



## VANCOUVER ISLAND REGION RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ASSOCIATION

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<http://acjs.ca/VIRRJA.html>

### MEETING MINUTES

Monday 28 January 2019. Meeting began at 10.10 AM.

MEETING VENUE John Howard Society Offices 2353 Rosstown Road, Nanaimo BC

#### 1. Educational Session:

The planned education session with Muhammad Asadulla Mezzaroba, Doctoral Candidate SFU “RJ in BC, Nova Scotia & Bangladesh: Comparative Community RJ” had to be postponed to a later meeting as Asad’s teaching schedule changed unexpectedly so he was unable to attend. Instead a round table discussion about training and ways VIRRJA may help took place. This was on the annual conference program but not addressed there due to time constraints. Notes from that discussion will be compiled for further discussion at the next meeting.

#### 2. Program Updates:

1. Vanessa Ramsdale, South Island Wellness Society serving south island First Nations. They have streamlined the process with Crown and have had their first referral. Working with Grade 4-5 in the tribal school regarding Youth Diversion.
2. Jane Waterman, Powell River Region undergoing a change from Texada Island/Powell River RJ. Have applied for grants to create a Centre for Diversity, Peace and Justice to combine RJ, Diversity Initiatives and the Organisation against Racism and Hatred. 4 committees have been struck to further this centre: Program Development, Volunteers and Training, Marketing, Partnerships and Funding. A Steering Committee will oversee all. Powell River Employment Society has taken on the administrative role.
3. Gail Jewsbury, independent practitioner was on the steering committee for RJ Association of BC (RJ ABC). This has been disbanded with the formation of the society.
4. Sue Saunders, Saanich Peninsula RJ busy with cases, networking, reaching into the community and both Saanichton and Sidney RCMP detachments. Have a new website resulting in 4-5 new members/year. Concentrating on training to

have “an heir and spare” for each position. Liz Cox does their training. Also encourage volunteers to take online training. Handle 8-15 cases/year

5. Bruce Curtis, Comox Valley Community Justice Centre very busy. Had a public education evening on transgender experience during high school. Have an agenda to increase referrals of lower level sexual assault. Working with the transition society to use RJ. No MOU with crown yet. Just held the annual Iona Campanola lecture – Brenda Lucki RCMP commissioner and then a 2 day workshop - trauma focussed RJ
6. Norm Howrigan, Cowichan Valley has a new RCMP commanding officer and not many referrals.
7. Myles Morrison, Ucluelet/Tofino RJ had a referral from Ucluelet high school which resulted in a very large circle but it went well and parents most pleased with the result. Has applied for civil forfeiture grant to hold training in each of the 3 communities of Ucluelet, Tofino and Ahousaht.
8. Genesis Hunt, Alert Bay Community Justice has undergone significant restructuring with new board and administration. This involves closing Campbell River and other offices and concentrating on Alert Bay. He and Vanessa are on a working group to create a province wide Indigenous Judicial Association to serve 28 programs and 4 independents.
9. Jane Osborne, independent practitioner and Regional Mentor, Central & North Vancouver Island, BC Community Response Networks, using RJ in adult guardianship cases. Also working with CJI around diversity and the LGBTQ community.
10. Richard Tarnoff, Ladysmith not getting referrals from RCMP despite detachment chief vocal in support of RJ. Educating the wider community about RJ hoping to get referrals from organisations and community groups. Communicating with the manager of the all-weather shelter to help with conflicts. Applied for civil forfeiture grant to do needs assessment for Ladysmith area. Also developing relationship with city and bylaw officers to offer assistance. Held training session “Restorative Practises and Conflict Resolution – Beyond a Response to Crime”. Richard handed out notes about the workshop.

### 3. BUSINESS MEETING

#### 3.1 Approval of minutes of 28 May 2018 meeting

**That the minutes of the 28 May 2018 meeting be approved as circulated with one correction that it was Ann Crocker who attended from Ladysmith.**

**CARRIED**

#### 3.2 VIRRJA's new website

Caryl Wylie has set up a website for VIRRJA under Arrowsmith's platform. It looks great. Thank you Caryl. The old VIRRJA website will be shut down. Caryl will be able to

watch traffic numbers to this site. There was discussion about whether a Facebook page was now required. Genesis and Vanessa will take this on.

### 3.3 VIRRJA Executive and AGM

The positions of Vice-President, Secretary and Director-at-large will be open this year. We would like to see new people step into some of the positions. Jane will email programs to find out reasons programs do not send a representative to VIRRJA meetings.

### 3.4 Membership Report

By the end of the meeting there were 12 organisations and 2 independents paid up for 2019

### 3.5 Financial Report

VIRRJA received a deposit of \$3320 from RJ ABC thanks to Gail. October's AGM cost less than usual as one speaker did not need travel costs. Have a balance of approximately \$6500.

### 3.6 VIRRJA Lobbying Update: Provincial Ministers, Local MLA's

Waiting for responses from various ministries and the Premier. The minister of health wants VIRRJA to meet with ministry staff. It was suggested the lobbying group meet with Mr. Sanford in the Premier's office as he is the liaison between NDP and Greens. Discussion about whether we should seek publicity about the slowness of responses but it was decided we are much further ahead now than with the previous government, we need to nurture the relationship and that negative media articles would have an adverse effect on these lobbying efforts. Bruce said the federal Ministry of Justice staff are interested in RJ.

### 3.7 Provincial Association status and Lobbying

The steering committee has been disbanded and an interim board of 3 is in place. Their next job is to arrange the AGM. A date for this has not yet been set. A suggestion that this AGM be held in conjunction with the Indigenous Justice Association AGM. Genesis will follow up.

### 3.8 What does VIRRJA need from RJABC?

Will RJABC address training needs?

Adjournment at 1.22 PM

Next Meeting 10 Am – 3.00 PM: Monday 11 March 2019 at the same location, John Howard Society office, 2353 Rosstown Road Nanaimo.