



**RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**Tuesday, February 22, 2022  
Electronic and in Meeting Room G  
Lower Level, City Hall**

**PRESENT:**

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Councilor Chuck Puchmayr | Chair*  |
| Paige Mercier            | Alternate Chair/Community Member*                               |
| Pamela Craven            | School District 40 (SD 40) Representative*                      |
| Alvin Kube               | New Westminister Indigenous Court Representative*               |
| Gurinder Mann            | Communities Embracing Restorative Action (CERA) Representative* |
| Amanda Semenoff          | Community Member*   |
| Tu Van Trieu             | Community Member*   |

**STAFF PRESENT:**

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Constable John MacDonald | New Westminister Police Department (NYPD)*              |
| Bailey Keeler            | New Westminister Victim Assistance Association (NWVAA)* |
| Carilyn Cook             | Committee Clerk, Legislative Services                   |

\*Denotes electronic attendance.

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**1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Councillor Puchmayr opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminister is on the unceded and unsundered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. He acknowledged that colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. He recognized that, as a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

**Procedural note:** Item 4.1 – Orientation and Oaths of Office was addressed prior to other agenda items.

## **2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** the February 22, 2022 Restorative Justice Committee meeting agenda be adopted noting that as Mr. Robert Nahanee, Squamish Elder and guest speaker was unable to attend the meeting, he would be invited to speak at the next Committee meeting.

**Carried.**

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

## **3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

### **3.1 August 31, 2021**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** the August 31, 2021 Restorative Justice Committee minutes be adopted as circulated.

**Carried.**

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

## **4. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

### **4.1 Orientation and Oaths of Office**

Carilyn Cook, Committee Clerk, commenced with the Legislative Services Committee Orientation PowerPoint presentation which included the role of advisory committees, the Terms of Reference, meeting attendance and quorum, meeting conduct, City policies and freedom of information, and, lastly, Oaths of Office.

### **4.2 Robert Nahanee, Squamish Elder - Guest Speaker**

As noted above, Mr. Nahanee was unable to attend and will be invited to speak at the next meeting of the Restorative Justice Committee.

## **5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

### **5.1 Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls**

Councillor Puchmayr advised that a speaker from the Indigenous community will be sought out to attend the next meeting to provide the Committee further education on this matter and what can be done, as a local government, to address this issue.

Alvin Kube, New Westminster Indigenous Court Representative, volunteered to contact Ms. Kathy Louis, who was on the committee that developed the Report, to request that she speak at the Committee's next meeting.

### **5.2 State of the First Nations' Court**

Alvin Kube, New Westminster Indigenous Court Representative, provided a refresher regarding the Court for Committee members, including:

- The Court was started in 1986 and is also known as the Gladue Court where clients come by a referral of the Crown;
- The Court, which is presently meeting in person at the Inn at the Quay, takes a holistic, not punitive approach to cases where clients are given a healing plan based on Medicine Wheel teachings;
- Attendees include Judge Garth Smith, Crown representation, six to eight Elders, defense, the offender (client), parole officers, Gladue Report writers, native court workers, etc., and sometimes the victims and their families;
- Clients address the Court and then the Elders speak and a Healing Plan is outlined;
- The role of Elders, who clients may contact outside of Court for advice, is to provide valuable information to help clients lead a constructive life;
- Some cases can go on for up to a year with clients returning to Court to provide updates on how they are doing with their Healing Plan and how their lives have improved, which can be very challenging for some;
- Elders are highly respected in this court system and work with compassion but push for accountability; and,
- Community resources are critical for the success of the Court and the clients.

Mr. Kube stated that he would look into the number of cases that went through the Court last year and report back to the Committee.

Councillor Puchmayr advised of the high rate of Indigenous people currently incarcerated and noted that the First Nations' Court provides an alternate and creative way for offenders to reconnect with their culture, receive counsel from their Elders, and access various programs. He recommended that all Committee members attend a court session to really see what it is all about.

## **6. STANDING REPORTS AND UPDATES**

### **6.1 New Westminster Police Department (NWPD)**

Constable John MacDonald, NWPD, provided the following report:

- Inspector Diana McDaniel will attend an upcoming meeting to provide an update regarding how the NWPD is addressing the Calls to Justice with respect to the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls; and,
- Work is being done to provide roll call training at the beginning of shifts to provide officers a refresher on restorative justice and how to access related resources.

### **6.2 Communities Embracing Restorative Action (CERA)**

Gurinder Mann, CERA Representative, reported the following:

- CERA was able to continue work throughout the pandemic using virtual resources;
- He, Chief Constable Dave Jansen, and Inspector Diana McDaniel are working to increase the numbers of referrals from New Westminster including CERA presentations being shared with new recruits and information cards to be kept in officers' wallets. In addition, soon roll call presentations will be shared either virtually or in person;
- Historically, out of hundreds of youth cases, only a handful were being referred for restorative justice which may speak to the lack of knowledge about the process at the Police Department;
- Cases appropriate for restorative justice include domestic violence, hate crimes, and sexual assaults; and,
- Work is still being done with New Westminster Secondary School.

### 6.3 New Westminster Victims Assistance Association (NWVAA)

Bailey Keeler, NWVAA Representative, advised of the following:

- Some files have come in that were initially thought to be appropriate for restorative justice; however, the offenders were unwilling to engage in the process;
- The Provincial Association for Victim Services is working on a training program which she is consulting on and which is expected to go live in the next couple of months; and,
- As there are no longer liaison officers in schools, parents are reporting things after hours.

### 6.4 School District 40 (SD 40)

Pamela Craven, SD 40 Representative, share the following information:

- Teachers will be receiving trauma-informed practice training;
- A new sub-committee is looking at featuring Indigenous work throughout New Westminster Secondary School;
- The Moose Hide Campaign: Standing Up Against Violence took place last week; and,
- Students can now share issues of bullying and/or harassment through the Provincial Government's *erase=expect respect & a safe education* site which are followed up on.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

None.

### 7.1 Election of Alternate Chair

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Paige Mercier be elected as the Alternate Chair for the 2022 term of the Restorative Justice Committee.

**Carried.**

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

**8. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Remaining scheduled meetings, which take place at 5:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted:

- April 26
- July 5

**9. END OF MEETING**

The meeting ended at 6:09 p.m.

Certified correct,

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Councillor Chuck Puchmayr

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Carilyn Cook, Committee Clerk