



**VANCOUVER ISLAND REGION  
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ASSOCIATION**

[virrja@ymail.com](mailto:virrja@ymail.com)

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

**Minutes**

**Monday, March 11, 2019**

**10 AM – 3 PM**

**MEETING VENUE**

**John Howard Society Offices – 2353 Rosstown Road, Nanaimo (note new address)**

1. Educational Session: Tania Arvanidis – Indicators of Success in RJ Programming: How do we know what works?

Tabled until Arvanidis can arrive from ferry at 10:45 AM

2. Programme Updates- Reps that are attending provide an overview of what's up

Port Alberni – completed February Training with Liz Cox, 4 local volunteers completed. One referral from RCMP for graffiti. Laurie Money is acting Co-ordinator. Currently researching for other referral sources. RCMP community liaison rep sits on the Board.

Alert Bay – cases are down, spending much time on Indigenous Justice Association

Jane Osborne (Independent – but volunteers with RJ Vic) working with Mt Waddington Health Network who are very interested in RJ. Attended “Widening the Lens” with many panelists who spoke of how they feel excluded from RJ due to lack of accommodation of their needs.

Ladysmith – not receiving RCMP referrals so looking for alternative sources. Getting a new training in May to bring in several new volunteers

JHS Victoria (Saanich programme) – new co-ordinator, looking to expand referrals

JHS Nanaimo – RJ Day at VIU, connected with Youth Liaison Officer from RCMP

Gail Jewsbury (Independent) – Provincial Association (RJABC) will have it's 1<sup>st</sup> AGM on April 25 – 26 in Richmond at Kwantlen College.

Comox Valley – Campagnolo Lecture with RCMP Commissioner Lucki went well (despite minor demonstration in the lecture hall); Invited Murray Sinclair for 2020, considering Sean Koyscin or Holly Near for 2021. Trauma and RJ training well attended and went very well, cases are up

Ucluelet – rec'd an organization referral on their issues with their Board.

Salt Spring – 8 – 10 volunteers with good experience, 2018 lots of referrals from RCMP, but the OIC went on Leave and the replacement is not doing referrals. Good rise in community-based issues and referrals. Pender, Mayne and Galliano have begun a new programme initiated by their RCMP Detachment commander.

Duncan – don't have enough facilitators because of lack of training.

## 1. Return to Educational Session

### Arvanidis on "Indicators of Success"

- 50 years of RJ Research suggests that RJ demonstrates and achieves its goals
- Evaluations wind up focused on recidivism rate and other issues that are a key concern of the criminal justice system so the remaining RJ Goals (transforming relationships, enhancing safety, etc.) don't get evaluated.
- Traditional impetus was for community harmony and right relations, but what also emerged was a focus on victim's interests that led to a victim-focused model
- Three key elements of RJ (according to Zehr) are: Engagement; Accountability; Restoration. There was a very positive and extensive discussion of these three issues in our programs.

## 3. Business Session – President Hunt departed, Vice-President Morrison assumed the chair

### 3.1 Minutes of Meeting 28 January 2019

That the Minutes of January 28, 2019 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

### 3.2 VIRRJA Executive and AGM - Planning and format for October

The chair surveyed the current Directors for the three vacancies arising (President and Treasurer are in the middle of their 2 year terms) and the following are willing to be considered: Secretary – Jane Waterman (Powell River/Texada); Vice-President - Bruce Curtis (Comox Valley) and Gail Jewsbury will contact Sue Saunders to see if she is willing to be nominated for Director-at-large.

The AGM is scheduled for Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, hosted by JHS Victoria in the Victoria area. The registration has been \$25 to cover costs of venue rental, speakers expenses, and food. Bruce will explore meeting space at UVic; Gail will contact her Chef friend to ascertain possibilities. Darlene (Salt Spring) will phone each programme to ask them how many they may send to the AGM.

Possible presenters were canvassed:

- o Alana Abramson and Catherine Barga on the outcomes of their research on "Educating for Change: Honouring the Voices of Restorative Justice Participants in BC." **(Gail to contact)**
- o Marcie Mezzarobba, Executive Director, Community Programs & Strategic Policy Initiatives, on her research for the Ministry on enhancing RJ in BC **(Bruce to contact for either the AGM or the May VIRRJA Meeting Educational Session)**
- o Brenda Butterworth-Carr (Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Police Services in Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General) **(Bruce to contact)**
- o Carys Cragg (Douglas College Faculty, Child & Youth Care, Aboriginal Stream, and Youth Justice Programs), author of "Dead Reckoning: How I came to meet the man who killed my father" **(no one identified to make inquiries)**
- o The Most Reverend Gary Michael Gordon, Bishop of Victoria, and bishop ponens to the Interfaith Committee on Chaplaincy of the Correctional Service of Canada **(Bruce to contact)**

### 3.3 Membership Report - Gail Jewsbury

As of this meeting, there are 13 programmes having membership, plus 2 independent practitioners.

### 3.4 Financial Report - Gail Jewsbury

The current balance in the account is \$3,520, minus expenses for Arvanidis.

### 3.5 Further discussion on program training and what role VIRRJA can take

Preliminary discussion identified the main questions as:

- what kind of training might VIRRJA be offering (model training such as Circles, CJP); or content (such as Trauma, Elder Abuse, etc.)
- whether this initiative would interfere with and/or offend those programmes currently providing training open to VIRRJA members

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

### 3.6 Any news from VIRRJA lobbying efforts

It was agreed that we should add Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (Scott Fraser, MLA for Mid Island-Pacific Rim) to the roster of lobbying targets. The objective should be to encourage wider understanding of indigeneity and promotion of RJ in schools. **(Darlene Gage to work on an initial draft lobby briefing and forward it to Bruce Curtis)**

### 3.7 Update on Indigenous Judicial Association – Genesis and Vanessa

Genesis reported prior to his departure from the meeting that the provincial indigenous justice association is running somewhat parallel to RJABC and both are on course for formalizing their existence in the current year.

### 3.8 Any update from RJ ABC

Provincial meeting to be held April 27/27 in Richmond at Douglas College.

Adjournment – It was suggested that each brings their lunch to the next meeting.

Prior to adjournment it was announced that Darlene and Genesis will develop a facebook page and inform the programmes and members when it's up and ready.

**Forth coming Meeting 10 Am – 3.00 PM:**

**Monday 27 May 2019 John Howard Society offices 2353 Rosstown Road Nanaimo.**