

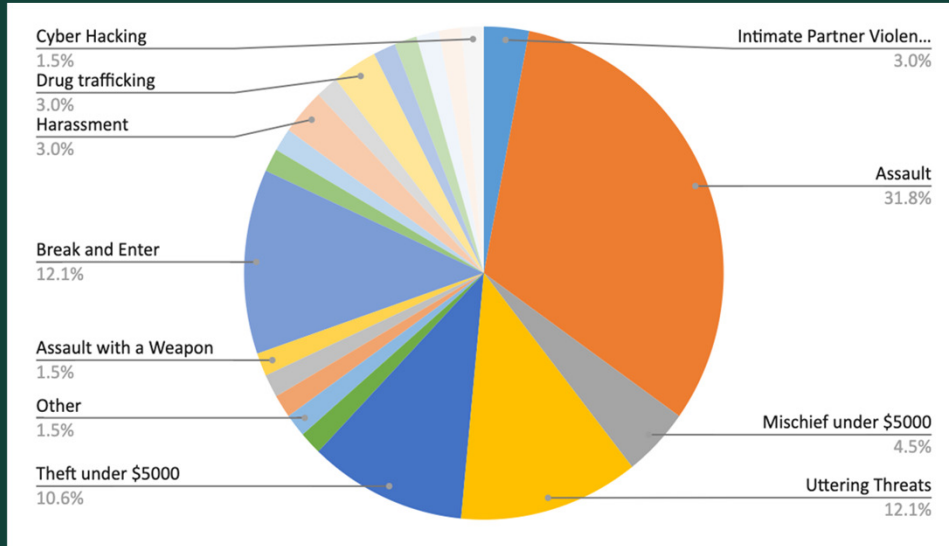


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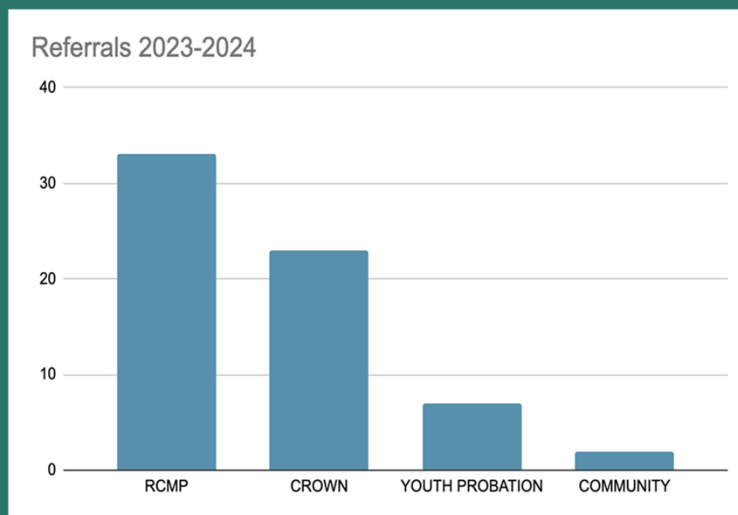
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# Offences Referred to Restorative Justice



3

# Referrals for 2023-2024



4

## Impact Study

Before



After



5

## 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

6

6

## 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**

7

7

## Impacts of Low Funding

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

8

8

# Community Needs

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

9

9

# 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

10

10

## 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

11

11

## 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

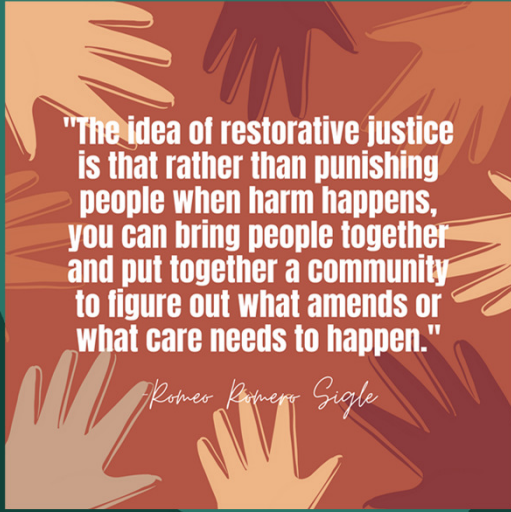
Kirsten Barnes, B.A., B.Ed., J.D.,  
Clinical Legal Director BC First Nations  
Justice Council

Mikaela Torres  
Executive Director, CVIMS

Rob Graves, Staff Sergeant  
Plain Clothes Commander, RCMP

12

# Questions & Comments



Kluane Buser-Rivet  
Restorative Justice Program Manager

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



13

## APPENDIX Letters of Support 1-7



Security Classification/Designation  
Non-sensitive

RCMP Nainaimo  
303 Prédiaux Street  
Nainaimo, BC  
V8R 2N3

Your File

Kluane Buser-Rivet  
Program Manager  
Restorative Justice  
Nainaimo, BC

Our File

October 2, 2024

To whom it may concern

Nainaimo Restorative Justice Program  
Funding Request

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

Nainaimo 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 Nainaimo Restorative Justice Program works closely with the Nainaimo 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  
Nainaimo RCMP Detachment

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14



**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 3K3 | Phone 250 741 5335 | Fax 250 741 5334 | info@o668.bc.ca | www.o668.bc.ca

15



**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



16





Central Vancouver Island  
Multicultural Society

With respectful acknowledgement that the CVIMS community is located  
on the Traditional Territories of Snwéymúne and Snwé-Ne-Ás 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

Page 1 of 1

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17



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

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

Page 1 of 1

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18



**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

**CONNECTIVE**

19



Royal Canadian Mounted Police / Gendarmerie 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

**CONNECTIVE**

Security Classification/Designation  
**Non-sensitive**

Your File

Our File

Page 1 of 1  
Canada

20