



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

VIA EMAIL

Ref. 662000

August 28, 2024

His Worship Scott Goodmanson
Mayor of the City of Langford
2nd Floor, 877 Goldstream Avenue
Langford BC V9B 2X8
Email: mayor@langford.ca

Dear Mayor Goodmanson:

Thank you for your February 6, 2024 letter in support of the Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST) and Crime Reduction and Exploitation Diversion Program (CRED) run by the Pacific Centre Family Services Association (PCFSA). I apologize for the delay in responding.

Addressing vulnerable youth experiencing, homelessness, sexual exploitation, drug addiction, gang and gun violence is an issue that the Province takes very seriously. Improving the safety and security of British Columbia's is of the utmost importance and a matter for which all levels of Government share responsibility. Local governments play an active and important role in this shared responsibility through the provision of local prevention and intervention services.

The Province recognizes the intricate and interconnected landscape of crime, particularly as it pertains to gun and gang violence, and remains committed to addressing these issues through a multi-pronged approach that recognizes the interdependence of prevention/intervention, intelligence, enforcement, and legislation.

In 2023/24 the Province invested over \$100M into specialized enforcement and intelligence initiatives related to guns, gangs, and illicit drug trafficking across BC. This funding includes an increase to CFSEU-BC's total budget to reconcile RCMP salary updates, funding for priority initiatives within the Organized Crime Agency of BC, and support for municipal police department capacity through the federal Guns and Gangs Violence Action Fund (GGVAF).

In addition, the BC government is also funding complementary justice sector initiatives to address gang-related violence and crime. This includes support to prosecution services to ensure expertise, reduce delays associated with gang-related trials, increase prosecutorial capacity, and bring about more specialized and

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tailored legal responses to gun and gang-related cases. It also includes specialized, court-based victim service workers to assist witnesses and victims of serious crimes (thereby contributing to increased justice/sentencing), and support for corrections staff to collect gang-related intelligence within provincial correctional institutions and provide anti-gang education to inmates.

The GGVAFF Grant Program noted above, is principally focussed on initiatives that will improve enforcement, intelligence, and criminal justice initiatives related to guns and gangs province wide. These investments include but are not limited to, training and resources for key criminal justice stakeholders to ensure the safety and support of victims, witnesses, and the public, enhancements to the Provincial Firearms Forensics Laboratory, and BC Prosecution resources to ensure timely prosecution of offences.

Over the last six years the PCFSA has received a total of \$777,000 of funding from the Province for their CRED and MYST Programs. The funding provided was a combination of one-time grant funding from the GGVAFF as well as one-time funding from my Ministry's contingency fund. Grant funding, including GGVAFF, is not intended to be a permanent funding source for programs and projects. One-time grants allow the province to optimize the investment in the future of serious and organized crime prevention disruption and enforcement efforts across the province. The Policing and Security Branch will liaise directly with PCFSA should they require any additional information regarding current or future GGVAFF applications.

Additional funding opportunities that PCFSA may want to consider outside of GGVAFF are:

Canada's Youth Gang Action Fund: <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/cntrng-crm/crm-prvntn/fndng-prgrms/yth-gng-prvntn-fnd-en.aspx>

Canada's Crime Prevention Action Fund: <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/cntrng-crm/crm-prvntn/fndng-prgrms/crm-prvntn-ctn-fnd-en.aspx>

BC's Civil Forfeiture Grant: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/crime-prevention/community-crime-prevention/grants>

Local governments play a critical role in maintaining community programs. We appreciate your continued involvement and support of the MYST and CRED Programs.

Sincerely,



Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
and Deputy Premier

pc: The Honourable David Eby, KC, Premier
The Honourable Mitzi Dean, Minister of State for Child Care
The Honourable Grace Lore, Minister of Children and Family Development
The Honourable Niki Sharma, Attorney General
The Honourable Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
Ravi Parmar, MLA
Liz Nelson, Executive Director, Pacific Centre Family Services Association
CRD Chair Colin Plant
CRD Vice Chair Maja Tait
Nicole Duncan, Board Chair, School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
Amanda Dowhy, Interim Board Chair, School District No. 62 (Sooke)
Marie-Pierre Lavoie, Chairperson, School District No. 93 (Conseil scolaire francophone)