

westvancouver

PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

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(16)

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June 22, 2009

Mark McLaughlin
Executive Director
Crystal Meth Society of BC
350-2950 Douglas Street
Victoria BC V8T 4N4

Dear Mr. McLaughlin:

RE: Request for Financial Support

Thank you for your letter to Mayor and Council, which has been referred to me for response.

The District of West Vancouver participates in a North Shore working group called the "North Shore Substance Abuse Working Group (SAWG)." Their mission is to act as a catalyst to bring together those in the community who are working to reduce the impact and incidence of substance abuse. It is a forum for exchanging ideas, coordinating efforts and supporting community based initiatives. The leaders that make up the North Shore Substance Abuse Working Group recognize the opportunity and responsibility they have to advocate for solutions, and to raise community awareness.

I am forwarding your request to Leanne Sexsmith, Community Planner – Social Services for the District of West Vancouver. Leanne will ensure that is discussed at the next meeting of SAWG which, I understand, is on September 3, 2009. Once SAWG has had the opportunity to review your request, Leanne will provide you with an update.

Thank you for bringing the work of your organization to our attention.

Sincerely,



Anne Mooi
Director, Parks and Community Services

copy: Mayor and Council
L. Sexsmith, Community Planner – Social Services

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May 2009

Mayor Pamela Goldsmith-Jones and Council
District of West Vancouver
750 - 17th Street
West Vancouver, BC V7V 3T3

'An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.'

Dear Mayor Goldsmith-Jones and Council;

The Crystal Meth Society of BC is seeking your financial support. We are a registered charity that warns school aged children (10 - 19) about the dangers of illicit drug use. We run a school prevention program, the **Be Crystal Clear** show that has been seen by over 45,000 students. We are the only provider of this type of drug awareness for youth in British Columbia. We also give presentations to parents all in the hope of building a stronger drug-free community.

The Crystal Meth Society is run by a team of dedicated volunteers. We have two shows; each age appropriate, the **Be Crystal Clear** show presented to grade 6 - 12 and the **Elementary Drug Education and Awareness** show for grades 4 and 5. Your grant will assist in the delivery of our school shows to the nearly 6,000 students from the West Vancouver area attending approximately 17 public schools. All of our presentations have been vetted and approved by the Ministry of Education; Crystal Meth Secretariat; School Superintendents; local Health Authorities and the RCMP and other local law enforcement.

The **University of Victoria School of Child and Youth Care** assisted with the development of a survey card which we ask all attendees of our **Be Crystal Clear** show to complete. Of the 2715 students who filled out the form in 2008, results show that **94% of students would not use crystal meth after seeing our presentation**. Thirty-Seven percent reported that crystal meth is easily available and 8% have been offered the drug. However, 40% didn't realize that crystal meth is often laced into ecstasy; cocaine and marijuana.

Our costs to put on a one hour presentation are \$250.00. We anticipate that in West Vancouver we would give 10 school shows over the next 12 months. We would also like to provide two information sessions to parents and grandparents. The total cost would be \$3,000 for the year.

Tessa Lloyd, Youth & Family Counsellor, School District 63 reported on our **Be Crystal Clear Show** that, *"the presentation was comprehensive and addressed the many layers of physical, emotional, social and psychological devastation wrought by crystal meth. Students heard a very clear message. Afterwards, they said they were surprised at how fast it takes effect and how much damage it causes."*

This year we need your help to deliver this important message. Your generous support will save untold dollars in future health care, policing and justice system costs. As our grandparents taught us, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure".

Yours sincerely,

Mark McLaughlin, Executive Director

Be Crystal Clear

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