



## COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2010  
9:00 AM / COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 2  
175 INGRAM STREET, DUNCAN, BC

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### Distribution:

#### Representatives by Geographic Area

##### Southern Sector

CVRD – Director Lori Iannidinardo (Committee Chair)  
Community Representative – Michelle Bell

##### Central Sector

CVRD – Director Phil Kent (Committee Vice-Chair)  
Municipality of North Cowichan – Councillor John Koury  
City of Duncan – Councillor Joe Thorne

Western Sector

Community Representative – Bruce Ingram

Community Group Representatives

Cowichan Women Against Violence Society / Safer Futures Program – Theresa Gerritsen

Community Options Society – Cheryl Stone

Cowichan Valley School District No. 79 – Candace Spilsbury

disAbility Resource Centre – Jim Harnden

RCMP – Corporal Kevin Day

Social Planning Cowichan – Michelle Nowzek

**Cowichan Valley Regional District**

Joe Barry, Corporate Secretary

(Agenda Cover Only)

Warren Jones, Administrator

CVRD Directors

Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Community Safety Advisory Committee held in Committee Room No. 2, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, BC, on Thursday, February 18, 2010 at 9:13 am.

**PRESENT:** Director Lori Iannidinardo (Chair)  
Theresa Gerritsen, Cowichan Women Against Violence Society  
Corporal Kevin Day, RCMP  
Jim Harnden, disAbility Resource Centre  
Candace Spilsbury, Cowichan Valley School District  
No. 79 <at 9:18 am>

**ABSENT:** Director Phil Kent (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor John Koury, Municipality of North Cowichan  
Councillor Joe Thorne, City of Duncan  
Cheryl Stone, Community Options Society  
Michelle Bell, Community Representative  
Bruce Ingram, Community Representative  
Michelle Nowzek, Social Planning Cowichan

**ALSO**

**PRESENT:** Dominique Beesley, Recording Secretary

It was the consensus of Committee members to bring Item 3BA1 forward at this time.

## BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

**3BA1**

### *RCMP Annual Performance Plan*

Corporal Kevin Day, RCMP, explained that its *2010 Annual Performance Plan* sets-out priorities for reducing crime in the Cowichan region. These priorities, said Corporal Day, include traffic violations; improving its external/internal communications; creating safer communities for First Nations; as well as other activities that are underway.

Corporal Day noted that Sergeant Al O'Halloran, Cowichan Valley Regional Police Service, is responsible for completing the *Annual Performance Plan* and that he would invite Sergeant O'Halloran to attend the next Committee meeting to discuss having him or Corporal Day act as a liaison to the Committee for providing input on RCMP Annual Performance Plans.

**9:18 am**

Candace Spilsbury, Cowichan Valley School District, arrived to the meeting at 9:18 am.

**APPROVAL OF  
AGENDA**

**It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**2M1**

**It was moved and seconded that minutes of the Regular meeting of the Community Safety Advisory Committee held November 19, 2009 be adopted.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**DELEGATIONS**

**4D1**

Judy Stafford and Jessica Kerr, members, representing the Cowichan Food Security Coalition, provided a presentation on a food charter for the Cowichan region and requested the Committee's endorsement.

**It was moved and seconded that the CVRD Community Safety Advisory Committee endorse the Cowichan Food Charter.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**4D2**

Pamela Alcorn, Project Manager, representing Duncan Age-Friendly Seniors Safety Project presented an introduction to an age-friendly seniors' safety project.

**4D3**

Pamela Alcorn, Project Manager, representing Volunteer Cowichan, presented a brief introduction on the creation of an interactive comprehensive on-line community resource directory for the Cowichan region.

The directory, said Ms. Alcorn, would be maintained by Volunteer Cowichan, be key word searchable, and organizations would voluntarily decide whether they would like their information included in the directory.

**REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE**

**5C1**

Correspondence from Safer Futures, regarding a draft community safety bulletin, was received.

**5C2**

Correspondence from Cowichan Community Policing and Crime Prevention Programs and Services, regarding the Annual Report 2009, was received.

**5C3**

Correspondence from Safer Futures, regarding a fear of crime summary of the literature, was received.

5C4

Correspondence from CSAC Subcommittee, regarding Cowichan Valley Regional District connection with the north Island Citizens Advisory to Parole, was received.

**ADJOURNMENT**  
**11:02 am**

**It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 11:02 am.

Certified Correct:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Recording Secretary

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

**Request to Appear as a Delegation****4D1****Meeting Information**

Request to Address:\*

☐ CVRD Board☒ Committee

If Committee, specify the Committee here:\*

CSAC

Meeting Date:\*

04/15/2010

Meeting Time:\*

9am

**Applicant Information**

Applicant Name:

Bruce Avis and Heather Tombs

Representing:

Citizens Advisory to Corrections

(Name of organization if applicable)

As:

Committee Chair and Member

(Capacity / Office)

Number Attending:

2

**Applicant Contact Information**

Applicant Mailing Address:

c/o 200 - 256 Wallace Street

Applicant City:

Nanaimo BC V9R 5B3

Applicant Telephone:

250-751-3706

Applicant Fax:

Applicant Email:

bruceavis@shaw.ca

**Presentation Topic and Nature of Request:**

Will provide requested information about community corrections in the Duncan area, including release of offender and community supervision.

\* indicates required fields.



CSAC Report  
2009/10

Prepared by Safer Futures for  
CVRD Community Safety Advisory Committee  
Chair: Lori Iannidinardo, CSAC Chair

April 2010

Safer Futures is a program of Cowichan Women against Violence Society (CWAV)



## Safer Futures and Support to the Community Safety Advisory Committee (CSAC)

### Safer Futures has engaged in many projects in addition to providing support to the CSAC Committee.

The last project completed was called 'Making the Links' funded by the National Crime Prevention Centre of Canada and Vancouver Foundation which came to a close on June 30, 2009.

The project assisted to develop capacities in local neighborhoods to identify safety issues.

Safer Futures continues to work with groups and agencies to integrate a community safety perspective.

Safer Futures makes connections between local concerns and local government on issues related to community safety.

### About Safer Futures:

Safer Futures is a community research and development program of CWAV Society. We research issues related to the safety of women, children and other vulnerable groups in their communities and work collaboratively to develop and implement solutions.

### History:

Safer Futures has provided a supportive role to the work of CSAC since CSAC's origins in 2003. Safer Futures has provided a leading role in bringing a safety perspective to the Cowichan region, including safety audits and other initiatives. Safer Futures has provided support to CSAC in its mandate of advising the CVRD on safety issues of regional, inter-municipal, and inter-agency importance.

### The Role of Safer Futures:

Safer Futures provides support to the CSAC Committee as follows:

- Coordinates planning and provides facilitation, education and training.
- Contributes to the development and implementation of the CSAC Work Plan and the work plans of CSAC subcommittees.
- Brings forward and represents the perspective of neighborhoods and its residents on safety issues.
- Assists in issue or problem identification and conducts relevant research on safety issues at the local, provincial, federal, and international levels.
- Assists CSAC in identifying activities to promote and enhance safety for the Cowichan region based on research as above.
- Creates or contributes to CSAC reports and produces documents upon direction of CSAC and CSAC subcommittees.
- Assists with the production of communication materials related to community safety.

### Safer Futures Project Team 250-748-7000

Theresa Gerritsen  
Executive Director  
[exec.dir@cwav.org](mailto:exec.dir@cwav.org)  
extension 228

Veronica Scott  
Contractor

Su Hallett  
Contractor

Thanya Al-Saadoon  
Contractor

Jane Whorton  
Contractor

Terri Dame  
Consultant

Terri Ferris and  
Heather Atherton  
Admin support

### CCSI Steering Committee

Patti Deslisle  
Jacob Ellis  
Nelson Folland  
Chris Hall  
B McKenzie  
Lorna Newman  
Brigid Reynolds  
Veronica Scott  
Mark Turner



Safer Futures





### Message from the Chair, Lori Iannidinaro

Wow! What a year of learning for me - I would like to thank all of you for your patience and for sitting on this CVRD Committee. So here we are - a New Year. I feel confident and look forward to a good start with 2009 behind us; we have many accomplishments in the last year... one of the highlights being Barefoot in the Park, the Cowichan Region Safe Needle Toolkit. Our Safe Needle Working Group worked hard the last few years in order to get that out to the community. With some education, it will go a long way in helping our community to understand the needs of some of our most vulnerable members and protecting others.

Panhandling workshops have been well attended and we will continue supporting the City with this. I would also like to thank Pam Alcorn who guided me through the first half of 2009 and Theresa for taking the reins in the second half. I really appreciate all of your time and participation in this past year and welcome you on board for another year of community service with all of its challenges and solutions.

Lori

### 2009 Community Safety Advisory Committee Member List

GEOGRAPHIC AREA	NAME
<b>Central</b>	
CVRD	Phil Kent
Municipality of North Cowichan	Councillor John Koury
City of Duncan	Councillor Joe Thorne
<b>South</b>	
CVRD	Lori Iannidinaro (Chair)
Community Representative	Michelle Bell
<b>West</b>	
Town of Lake Cowichan	Vacant
Community Representative	Bruce Ingram
<b>COMMUNITY GROUP</b>	
Cowichan Women Against Violence Society, Safer Futures Program - CSAC Resource	Theresa Gerritsen
Community Options Society	Cheryl Stone
Cowichan Women Against Violence Society	Theresa Gerritsen
Cowichan Independent Living	Jim Hamden
RCMP	Corporal Kevin Day
Cowichan Valley School District No. 79	Candace Spilsbury
Social Planning Cowichan	Michelle Nowzek
<b>CSAC SUPPORT</b>	
CVRD - Corporate Secretary	Joe Barry
CVRD - Recording Secretary	Dominique Beesley



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## **Supportive and Guiding Documents**

**The Annual CSAC Workplan** is informed by three documents that provide a framework for action and the basis of the main activities of CSAC for the fiscal year.

### **The Community Safety Action Plan**

In 2006 CSAC developed a draft Community Health and Safety framework entitled "Community Safety Action plan." This document provides an overall Strategic Plan to address safety within the Cowichan Valley region. Four building blocks provide the structure of the Plan: Policy and Guidance, Safe and Accessible Design, Building Strong Neighborhoods and Coordinated Action. The Plan provides the framework for the CSAC Work Plan each year.

### **The Cowichan Region Safety Lens**

The Community Safety Lens is a planning and development tool. As a framework document it considers safety, ensures adequate consultation and informs a range of procedures. Specifically, the lens provides planners, elected officials and developers with a tool to assess safety for proposed developments and planning in the Cowichan region.

### **Community Safety Bulletin**

The Bulletin is a new tool used by the Committee to highlight and stay apprised of arising safety issues and concerns that may guide the ongoing work of CSAC to promote community safety. It pays attention to community events and news media coverage for factors that may influence citizen perception of risk or experiences of harm. The Bulletin also highlights activities that promote safety and risk reduction by physical and social means.



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## CSAC Activities

### Measuring Public Safety

#### Fear of Crime; A Review of the Literature and Public Safety Survey 2007 Summary Report

CSAC conducted a Fear of Crime Literature Review to explore the relevance of the concept in community safety and crime prevention work in the region. Community safety is influenced by many factors including the reduction and control of crime and other hazards, and also reducing the impact and effects of victimization and harm on citizens. Fear of crime has been measured in the past as an indicator of actual crime and as a means to identify the effectiveness of social control mechanisms such as policing and the criminal justice system.

A local study conducted in 2007 in the Cowichan Valley polled 527 respondents about safety, with most people reporting feeling safe in their own homes, neighborhood and community during the day. Although most felt safe at night, respondents felt less secure after dark, with this increasing the further they went from home. The survey also indicated that 27% felt less safe in their neighborhood than five years ago, and 44% felt less safe in the Cowichan Valley generally in the same period. Of the group who participated, 16% reported that they were victims of crime in the last year, with 12% property crime, 2% violent crime, and 2% having experienced both. Although the study disproportionately represented Caucasian males, over 45, married and educated homeowners, the significance of this type of research to the work of community safety may still have relevance.

Conflicting results of studies of this kind point to disagreement about the way to utilize fear of crime research to inform policy and crime prevention strategies.

Actual crime rates and fear of crime levels have not been found to have direct correlativity. For example, high incidence of particular crimes may not correlate to high fear of those crimes and vice versa. Instead, fear of crime appears to be linked to multiple causes and contextual factors including physical factors, social factors, previous victimization, knowledge of others' victimization, media reporting, and vulnerability (age, race, gender, stability/economic). In addition, surveys have been seen as problematic in their framing of questions that suggest answers or ask respondents to report on nebulous, subjective affective states.

In spite of these criticisms, research on the fear of crime may still prove beneficial as a component of a community's crime response framework. In identifying fear of crime as a distinct variable separate from actual crime reports, this indicator may provide input into overall community risk management of crime and hazards. Fear of crime in this view, is understood less as a result of 'something' and more as an indicator of a citizen's appraisal of certain risks in their home, neighborhood and community. For citizens who perceive that risk for crime is high, the result can include decreased levels of participation in public life with material/economic and social consequences for the community. Decreased social integration, cohesion and resident mobility also create conditions for opportunistic crime activity.



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Using 'fear of crime' and risk reduction to inform the work of Community Safety involves both the reduction of actual hazards/ criminal behaviour and also engages in activity to address perception of risk. The following examples of CSAC work in the last year have addressed where risk for real harm/injury may exist in addition to a generalized perception of risk put forward by citizens.

### **Panhandling Meetings ' Working Towards Solutions'**

Community forums to address the issue of panhandling in Duncan were held in November and in February at the Phoenix Motor Inn 360 Duncan Street, Duncan.

The purpose of the public forums was to brainstorm possible solutions to the complex issue of panhandling. The public had an opportunity at the first forum to hear from a panel of community leaders: Mayor Phil Kent, Anne Balding and Chuck McCandless of the Canadian Mental Health Association (Cowichan Branch), Gary MacGregor- a representative of the Duncan Business Improvement Areas Society (DBIA) and Carol Ann Rolls, Manager Community Policing Programs. In the second forum, the solutions were categorized into four areas with round table discussions to consider the viability of options to improve safety.

Panhandling has become a growing concern, particularly to down town merchants, shoppers and residents. The forums followed a previous meeting where downtown business people, police and others were invited to discuss the problem of aggressive panhandlers. Businesses have met with RCMP at a subsequent meeting.

### **"Barefoot in the Park" Cowichan Region Safe Needle Disposal Initiative November 26, 2009**

DUNCAN – The Safe Needle Disposal Working Group, a sub-committee of Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) Community Safety Advisory Committee held a media conference to introduce the Safe Needle Disposal Tool Kit on November 26, 2009.

The Tool Kit was developed in response to community concerns in the Cairnsmore area of discarded syringes in public spaces. Building on the good work by the cities of Edmonton and Victoria, the committee introduced a prevention guide to assist citizens, businesses and community agencies to deal proactively with the issue of discarded needles.

Dr. Lorna Medd, Medical Health Officer for the Vancouver Island Health Authority, said that the release of the document is a positive step for ensuring children and parents can use public parks with a sense of confidence. "The number of syringes found inappropriately discarded in the CVRD is relatively small, but all efforts are appreciated for keeping parks safe and people informed."



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Phil Kent, Mayor of the City of Duncan, says the Tool Kit will help citizens and local business understand how to deal knowledgeably when discarded needles are found in their area. "With a few simple steps, streets, parks and businesses can be safe for all to enjoy. In addition, city and regional waste collectors can be reassured better efforts are being taken to separate hazardous waste from household garbage." In near future, the City of Duncan will be consulting community stakeholders on proposed locations for syringe drop boxes.

The Toolkit, which will also be available online through the CVRD, outlines health risks if a person accidentally incurs a needle stick injury, how to dispose discarded needles properly, and where locations have been set up to accept used syringes.

Distribution of the kit with other supportive materials will occur in the spring of 2010.

### **Citizens Advisory to Corrections**

January 2010

#### **Summary of Meetings**

Meetings were held to discuss a potential connection with the North Island (Nanaimo based) Citizens Advisory to Parole (Corrections Canada) and CSAC. CSAC is interested in defining its role in addressing community safety related to offender release and supervision in the community. We identified primary questions that might concern citizens in this area. These questions included;

Under what circumstances and who can be notified of offender releases in the community?

How do assessments occur to identify the type of support services that an offender will receive while residing in the community?

What services exist in our region?

How many offenders reside in the community under release conditions?

How do we provide information and respond to concerns of the general public?

Further discussion about the way the two committees might work together, included;

-A presentation to CSAC to respond to the specific questions above.

-For their committee to be included in any relevant public community forums hosted by CSAC.

-For their group to provide input into our own approaches to informing residents about offender release and to forward any concerns or questions that arise. These included the development of a potential FAQ sheet and information on the CSAC website.

### **CSAC Responsiveness to Citizens Concerns about Safety**

#### **Suggested Action**

There has been discussion within the committee about how CSAC determines priorities and its capacity to be responsive directly to citizens concerns about safety. CSAC could develop capacities for citizen interaction with CSAC and the ability to hear submissions. What materials and means could be developed to facilitate contact. How does CSAC raise the profile of its work in the community?



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**Establishing priorities for 10/11:**

**Workshop session April 2010**

- ☐ Review documents Community Safety Action Plan, the Cowichan Region Safety Lens and Community Safety Bulletins.
- ☐ Review of CSAC Terms of Reference
- ☐ Review Crime Prevention strategies and Fear of Crime research to identify directions in the field.
- ☐ Assess CSAC capacities and brainstorm goals.
- ☐ Identify target activities and identify work plan.

**Submitted by**

Theresa Gerritsen, Safer Futures  
Executive Director, CWAV Society



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**Memo: April 15, 2010**

**For CSAC members**

**Item for discussion CSAC Setting Priorities Workshop**

**Proposed Agenda April 2010**

**To discuss and approve agenda items and logistics for setting priorities for CSAC work in the next year.**

- ☐ Confirm date, time and location.
- ☐ Review documents Community Safety Action Plan, the Cowichan Region Safety Lens and Community Safety Bulletins.
- ☐ Review of CSAC Terms of Reference
- ☐ Review Crime Prevention strategies and Fear of Crime research to identify directions in the field.
- ☐ Review and Recap past activities.
- ☐ Assess CSAC capacities and brainstorm goals.
- ☐ Identify target activities and identify work plan.