



0115-20-NSFC1



(28)

April 21, 2009

Mayor and Council  
District of West Vancouver  
750 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
WEST VANCOUVER, BC V7V 1T3

Dear Mayor and Council:

**Re: Recommendation for a Youth Referral Coordinator Position  
on the North Shore**

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The North Shore Family Court and Youth Justice Committee has, as its mandate, two primary roles: to review, monitor and advise mayors and councils on issues related to the application of the Youth Criminal Justice Act, and to advise and monitor issues related to family violence.

Over the past year, the Committee has been working to better understand what happens to young people with police contact who are not charged. As is noted in our annual Courtwatch Statistics, there has been a fairly consistent decline in the number of closed youth cases at North Vancouver Provincial Court (nearly 33%) since 2002. This may be due, in part, to the greater opportunity for police to use discretion in dealing with youth under the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA).

Through the YCJA Review Task Force, struck by this Committee beginning in 2007 and throughout our committee work over the past year, we have looked at ways police officers can be assisted in following up on non-charge youth files as a means for prevention and early intervention. We invited the Youth Referral Coordinator from Vancouver Police Department (VPD) to meet with us and discuss her role. As a civilian employee, she works closely with police officers to follow up on non-charge youth files by meeting with youth and their families, referring them to restorative justice where appropriate, and to connect youth to a variety of community based programs and services. A number of Memorandums of Understanding have been signed between the VPD and service providers. We also met with Chief Constable Kash Heed of the West Vancouver Police Department and Inspector Chris Kennedy of the North Vancouver RCMP to discuss this option for the North Shore. Letters of support from both police agencies are enclosed.



We feel that this position is a valuable asset to assist officers in following up with youth who have not been charged, but who have been in contact with police. This early intervention approach is proactive in addressing the root causes for their police contact, before they end up in the court system. The committee also believes strongly that there needs to be greater support for police in working with non-charge youth files, as officer's time and awareness of resources is limited, given all their other responsibilities.

The Committee wishes to recommend that the position of a Youth Referral Coordinator be established for the North Shore to assist police with non-charge youth files. We understand that further research may be required to understand the number of non-charge youth files that exist and how such a position would be created for the North Shore. We are committed to work with municipal staff, the North Vancouver RCMP, and the West Vancouver Police Department in developing this position.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our recommendation. Should you have any questions for our Committee, I would be happy to speak with you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Andrew Van Eden".

Andrew Van Eden, Chair  
North Shore Family Court and Youth Justice Committee



## WEST VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

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1330 Marine Drive, West Vancouver, British Columbia V7T 1B5

Telephone (604) 925-7300 Fax (604) 925-5938  
westvancouverpolice.ca

March 13, 2009

North Shore Family Court / Youth Justice Committee  
355 West Queens Road  
North Vancouver, BC V7N 4N5

*Attention: Andrew Van Eden, Chair*

Dear Mr. Van Eden,

**Re: Support for a Youth Referral Coordinator Position on the North Shore**

Thank you for your correspondence, dated November 19, 2008, requesting a letter of support from the West Vancouver Police Department in relation to a Youth Referral Coordinator position on the North Shore.

Supporting North Shore youth is a priority for the West Vancouver Police Department. Having resources available to intervene in at-risk youths' behaviour or lifestyle at the earliest opportunity allows us to empower our youth to take control of their circumstances and change the direction of their lives in a positive way; before the formal court process becomes necessary.

The West Vancouver Police Department is committed to supporting the North Shore Family Court / Youth Justice Committee in their efforts towards this worthwhile cause. We believe this will not only assist in helping the Community to identify at-risk youth but will also serve to meet the ultimate goal of early intervention and prevention.

Please feel free to contact me at your convenience should you wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Almas".

Jim Almas  
Chief Constable



147 East 14th Street  
North Vancouver, BC V7L 2N4

March 10, 2009

Your file      Votre référence

Our file      Notre référence

Mr. Andrew Van Eden  
North Shore Family Court/Youth Justice Committee  
355 West Queens Road  
North Vancouver, BC V7N 4N5

Dear Mr. Van Eden:

Re:    Support for a Youth Referral Coordinator Position on the North Shore

This letter will acknowledge receipt of your correspondence of November 19, 2008 and subsequent e-mails respecting the Committee's work towards creating a Youth Referral Coordinator for the North Shore.

As you are no doubt already aware, Youth is a priority for the RCMP nationally as well as for the North Vancouver Detachment. The North Shore, like any community has its share of youth at risk or those who's circumstances place them very close to being at risk. It is extremely important that we have the tools available to intervene in a youth's risky behavior or lifestyle at the earliest opportunity. The *Youth Criminal Justice Act* provides us with discretion to deal with youth criminal activity before it becomes necessary to direct him / her through the formal court process and thereby giving youth the opportunity to turn their circumstances around prior to developing a criminal record.

The North Vancouver RCMP supports the North Shore Family Court/Youth Justice Committee in their efforts towards having a Youth Referral Coordinator position on the North Shore. We see this as an enhancement to the Community's ability to effectively identify, track and work with youth at risk with an overarching goal of early intervention and prevention.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (604)983-7401 should you require more information or wish to discuss this matter further.