

**City of Chilliwack**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION**  
**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2022– 8:45 am**  
**HELD ELECTRONICALLY**

**In attendance:**

Councillor Jason Lum, Co-Chair	Councillor Bud Mercer, Co-Chair
Sergeant Krista Vrolyk, Community Policing	Ian Josephson, Fire Chief
Michelle Wulff, Chilliwack Crime Prevention Society	Mike Bourdon, Assistant Fire Chief
Steve Roukema, Executive Director, Restorative Justice	Angus Haggarty, Corrections/Restorative Justice
Karen Stanton, Manager of Long Range Planning & Community Safety / Staff Liaison	Garrett Schipper, Manager of Building and Regulator Enforcement
Joe Koczur, Deputy Director of Operations	Tanis Hatch, ICBC
Trish Alsip, Recording Secretary	Trevor McDonald, Executive Director, BIA

**Regrets:**

Inspector Steve Vrolyk, Operations Officer, RCMP	Peter Lang, Community Member, President, Chilliwack Métis Association
Brian Foote, Community Members	Collin Rogers, Chamber of Commerce
Mark Klassen, SD33, Manager of Facilities	Joanne Jefferson, Stólo Justice
Holly Ferris, Social Development Coordinator	Chris Terepocki, Legal Representative

**Guest:**

Dr. Steve Esau, Manager of Fraser Region Youth Addiction Centre, Pacific Community Resources Society (PCRS)	Constable Ryan Tucker, RCMP
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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Co-Chair Mercer called the meeting to order at 8:45 am and provided territorial acknowledgement.

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Moved / ) That the Agenda of the Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Advisory Committee held  
 Seconded ( Wednesday, March 9, 2022 be adopted.

Carried Unanimously

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved / ) That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Advisory Committee held  
 Seconded ( Wednesday, February 9, 2022 be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

**4. DELEGATION**

## 5. PRESENTATION / COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Joe Koczur, Deputy Director of Operations, joined the meeting at 8:50 am.

Co-Chair Lum introduced Dr. Steve Esau, Manager of Fraser Region Youth Addiction Centre, Pacific Community Resources Society (PCRS).

### **Pacific Community Resources Society (PCRS) – Youth Treatment Facility – Traverse Program**

Dr. Esau provided a brief presentation regarding the Traverse Program and how the program was formed. Consultation with many youth and adults with lived experience, and Indigenous neighbours was undertaken to help create a program that helped youth and families reach their treatment goal.

It is a Fraser Region referral-based live-in treatment centre for youth ages 13-18, who are experiencing substance use and addiction challenges. Youth voluntarily attend the program and can stay up to six months in the 20-bed treatment facility. Dr. Esau provided details regarding the intake and assessment process.

The program components were highlighted including nature-based activities which is an integral aspect of the program. Family involvement was also noted to be very empowering for both the youth and the family. The staffing model includes; but is not limited to, clinical team leads, clinical counsellors, therapists, youth support workers, and many others.

Discussion ensued regarding the referral process timeline, the current status of available beds; and how COVID-19 protocols have had an impact on the program. Co-Chairs Lum and Mercer thanked Dr. Esau for the informative presentation. Dr. Esau invited anyone who is interested in a tour of the facility, to contact him.

An enquiry was raised with respect to whether there is information on the program available to the public; Dr. Esau noted he will forward an informational brochure with respect to the Traverse Program.

Dr. Steve Esau left the meeting at 9:13 am.

### **RCMP – Catalytic Converter Thefts**

Sergeant Krista Vrolyk, Community Policing, RCMP, and Constable Ryan Tucker, Property Crime Section, RCMP, provided an update in follow-up to a request at the February 9, 2022 meeting with respect to catalytic converter thefts in the community.

In the past few years, high-value metals have increased in value significantly which has generated a higher value for them when they are being scrapped at auto recyclers. That, coupled with the ease of removing catalytic converters off vehicles has drastically increased the number of thefts. In 2021, Chilliwack had just below 4% of the total catalytic converter thefts in the Lower Mainland. Through recent investigations, the RCMP have seen begun to see a trend of suspects who are not local residents of Chilliwack. The catalytic converters that are being stolen within the area are being taken outside of Chilliwack for sale, resulting in a multi-jurisdictional issue. The RCMP, the Municipal Police agencies, and ICBC have met regularly over the past year to discuss the issue.

**5. PRESENTATION / COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

There are crime prevention programs currently operating in other communities; whereby, the vehicle identification number (VIN) is engraved on the catalytic converter. However, this type of crime prevention program requires significant support from local business owners, and cost and compliance are factors to be considered. Sergeant Vrolyk discussed some of the challenges the RCMP face, including the threshold for the Courts which requires proving ownership of the stolen property. The RCMP is aware the majority of the retailers accepting catalytic converters are not within City of Chilliwack limits, creating challenges for the RCMP as it is not only a local issue but a province-wide issue. The RCMP noted there is provincial legislation with respect to the *Metal Recycling Act* regarding wire theft.

Staff provided additional comment with respect to the Second Hand Goods Regulation Bylaw 2017, No. 4426 which requires secondhand dealers to provide a detailed record of all transactions to the RCMP and the Bylaw Department with respect to auto parts and scrap metal. The Bylaw Department has reviewed the Second Hand Goods Regulation Bylaw 2017, No. 4426 to further investigate whether there is a need to define scrap metal further by incorporating catalytic converters into the bylaw.

Steve Roukema, Executive Director, Restorative Justice, requested clarification with respect to whether individuals committing this level of crime would be suitable as a candidate for Restorative Justice; Constable Tucker provided clarification.

Co-Chair Mercer suggested the RCMP reach out to the BC Association of Police Chiefs with respect to lobbying the provincial government regarding incorporating laws to have BC car dealerships identify catalytic converters. Co-Chair Lum concurs and noted there are gaps in the current system that requires provincial attention.

Co-Chairs Lum and Mercer thanked Sergeant Krista Vrolyk and Constable Ryan Tucker for the update.

Constable Ryan Tucker left the meeting at 9:30 am.

**6. CURRENT ISSUES TO ADDRESS****7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION****8. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES****9. REPORTS****a) RCMP**

Sergeant Krista Vrolyk, Community Policing, RCMP, reported on the following:

1. There has been an increase in online reporting in February 2022; year-to-date there has been an increase from 38 online reports made in 2021, compared with 55 reports made in 2022. The RCMP will be using social media as a tool to inform the community online reporting is available.
2. Crimes against persons are trending down as are property crimes, with the exception of bike thefts. The RCMP has made some recent arrests and a strategy is in place with respect to bike thefts.
3. Domestic violence reflected a decrease in February 2022.
4. Overall, calls-for-service reflected a decrease in February 2022.

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**9. REPORTS (continued)**

5. A new RCMP Communication Assistant position has been hired, and as such, the RCMP will be expanding its social media communication with the public.
6. The RCMP continues to monitor any trends with respect to protests or demonstrations.
7. COVID-19 –there are no COVID-related staffing issues.

**b) Fire Department**

Fire Chief, Ian Josephson reported on the following:

1. Calls-for-service in the first few months of 2022 are comparable year-to-date.
2. The Fire Department is very active gearing up for the BC wildfire season working with mutual aid partners such as local fire departments including Chilliwack River Valley and Agassiz. The Fire Department is also liaising with BC Wildfire Service teams who are currently at Cultus Lake.
3. Training is taking place for Career and Paid on-Call firefighters to prepare for wildfire season.

**c) BIA**

No report.

**d) Bylaw Department**

1. Bylaw Enforcement Officers report an increase in individuals congregating in the Yale corridor near Fletcher Street. Staff and the operators of Ruth and Naomi's Mission are working together with respect to a solution regarding this trend.
2. Vacant homes – there are ongoing challenges with respect to individuals experiencing homelessness who are inhabiting vacant homes. Staff is spending significant resources on ensuring the vacant homes are secured.
3. The Bylaw Department has had recent staffing changes; and as such, a full-time Bylaw Enforcement Officer position has been posted. A posting for a Temporary Time-Duration Bylaw Enforcement Officer has also been posted for the months of May to October 2022 which will provide more coverage on evenings and weekends.
4. With the warmer weather ahead, there will be an increase in patrols along trails and in parks.

**e) ICBC**

1. March is Distracted Driving Awareness month; ICBC coordinators across BC have been working with stakeholders across BC providing generalized messaging with respect to distracted driving. Tanis Hatch, ICBC, along with Samantha Piper, Public Safety Specialist, Safer City, have just recently posted a video with more videos expected to come out later this month. ICBC has also created and posted a video with the RCMP with respect to distracted driving.
2. Ms. Hatch enquired whether the RCMP would consider a coordinated effort with respect to next month's Auto-Crime campaign in April; Sergeant Vrolyk reported the RCMP's Traffic Section enjoyed working on the Distracted Driving messaging and would be pleased to participate in the Auto-Crime campaign.

**9. REPORTS (continued)**

Mark Klassen, SD33, Manager of Facilities, was unable to attend the meeting; however, provided the following report via email:

**f) School District**

1. *"We have had 4 containers broken into on school sites over the past couple weeks where equipment has been stolen*
2. *Kwiyeqel South had the welding shed broken into and equipment taken*
3. *Mark and Const. Dan Burggraaf toured some of our more challenging school sites when it comes to vandalism and talked about CPTED practices we could implement, it was very productive. The RCMP will provide a letter of support on the recommendations and Mark will put a plan together on remediation and changes to sites.*
4. *Sardis Elementary is submitting a letter to Superintendent Lee on the great work carried out by Const. Brad Holditch and his support on the Sardis Elementary incident*
5. *Mark has been submitting several reports through the RCMP online reporting tool that involve vandalism and theft which has been a great experience. Moving forward this reporting should be more reflective in capturing onsite incidents throughout our District*
6. *Mark has worked with Daryl Lindhout, Superintendent of Civic Facilities over at Sardis Park to work on identifying youth causing some challenges in the washrooms. Youth were identified, spoken to at the school and parents informed.*
7. *Caitlin Weston, Assistant Manager of Bylaw Enforcement has been a great resource in providing assistance on issues in our District."*

Mr. Roukema noted he responded to Mark Klassen off-line with respect to Restorative Justice providing support to the School District regarding any of the above-noted youth-related challenges.

**g) Operations**

1. Crews have been continuing the winter sand clean-up which is close to completion.
2. Staff are preparing for the spring freshet.

**h) Social Development**

1. The extreme weather emergency overnight shelter at Cheam View United Church, managed by Ruth and Naomi's Mission, will be open for the next few evenings while overnight temperatures drop.
2. The following three projects were identified as priorities through the Community Safety Plan process and through discussions with stakeholders last fall and will be brought forward to the March 15, 2022 Council Meeting for approval of Reaching Home funding:
  - a. Community Integration Outreach Project
    - i. Outreach work - two new outreach workers have been accompanying the Community Response Team during daily patrols, connecting people to services and there has been great success to-date in this aspect.
    - ii. Situation Table - the program facilitates weekly meetings whereby a number of situations have been brought forward, primarily related to youth. Program staff are also working with all outreach providers with respect to adult outreach.

**9. REPORTS (continued)**

It was noted that the new Fraser Health Integrated Homelessness Action Response Team (IHART) is anticipated to be up and running in the next month providing integration between service providers and improved health services with respect to on-call homelessness response.

- b. Housing Hub Outreach and Housing Facilitators to help people transition into housing and to support them in retaining that housing.
3. The City has received notification from the Federal Government for this year and 2023, additional funding will be received in the amount of \$650,000 for other projects; the RHCAB will be reviewing top priorities in the community with respect to projects that will have the most impact regarding reducing overall numbers of individuals experiencing homelessness.

Karen Stanton, Manager of Long Range Planning & Community Safety and Staff Liaison, provided a final comment noting the Community Safety Plan talks a lot about stigma reduction. It was encouraged to refer to individuals experiencing homelessness, rather than '*the homeless*'. This is a practice that staff is trying to promote through discussion groups moving forward and it is one step towards reducing stigma.

**i) Restorative Justice**

1. Mr. Roukema responded to Mr. Klassen's email concerning students.
2. Last month Restorative Justice along with Sergeant Vrolyk, and a Restorative Justice Trainer provided a school presentation with respect to the Restorative Justice referral process via Zoom to teachers and Youth Care Workers as part of their Pro D Day.
3. In April, Restorative Justice will provide presentations to all RCMP detachments in the area regarding the referral process.

**j) Stólo Justice**

No report

**k) Chamber of Commerce**

No report

**l) Chilliwack Crime Prevention Society**

1. Speed Watch reported five deployments in February; 56 Speed Watch warning letters were mailed and a top speed of 56 km was reported in a school zone.
2. Block Watch currently has new block watch areas registered with the program; Garrison Boulevard, and the Little Mountain area has expressed interest in becoming part of the Block Watch Program.

**Community Members**

Angus Haggarty, Corrections/Restorative Justice, Community Member, provided positive comments and appreciation with respect to the networking and good work done by the Public Safety Advisory Committee Members to keep the community safe.

**10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

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**11. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION**

Moved /     )     That, in accordance with Section 90 (1)(f) of the *Community Charter*, the Committee hold a  
Seconded (     Closed meeting.

Carried Unanimously

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Councillor Lum, Co-Chair