

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Tuesday, April 26, 2022
Open to public attendance in Committee Room G
Lower Level, City Hall
Committee members may attend electronically

PRESENT:

Councilor Chuck Puchmayr	Chair
Paige Mercier	Alternate Chair/Community Member*
Pamela Craven	School District 40 (SD 40) Representative*
Alvin Kube	New Westminster Indigenous Court Representative*
Gurinder Mann	Communities Embracing Restorative Action (CERA) Representative*
Amanda Semenoff	Community Member*

REGRETS:

Tu Van Trieu	Community Member
Constable John MacDonald	New Westminster Police Department (NYPD)
Bailey Keeler	New Westminster Victim Assistance Association (NWVAA)

GUEST:

Dr. Karine Duhamel	Director of Research for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
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STAFF PRESENT:

Carilyn Cook	Committee Clerk, Legislative Services
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*Denotes electronic attendance.

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Councillor Puchmayr opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsurrendered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. He acknowledged that colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. He recognized that, as a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

2. **INTRODUCTIONS**

2.1 **Christina Coolidge, Indigenous Relations Advisor**

Councillor Puchmayr introduced Christina Coolidge, the City's new Indigenous Relations Advisor, who suggested that meeting attendees introduce themselves by including a kinship tie, where they are from, to situate themselves in the community which would facilitate familiarity and responsibility towards each other.

Introductions took place.

3. **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the April 26, 2022 Restorative Justice Committee meeting agenda be adopted as circulated.

Carried.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

4.1 **February 22, 2022**

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the February 22, 2022 Restorative Justice Committee minutes be adopted as circulated.

Carried.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

5. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Dr. Karine Duhamel, Director of Research for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Councillor Puchmayr thanked Mr. Alvin Kube, New Westminster Indigenous Court Representative, for facilitating Dr. Duhamel's attendance at the meeting. He noted that the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls is a standing item on the agenda but that it is not up to the City to determine what can be done to work on this issue and that we need to learn from the survivors what they would like to see take place in response to the Calls for Action.

Dr. Duhamel, Director of Research for the historic National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, shared a PowerPoint presentation titled, "Reclaiming Power and Place: Inside the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls," which outlined the following:

- The roots and mandate of the National Inquiry;
- The truth gathering process;
- Reclaiming power and place;
- Empowering new kinds of encounters;
- Building accountability;
- Principles for change;
- Calls for all governments (general, cultural, health and wellness, human security, and justice; and,
- Calls for all Canadians.

In response to questions from the Committee, Dr. Duhamel provided the following comments:

- It is easy to see issues as too big but it is important that we take steps forward no matter how small;
- It is interesting that Indigenous languages do not have a word that means reconciliation yet there are words for justice, peace, balance, etc.; and,
- It is necessary for local institutions to establish relationships with Indigenous groups to ensure that needs are being met and encounters are welcoming, comfortable, and beneficial.

Discussion ensued and Committee members provided the following comments:

- Most Indigenous women have experienced some form of violence;
- The Peer Assisted Care Team (PACT) is a pilot project which sees a mental health care provider and peer support worker attending police incidents where mental health may be involved;
- The last two terms of New Westminster City Council have accelerated the City's reconciliation goals to build trust, relationships and understanding, and learn from missteps as we move forward;
- The New Westminster Police Department has been successful in hiring people of diverse backgrounds, and information about a missing Indigenous girl was immediately shared through the Department's social media; and,
- Although there are many challenges in society that can make us resigned and cynical to what has and is happening, if enough good people do good things it will make a difference in society overall. It only takes two people to start a synergy that can be built upon to create a great change for the good.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

6.1 Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Discussed under Item 5.1.

6.2 State of the First Nations Court

Alvin Kube, New Westminster Indigenous Court Representative, advised that the First Nations Court is proceeding as usual at the Inn at the Quay. He shared that while the primary objective of the Court is to make a difference to the young men and women clients coming into the Court, it can be challenging to make a difference in such a short amount of court time, so clients are encouraged to maintain relationships with Elders and other mentors outside of the court system.

7. STANDING REPORTS AND UPDATES

7.1 New Westminster Police Department (NYPD)

No report was received.

7.2 Communities Embracing Restorative Action (CERA)

Gurinder Mann, CERA Representative, reported the following:

- CERA's primary objective is to reinforce awareness and increase referrals for restorative justice;
- While it has been challenging getting into the New Westminster Police Department during the pandemic, a taped presentation regarding restorative justice has been provided to the Department to be shared with Police Officers: and,
- Once the new Memorandum of Understanding with the Crown is in place it should allow for a greater number and variety of youth and adult files to be referred for restorative justice.

7.3 New Westminster Victims Assistance Association (NWVAA)

No report was received.

7.4 School District 40 (SD40)

Pamela Craven, SD 40 Representative, share the following information:

- The Ministry of Education has announced unique Indigenous-focused graduation requirements wherein students must complete one course with an Indigenous aspect in order to graduate. As such, work is being done with the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) to ensure that the content of the classes is relevant. Many of the courses are already available for grade 11 and 12 students to choose from; and,
- A committee has been created to determine how Indigenous artwork can be included in the new school and included in the curriculum.

8. NEW BUSINESS

None.

9. END OF MEETING

On Motion, the meeting ended at 6:20 p.m.

10. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Remaining scheduled meetings, which take place at 5:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted:

- July 5

Certified correct,

Original Signed

Councillor Chuck Puchmayr

Original Signed

Carilyn Cook, Committee Clerk