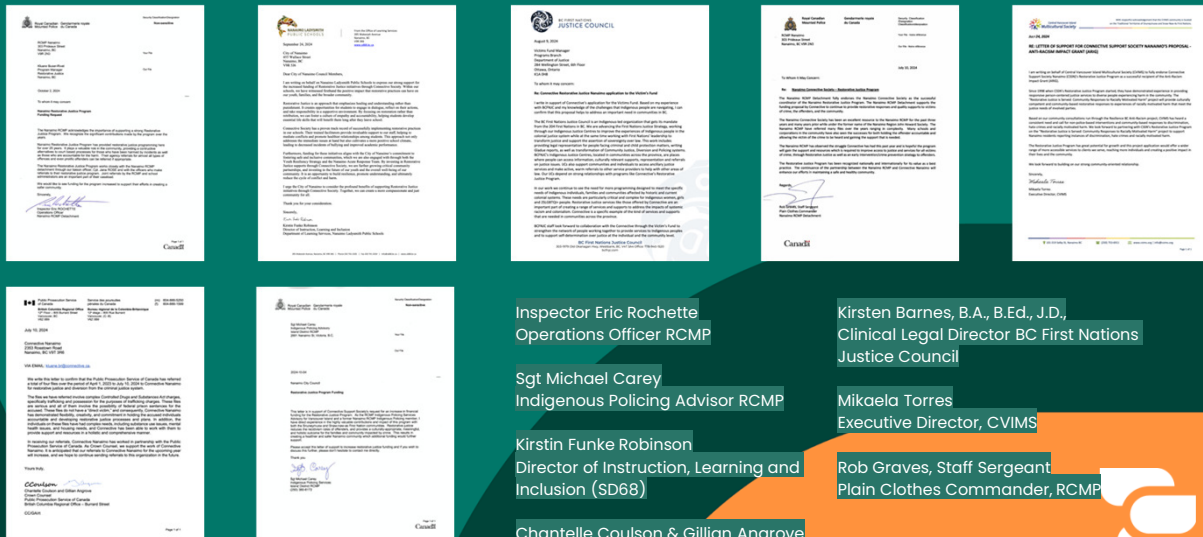
## Supporters Include:

- RCMP Nanaimo Detachment
- RCMP Vancouver Island Indigenous Policing Advisory
- BC First Nations Justice Council
- School District 68
- Crown Counsel, Public Prosecution Service of Canada
- Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society (CVIMS)
- Tsow-Tun Le Lum Society
- Kw'umut Lelum
- Snuneymuxw Justice Committee
- Nanaimo Family Life Association
- Restorative Justice Victoria
- Comox Valley Community Justice Centre

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## Letters of Support



Inspector Eric Rochette  
Operations Officer RCMP

Sgt Michael Carey  
Indigenous Policing Advisor RCMP

Kirstin Funke Robinson  
Director of Instruction, Learning and  
Inclusion (SD68)

Chantelle Coulson & Gillian Angrove  
Crown Counsel, Public Prosecution  
Service of Canada

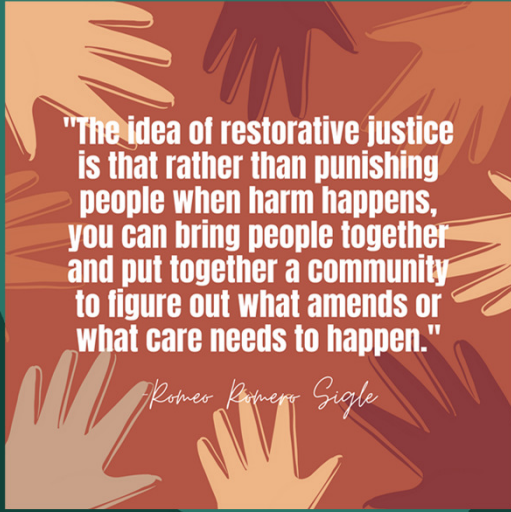
Kirsten Barnes, B.A., B.Ed., J.D.,  
Clinical Legal Director BC First Nations  
Justice Council

Mikaela Torres  
Executive Director, CVIMS

Rob Graves, Staff Sergeant  
Plain Clothes Commander, RCMP

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# Questions & Comments



Kluane Buser-Rivet  
Restorative Justice Program Manager

kluane.br@connective.ca  
(250) 668-5759



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## APPENDIX Letters of Support 1-7



Security Classification/Designation  
Non-sensitive

RCMP Nanaimo  
303 Prédiaux Street  
Nanaimo, BC  
V9R 2N3

Your File

Kluane Buser-Rivet  
Program Manager  
Restorative Justice  
Nanaimo, BC

Our File

October 2, 2024

To whom it may concern

Nanaimo Restorative Justice Program  
Funding Request

The Nanaimo RCMP acknowledges the importance of supporting a strong Restorative Justice Program. We recognize the significant contributions made by the program over the years.

Nanaimo Restorative Justice Program has provided restorative justice programming here for over 25 years. It plays a valuable role in the community, providing a constructive alternative to court based processes for those who have been harmed by incidents as well as those who are accountable for the harm. Their agency referrals for almost all types of offences and even prolific offenders can be referred if appropriate.

The Nanaimo Restorative Justice Program works closely with the Nanaimo RCMP detachment through our liaison officer, Cpl. Jana ROSE and with the officers who make referrals to their restorative justice program. Joint referrals by the RCMP and school administrators are an important part of their caseload.

We would like to see funding for the program increased to support their efforts in creating a safer community.


Sincerely,

Inspector Eric ROCHETTE  
Operations Officer  
Nanaimo RCMP Detachment

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**NANAIMO LADYSMITH  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

September 24, 2024

City of Nanaimo  
455 Wallace Street  
Nanaimo, BC  
V9R 5J6

From the Office of Learning Services  
395 Waterish Avenue  
Nanaimo, BC  
V9R 3K3  
[www.o668.bc.ca](http://www.o668.bc.ca)



Dear City of Nanaimo Council Members,

I am writing on behalf of Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools to express our strong support for the increased funding of Restorative Justice initiatives through Connective Society. Within our schools, we have witnessed firsthand the positive impact that restorative practices can have on our youth, families, and the broader community.

Restorative Justice is an approach that emphasizes healing and understanding rather than punishment. It creates opportunities for students to engage in dialogue, reflect on their actions, and take responsibility in a supportive environment. By focusing on restoration rather than retribution, we can foster a culture of empathy and accountability, helping students develop essential life skills that will benefit them long after they leave school.

Connective Society has a proven track record of successfully implementing restorative practices in our schools. Their trained facilitators provide invaluable support to our staff, helping to mediate conflicts and promote healthier relationships among students. This approach not only addresses the immediate issues at hand but also cultivates a more positive school climate, leading to decreased incidents of bullying and improved academic performance.

Furthermore, funding for these initiatives aligns with the City of Nanaimo's commitment to fostering safe and inclusive communities, which we are also engaged with through both the Youth Resiliency Strategy and the Nanaimo Acute Response Team. By investing in Restorative Justice supports through Connective Society, we are further growing critical community partnerships, and investing in the future of our youth and the overall well-being of our community. It is an opportunity to build resilience, promote understanding, and ultimately reduce the cycle of conflict and harm.

I urge the City of Nanaimo to consider the profound benefits of supporting Restorative Justice initiatives through Connective Society. Together, we can create a more compassionate and just community for all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
*Kirstin Funke Robinson*  
Kirstin Funke Robinson  
Director of Instruction, Learning and Inclusion  
Department of Learning Services, Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools

395 Waterish Avenue, Nanaimo, BC V9R 3K6 | Phone 250 741 5335 | Fax 250 741 5334 | info@o668.bc.ca | www.o668.bc.ca

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**Royal Canadian  
Mounted Police**

RCMP Nanaimo  
303 Prideaux Street  
Nanaimo, BC V9R 2N3

**Gendarmerie royale  
du Canada**

Security Classification  
Évaluation  
Classification/évaluation

Your File - Votre référence

Our File - Notre référence

July 10, 2024



To Whom It May Concern:

**Re: Nanaimo Connective Society – Restorative Justice Program**

The Nanaimo RCMP Detachment fully endorses the Nanaimo Connective Society as the successful coordinator of the Nanaimo Restorative Justice Program. The Nanaimo RCMP Detachment supports the funding proposal by Connective to continue to provide restorative responses and quality supports to victims of crime, the offenders, and the community.

The Nanaimo Connective Society has been an excellent resource to the Nanaimo RCMP for the past three years and many years prior while under the former name of the Nanaimo Region John Howard Society. The Nanaimo RCMP have referred many files over the years ranging in complexity. Many schools and corporations in the community have also seen the successes for both holding the offender accountable and allowing the victim of the crime to be heard and gaining the support that is needed.


The Nanaimo RCMP has observed the struggle Connective has had this past year and is hopeful the program will gain the support and resources which is required to improve access to justice and services for all victims of crime, through Restorative Justice as well as an early intervention/crime prevention strategy to offenders.

The Restorative Justice Program has been recognized nationally and internationally for its value as a best practice. The continuance of the partnership between the Nanaimo RCMP and Connective Nanaimo will enhance our efforts in maintaining a safe and healthy community.

Regards,  
  
Rob GRAVES, Staff Sergeant  
Plain Clothes Commander  
Nanaimo RCMP Detachment



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Central Vancouver Island  
Multicultural Society

With respectful acknowledgement that the CVIMS community is located  
on the Traditional Territories of Snwéymwə and Snwé-Neə-Aw First Nations.

**JULY 24, 2024**

**RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR CONNECTIVE SUPPORT SOCIETY NANAIMO'S PROPOSAL -  
ANTI-RACISM IMPACT GRANT (ARIG)**

I am writing on behalf of Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society (CVIMS) to fully endorse Connective Support Society Nanaimo (CSSN)'s Restorative Justice Program as a successful recipient of the Anti-Racism Impact Grant (ARIG).

Since 1998 when CSSN's Restorative Justice Program started, they have demonstrated experience in providing responsive person-centered justice services to diverse people experiencing harm in the community. The "Restorative Justice is Served: Community Responses to Racially Motivated Harm" project will provide culturally competent and community-based restorative responses to experiences of racially motivated harm that meet the justice needs of involved parties.

Based on our community consultations run through the Resilience BC Anti-Racism project, CVIMS has heard a consistent need and call for non-police-based interventions and community-based responses to discrimination, hate crimes and racially motivated harm. We look forward to partnering with CSSN's Restorative Justice Program on the "Restorative Justice is Served: Community Responses to Racially Motivated Harm" project to support Nanaimo residents reporting instances of discrimination, hate crimes and racially motivated harm.

The Restorative Justice Program has great potential for growth and this project application would offer a wider range of more accessible services to clients we serve, reaching more individuals and creating a positive impact in their lives and the community.

We look forward to building on our strong community-oriented relationship.

Sincerely,  
*Mikaela Torres*  
Mikaela Torres  
Executive Director, CVIMS

📍 101-319 Selby St, Nanaimo BC
☎️ (250) 753-6911
🌐 www.cvims.org | info@cvims.org

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Public Prosecution Service  
of Canada

British Columbia Regional Office  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor – 800 Burrard Street  
Vancouver, BC  
V6Z 0B9

Service des poursuites  
pénales du Canada

Bureau régional de la Colombie-Britannique  
12<sup>e</sup> étage – 800 Rue Burrard  
Vancouver, (C-8)  
V6Z 0B9

(m): 604-666-5250  
(t): 604-666-1599

July 10, 2024

Connective Nanaimo  
2353 Rossdown Road  
Nanaimo, BC V9T 3R6

VIA EMAIL: [kjuane.br@connective.ca](mailto:kjuane.br@connective.ca).

We write this letter to confirm that the Public Prosecution Service of Canada has referred a total of four files over the period of April 1, 2023 to July 10, 2024 to Connective Nanaimo for restorative justice and diversion from the criminal justice system.

The files we have referred involve complex *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* charges, specifically trafficking and possession for the purposes of trafficking charges. These files are serious and all of them involve the possibility of federal prison sentences for the accused. These files do not have a "direct victim," and consequently, Connective Nanaimo has demonstrated flexibility, creativity, and commitment in holding the accused individuals accountable and developing restorative justice processes and plans. In addition, the individuals on these files have had complex needs, including substance use issues, mental health issues, and housing needs, and Connective has been able to work with them to provide support and resources in a holistic and comprehensive manner.

In receiving our referrals, Connective Nanaimo has worked in partnership with the Public Prosecution Service of Canada. As Crown Counsel, we support the work of Connective Nanaimo. It is anticipated that our referrals to Connective Nanaimo for the upcoming year will increase, and we hope to continue sending referrals to this organization in the future.

Yours truly,

*CCoulson*  
Chantelle Coulson and Gillian Angrove  
Crown Counsel  
Public Prosecution Service of Canada  
British Columbia Regional Office – Burrard Street

CC/GA/it

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🌐 www.cvims.org | info@cvims.org

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**BC FIRST NATIONS  
JUSTICE COUNCIL**

August 9, 2024

Victims Fund Manager  
Programs Branch  
Department of Justice  
284 Wellington Street, 6th Floor  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0H6

To whom it may concern:

**Re: Connective Restorative Justice Nanaimo application to the Victim's Fund**

I write in support of Connective's application for the Victims Fund. Based on my experience with BCFNJC and my knowledge of the challenges that Indigenous people are navigating, I can confirm that this proposal helps to address an important need in communities in BC.

The BC First Nations Justice Council is an Indigenous-led organization that gets its mandate from the 204 First Nations in BC. We are advancing the First Nations Justice Strategy, working through our Indigenous Justice Centres to improve the experiences of Indigenous people in the colonial justice system while at the same time working with First Nations' leadership to transform justice and support the assertion of sovereignty over law. This work includes providing legal representation for people facing criminal and child protection matters, writing Gladue reports, as well as transformation of Community Justice, Diversion and Policing systems. BCFNJC's Indigenous Justice Centres, located in communities across the province, are places where people can access information, culturally relevant supports, representation and referrals on justice issues. IJC's also support communities and individuals to access ancillary justice services and make active, warm referrals to other service providers to help with other areas of law. Our IJCs depend on strong relationships with programs like Connective's Restorative Justice Program.

In our work we continue to see the need for more programming designed to meet the specific needs of Indigenous individuals, families and communities affected by historic and current colonial systems. These needs are particularly critical and complex for Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQI+ people. Restorative Justice services like those offered by Connective are an important part of creating a range of services and supports to address the impacts of systemic racism and colonialism. Connective is a specific example of the kind of services and supports that are needed in communities across the province.

BCFNJC staff look forward to collaboration with the Connective through the Victim's Fund to strengthen the network of people working together to provide services to Indigenous peoples and to support self-determination over justice at the individual and the community level.

**BC First Nations Justice Council**  
303-1979 Old Okanagan Hwy, Westbank, BC, V4T 3A4 Office: 778-940-1520  
bcfnjc.com



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Royal Canadian Mounted Police / Gendarmierie royale du Canada

Sgt Michael Carey  
Indigenous Policing Advisory  
Island District RCMP  
2881 Nanaimo St, Victoria, B.C.

2024-10-04

Nanaimo City Council

**Restorative Justice Program Funding**

This letter is in support of Connective Support Society's request for an increase in financial funding for the Restorative Justice Program. As the RCMP Indigenous Policing Services Advisory for Vancouver Island and a former Nanaimo RCMP Indigenous Policing member, I have direct experience in the highly valuable contributions and impact of this program with both the Sḵwaxwiyem and Snaw-naw-as First Nation communities. Restorative justice reduces the recidivism rates of offenders, and provides a culturally-appropriate, meaningful, and holistic outcome for the families and community impacted by crime. This results in creating a healthier and safer Nanaimo community which additional funding would further support.

Please accept this letter of support to increase restorative justice funding and if you wish to discuss this further, please don't hesitate to contact me directly.

Thank you



Sgt Michael Carey  
Indigenous Policing Services  
Island District RCMP  
(250) 300-6172

Security Classification/Designation  
**Non-sensitive**

Your File

Our File

—

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