



Making a difference...together

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July 24, 2024

File: 0400-20

The Honourable Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Via email: PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Grace Lore
Minister of Children and Family
Development
Via email: MCF.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Niki Sharma
Attorney General
Via email: AG.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Farnworth, Minister Lore and Attorney General Sharma:

**RE: REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR PACIFIC CENTRE FAMILY SERVICES ASSOCIATION –
MOBILE YOUTH SERVICES TEAM**

At the July 10, 2024, Capital Regional District (CRD) Board meeting, the CRD Board unanimously requested the Province provide renewed support for the Pacific Family Services Association's Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST) and its Crime Reduction and Exploitation Diversion (CRED) program, with consistent and sustainable funding to encourage renewed and additional support for the MYST youth counsellor position in the very near future due to the critical and urgent work with vulnerable youth and their families within the CRD.

MYST urgently requires operational funding for its counsellor position on an ongoing basis. As of September, the position is unfunded. MYST consists of one counsellor, funded by Provincial and Federal one-time grant funding, and one police officer, shared by three local governments. Each year they have thousands of interactions with vulnerable youth and their families.

Without ongoing funding, the hundreds of youth and families serviced by the program will be without support. MYST provides vital support to at-risk youth, including LBGTQ2S+ youth at risk of exploitation and online luring. Our region's exploited youth experience homelessness, drug addiction, poverty, and involvement in the criminal justice system. MYST assists youth at-risk of sexual exploitation and violence, and daylights these issues with local governments, school districts, health and social services, and other public authorities in the region.

We look forward to your prompt attention to funding these important and significant youth and family services in our region. Funding MYST and CRED is the right thing to do.

I would be happy to discuss this matter with you further and provide any additional information you may require.

Sincerely,

Colin Plant
Chair, Capital Regional District Board

cc. CRD Board
Ted Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD
Liz Nelson, Pacific Centre Family Services Association