

**SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT
POLICING AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

April 15, 2021

MINUTES OF THE SUNSHINE COAST POLICING AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ELECTRONICALLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH MINISTERIAL ORDER M192
AND TRANSMITTED VIA THE BOARDROOM OF THE SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL
DISTRICT OFFICES AT 1975 FIELD ROAD, SECHELT, B.C.

PRESENT:

(Voting Members)

Director, Electoral Area F, Chair
Director, Electoral Area A
Director, Electoral Area D
Director, Electoral Area E
Mayor, District of Sechelt
Councillor, District of Sechelt
Councillor, Town of Gibsons
SD46

Mark Hiltz
Leonard Lee (part)
Andreas Tize
Donna McMahon
Darnelda Siegers
Alton Toth
David Croal (Alt.)
Sue Girard

ALSO PRESENT:

(Non-Voting)

RCMP Sergeant
ICBC
Chief Administrative Officer
Executive Assistant / Recorder
Media
Public

Don Newman
Louisa Mendonca
Dean McKinley
Tracy Ohlson
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**Directors, staff, and other attendees present for the meeting participated by means of electronic or other communication facilities in accordance with Sunshine Coast Regional District Board Procedures Bylaw 717.*

CALL TO ORDER **2:02 p.m.**

AGENDA The agenda was adopted as presented.

MINUTES**Recommendation No. 1** *Minutes*

The Sunshine Coast Policing and Public Safety Committee recommended that the minutes of January 21, 2021 be received for information.

SCRD Directors' Feedback on Sunshine Coast Policing Priorities for 2021

Sergeant Newman advised that priorities are currently being finalizing and indicated that mental health, homelessness and the opioid crisis are priorities that will be included in the RCMP Annual Performance Planning 2021-2023 document.

REPORTS**Recommendation No. 2** 2021 Q1 Monthly Crime Statistics – January - March 2021

The Sunshine Coast Policing and Public Safety Committee recommended that the RCMP Monthly Crime Statistics for January - March 2021 be received for information.

RCMP Update

Sergeant Newman gave an update on local policing and reviewed the monthly crime statistics.

Highlights included:

- Road checks are down due to staff resources.
- Format of crime statistics to District of Sechelt and Town of Gibsons.
- Short-term rental complaints.
- Calls to supportive housing.
- Non-emergency phone line delays.
- Online crime reporting.
- SCRD website link with guidelines for who to call with short-term rental complaints.

ROUNDTABLE

Director McMahon – shared graph with unnatural deaths due to opioid crisis. She also noted the parking issues continue along Ocean Beach Esplanade.

Director Croal – Community Action Team (CAT) Committee is dealing with the opioid crisis and noted the issue of lack of trained people to deal with addiction. He mentioned the community support from local businesses offering gift cards and the Sunshine Coast Quilters' donation of 40 quilts to residents of the Supportive Housing Project on School Road.

Director Tize – expressed concerns in respect to campfires on the beach in front of Camp Byng and parking issues on Gulf Road and Cassidy Road. He inquired about the use of text messaging as a tool for crime reporting.

Sue Girard – advised that the School District No. 46 Board Chair has written a letter to the Liquor and Cannabis Regulations Branch regarding a non-medical use cannabis shop in Roberts Creek and indicated that a 300 metre buffer zone between the shop and elementary school is required. She noted that speeding in school zones, particularly at Cedar Grove Elementary, is an ongoing issue and would welcome suggestions for a solution.

Louisa Mendonca – asked Sergeant Newman about utilizing volunteers for speed watch programs at elementary schools. She advised that May is Speed Watch month - an education campaign through social media, media and signs on the road that focuses on speed in the

community. She noted the benefit of both an education and enforcement campaign. The onboarding of speed watch volunteers is done through the RCMP and then ICBC assists with volunteers training and awareness. Director Siegers noted that a grant application has been submitted for a temporary District of Sechelt staff member to support volunteer programs, the speed watch program may be a good fit.

Director Siegers – provided an update on the District of Sechelt’s ‘Strengthening Community Services’ grant application to fund a one-year pilot project for the creation of two District of Sechelt municipal staff positions: one that would work with the RCMP to investigate the broader impacts of homelessness in the community, and a Homelessness Coordinator who would work with BC Housing, Raincity Housing and all the various organizations on the Sunshine Coast to assist with the coordination of support services for community members without housing.

Director Hiltz – noted that child cut-outs have been placed on the side of the road in the Langdale community to raise drivers’ awareness of children walking along the road as part of the Walking School Bus Awareness pilot project. He also mentioned community concerns regarding a cannabis property where community members worked together with SCR D Bylaw officers to mitigate the problem.

ADJOURNMENT 3:08 p.m.

Committee Chair

8 strategies for Cities and Municipalities to consider:

Key: A Modern Equal Society does not buy and sell women and children.

1. Learn about the issue at [www.beamazing](http://www.beamazingcampaign.org) campaign.org, read “Invisible Chains” by Benjamin Perrin (UBC Law professor), follow Human trafficking expert in Canada former Manitoba MP Joy Smith at www.joysmithfoundation.com. Have staff take the BC OCTIP (Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons) **free online course**. Encourage police to take HT course on the **Police Knowledge Network**.
2. Incorporate the United Nations 4 Pillars in a local strategy to stop Human trafficking/sexual exploitation: **Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, Partnerships**.
3. **Prevention**: raise awareness in community. Children of the Street (Plea) does school and community programs. Encourage “Men End Exploitation” movements: Moosehide Campaign, Westcoast Boys Club Network. Support porn addiction services for youth; “Fightthenewdrug” program recognizing the public health effects to youth of viewing violent sexual material. Use communications to raise awareness: Ontario has “Saving the girl next door program”, the RCMP has the “I’m Not for Sale” campaign. King County (Seattle) has “Buyer Beware” program.
4. **Protection**: help victims, have exit strategies in place for them, consider 24-7 “wrap-around programs” Salvation Army “Deborah’s Gate”, Covenant House, Servants Anonymous, Union Gospel Mission.
5. **Prosecution**: increase policing budget, training and priorities. Have “buyer” deterrents in place, enforce the law; **“Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act”** which addresses **“demand”**- the profiteers, facilitators, buyers of commercially paid sex.
6. **Partnerships**: Train community stakeholders: Health care workers, fire department, municipal business licensing managers, educators, businesses to recognize human trafficking/sexual exploitation. Fraser Health Authority has a human trafficking protocol, Surrey Fire department is trained to recognize HT indicators. Train judges/Crown Counsel/criminal justice system.
7. **Partnerships**: Collaboration: with other cities and municipalities at local government associations, Police agencies and RCMP, 3 levels of government (civic, provincial, federal); UBCM, FCM with Resolutions.
8. Do not accept or support the full decriminalization of prostitution because the vulnerable (Indigenous women and girls, new migrants) in our communities are the targets being lured, groomed and exploited for the sex industry. **Goal**: safe, healthy, vibrant communities that are fit for families, youth, children and all vulnerable populations.

National Human Trafficking Hotline Number: 1-833-900-1010

INDICATORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Recognizing potential red flags and knowing the indicators of human trafficking is a key step in identifying more victims and helping them find the assistance they need.

Common Work and Living Conditions: The individual(s) in question:

Is not free to leave or come and go as he/she wishes. Is under 18 and is providing commercial sex acts. Is in the commercial sex industry and has a pimp / manager. Is unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips. Works excessively long and/or unusual hours. Is not allowed breaks or suffers under unusual restrictions at work. Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off. Was recruited through false promises concerning the nature and conditions of his/her work. High security measures exist in the work and/or living locations (e.g. opaque windows, boarded up windows, bars on windows, barbed wire, security cameras, etc.)

Poor Mental Health or Abnormal Behavior

Is fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid. Exhibits unusually fearful or anxious behavior after bringing up law enforcement. Avoids eye contact.

Poor Physical Health

Lacks health care. Appears malnourished. Shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture.

Lack of Control

Has few or no personal possessions. Is not in control of his/her own money, no financial records, or bank account. Is not in control of his/her own identification documents (ID or passport). Is not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party may insist on being present and/or translating)

Other

Claims of just visiting and inability to clarify where he/she is staying/address. Lack of knowledge of whereabouts and/or do not know what city he/she is in. Loss of sense of time. Has numerous inconsistencies in his/her story.

This list is not exhaustive and represents only a selection of possible indicators. Also, the red flags in this list may not be present in all trafficking cases and are not cumulative. Learn more at www.traffickingresourcecenter.org.

Preventing Child Sex Trafficking in BC

Buying and selling children for sex is one of the fastest growing crimes in Canada, and it is happening in communities across BC.

Globalization, unregulated technology, lack of law enforcement and inadequate prevention education is allowing this crime to grow globally.

Human sex trafficking (HT) involves the recruitment, transportation or harbouring of people for the purpose of exploitation through the use of force, coercion, fraud, deception or threats against the victim or person known to them. It is known as modern day slavery. According to the US State department's annual global report on trafficking in persons (TIP), Canada is a source, transit and destination for sex trafficking. (<https://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/>)

Child sex trafficking is a lucrative crime. It has low costs and huge profits; a trafficker can make \$280,000 per victim, per year. The average age of entry into prostitution in Canada is 12-14 years of age, although traffickers are known to target younger children. Traffickers seek young victims both to service the demand for sex with those who look young, and because these victims are easier to manipulate and control.

The biggest problem in Canada is that people do not know there is a problem; therefore, child sex trafficking is expanding in the dark. Every child can be a target and a potential victim, but learning about this issue is the first step.

Five things that parents can do to help prevent their children from being lured into sex trafficking:

1. Set a high standard of love within your home

The way you define and express love shapes your children's self-image, confidence and opinions of future relationships. Treat them the way you want their future partners to treat them. Help them to distinguish between real love and empty promises or cheap gifts.

2. Talk to your children about sexual abuse

According to the US Department of Justice, someone in the US is sexually assaulted every two minutes, of which 29% are between the ages of 12-17. Let your children know that if anyone has or ever does hurt them, they can talk to you. This is the most important thing you can say. Don't assume they have not been hurt by sexual violence before. Leave the door open for your child to talk about past circumstances that they haven't shared with you.

3. Talk to your children about sex trafficking

Discuss ways children and teens are targeted for sex trafficking. Let them know that traffickers specifically try to woo young girls and boys with promises of a better life – whether it's promises of love and attention, or promises of nice things and trips. Traffickers can be male or female, even classmates. Traffickers may even use kids to recruit other kids.

4. Talk to your children about the dangers of social media

It is important to provide practical safety tips, such as: don't share personal information on the internet; don't accept Facebook requests from unknown people; NEVER share naked photos of yourself with anyone; and tell a parent or a trusted adult if you feel threatened or uncomfortable online. Children also need help defining friendships. Teach them that a friend is not someone you met yesterday and that a "friend" on Facebook is not the same thing as a friendship.

5. Pay attention to your children

Monitor your children's social media accounts. Look for ways to meet their friends, their friends' parents and those they hang out with. Be alert to boyfriends who are much older, or friendships that tend to isolate your child from other friends or family. Notice if your child has new clothing items, makeup products, cell phone or other items and ask how they acquired them.

Resources and Links:

- Covenant House (crises program for ages 16-24): info@covenanthousebc.org, 604-685-7474
- Internet Safety Tips: www.Cybertip.ca
- Fraser Health Forensic Nurse Service
- Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868
- Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons (OCTIP): 1-888-712-7974 (24/7 interpretation available), 604-660-5199, octip@gov.bc.ca
- Plea Community Services Society (assisting youth 24/7): onyx@plea.bc.ca, 604-708-2647
- Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter (24/7): 604-872-8212, info@rapereliefshelter.bc.ca
- RCMP: Victims of Human Trafficking National Headquarters (24 hours): 1-866-677-7267
- Trafficking Resource Centre (USA): www.traffickingresourcecenter.org
- VictimLinkBC (24/7): 1-800-563-0808 Ministry of Public Safety, BC
- Youth Against Violence (24/7): info@youthagainstviolenceline.com, 1-800-680-4264

Authorities Contacts:

- RCMP: www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca; 1-855-850-4640 OR 1-800-771-5401
- Ministry of Child Protection Services: 1-800-663-9122 or 604-660-4927 (24 hours) or 310-1234 if a child is in danger to reach Ministry of Child and Family Development
- Crime Stoppers : 1-800-222-TIPS (8477)

National Human Trafficking Crisis Hotline Number: 1-866-528-7109

About the Author:

Cathy Peters raises awareness of Child Sex Trafficking to all three levels of government in British Columbia, police agencies and the public. She is a former inner city high school teacher and has volunteered for two Members of Parliament (John Weston/BC, Joy Smith/Manitoba). She has made hundreds of presentations, including to City Councils, School Boards, Police Boards, high schools, universities and law enforcement agencies.

For information about her prevention education presentations, please contact Cathy Peters at ca.peters@telus.net

Additional Resources:

Children of the Street Society (Coquitlam) provides prevention education in BC schools; 25,000 students last school year Grades 3-12. They have an excellent website with tools/resources listed for every community in BC:

<https://www.childrenofthestreet.com/>

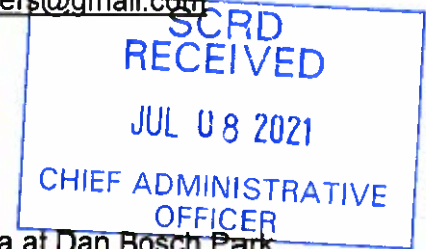
Joy Smith Foundation (Manitoba) provides prevention education, resources and an overview of human sex trafficking Canada: <http://www.joysmithfoundation.com/>

Shared Hope International (Washington State) sponsors The JuST (Juvenile Sex Trafficking) Conference in the USA; an event that spotlights the most pressing issues in the anti-trafficking field. Visit: www.justconference.org for more information.

A MODERN EQUAL SOCIETY DOES NOT BUY AND SELL WOMEN AND CHILDREN.



Ruby Lake Landholders Association (RLLA)
 email: rbylakelandholders@gmail.com



May 17, 2021

TO: Board of Directors, Sunshine Coast Regional District

RE: Proposed Expansion of Parking Area and Beach/Picnic Area at Dan Bosch Park

It has come to our attention that the SCRD is considering expanding the Parking Area at Dan Bosch Park, as well as the Beach Area, Picnic Area, and adding a Small Boat Launch Area, despite opposition from the local community for Phase 2.

When the Ruby Lake Landholders Association first heard about the idea to utilize available gas tax money, we were supportive of expanded parking at Dan Bosch Park to alleviate the EXISTING safety concern of parking on Highway 101. However, WE HAVE EXPRESSED MULTIPLE TIMES THAT THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AT RUBY LAKE IS OPPOSED TO ADDITIONAL EXPANSION OF PARK AMMENITIES, THE BEACH AREA, PICNIC AREA, and NEW BOAT LAUNCH AREA.

Frankly, we feel our input has been ignored, and continuing proposals to expand the park amenities beyond parking will create more demand on the park and more problems for local residents. The SCRD has failed to provide adequate oversight and enforcement of the park, and left the Ruby Lake community to suffer with misuse of the park, and deal with illegal campers, dangerous camp fires, noise, and belligerent abusers. Consequently we are submitting this letter to make certain that our viewpoint is heard. Please carefully consider the following:

1. The Ruby Lake community generally SUPPORTS Phase 1 - EXPANDED PARKING to deal with the EXISTING DEMAND for day users of Dan Bosch Park. This is a safety issue, and an appropriate use for gas tax funds
2. The Ruby Lake community DOES NOT SUPPORT Phase 2 - EXPANDED USAGE of the park. Proposals that will result in increased demand for even more parking, such as expanded beach areas, more picnic areas, and a boat launch area will quickly outpace the proposed expanded parking, with no net gain to the safety issue on Hwy 101, and simply result in increased abuse that the local residents will have to deal with without any support from the SCRD
3. The SCRD needs to budget for an on-site full-time seasonal caretaker at Dan Bosch Park (May through September). There was an on-site caretaker previously that took care of public issues and use of the park. During the times when the caretaker was present, the local Ruby Lake community had a good relationship with the park administration and park users. Without the caretaker, we have seen regular unlawful camping on the park, dangerous campfires during burning bans that were left smouldering and un-attended, increased partying and noise, litter, and related abuses. When residents have called for enforcement from the SCRD, Parks Bylaw Enforcement, the RCMP, the fire department,

better signage, etc., the response has been non-existent. The SCRD has failed us. Our residents have had to put out smouldering campfires that would likely have resulted in forest fires had we not been vigilant monitoring the area. In the Staff Report to the Planning and Community Development Committee – November 14, 2019 the SCRD Parks Planning Coordinator recognized the problem with camping and campfires, and stated *“A management plan is needed for Dan Bosch Park, and is tentatively included in the 2020 staff workplan. Through this planning process, public participation and input will help define existing pressures and specific future needs...Increasing park use may require additional resources to be applied. In the past, an on-site caretaker (concrete RV pad, septic, electrical and water hookups) was responsible for day-to-day park oversight. Future park management plans will need to consider service levels.”* Web-Link (Annex F, Pgs 110-113):

https://www.google.com/url?client=internal-element-cse&cx=002316935908233087294:gc_wvqd_45y&q=https://www.scrd.ca/files/File/Administration/Agendas/2019/2019-NOV-14%2520PCD%2520Agenda%2520Package.pdf&sa=U&ved=2ahUKEwiazahHtczWAhWFuJ4KHRnFCs4QFjAAegQIABAC&usq=AOvVaw3CXuFhpA9iRb_uolPb8QfQ

So where is the management plan? Considering the current lack of effective management of the Park by the SCRD, we must oppose any expansion of the park facilities, other than parking expansion for safety reasons

4. In addition to caretaker and bylaw enforcement costs, the SCRD should also be aware of another obstacle to expanding park amenities, and that is strong local opposition to increased recreational use of Ruby Lake, without comparable infrastructure development at alternative lakes, such as Sakinaw Lake and Garden Bay Lake, to provide alternative public recreational opportunities. The Ruby Lake Community is already the primary public recreational lake in the area, with its sandy beach, picnic area, parking, and outhouses at Dan Bosch Park, and a public boat launch ramp with docks and an outhouse at Ramp Road. SCRD Web-Link for Dan Bosch Park: <https://www.scrd.ca/Dan-Bosch-Park>
5. The Ruby Lake community already bears the brunt of public recreational access and boat traffic. Proposing to create additional infrastructure on an already busy lake with traffic overflowing onto Hwy 101 ignores the feedback provided by the local community. In contrast, Sakinaw Lake is almost twice the size of Ruby Lake (over 800 ha), does not require parking on Hwy 101 to access it via Sakinaw Lake Road, has a boat launch that is not surrounded by dozens of neighbours (as is the case at Ramp Road), and although the Sakinaw Lake boat launch ramp has relatively flat land suitable for public use, there are no picnic tables, no outhouses, no welcoming day-use beach area for public use, and under-developed parking/signage. There is presently an old faded salmon information board, a small dock, and an unkempt foreshore. There are some water-access parks on Sakinaw Lake, but the public does not know much about them (they are not listed on the SCRD Parks web-site) <https://www.scrd.ca/scr-d-parks-list> The public cannot get to these parks and there is no official boat launch provision and welcoming entry point for day users. The Sakinaw Lake boat launch area is relatively small in size, yet this access area should be much more public-friendly and inviting before considering pushing more recreational

burden onto Ruby Lake. Similarly, Garden Bay Lake does not require parking on Hwy 101, has minimal public infrastructure, and amenities could be added to make it a more inviting local recreational opportunity for Pender Harbour visitors.

6. Ruby Lake is a drinking water source for 95% of local residents. Domestic water is also drawn from the Cove Cay pump house and services the community of Earl's Cove. The local community is very protective of the water quality at Ruby Lake, and increasing public swimming density at an unsupervised park creates increased pollution risk. Water quality at Dan Bosch Park should be regularly tested and reported to properly manage pollution risk, and we would like to request this be part of the Dan Bosch Park Management Plan.
SCRD Web-Link for Cove Cay Water System: <https://www.scrd.ca/Cove-Cay>
7. Why is the proposal for Phase 2 coming from Pender Harbour groups, without endorsement from the local community groups affected? This makes no sense.
8. One final request before considering any Phase 2 activity—please plan for public consultation, an official notice, and a public comment period before approving any Phase 2 expansion activities.

Thank you for considering this information.

Andrew McFadyen, President
Ruby Lake Landholders Association.