



Restorative Justice Program of the Sunshine Coast (RJPSC)
ANNUAL REPORT FOR the Year 2021

Presented by: Donna Schmirler, Board President and AGM Chair

A. Introduction

2021 proved to be a very challenging year for RJPSC; I am so proud of the perseverance and adaptability of our dedicated volunteers and support staff to respond by pivoting 90% of our work to be done online, with most communications, meetings, program delivery, and training completed on Zoom and working remotely. This was no small feat for an organization that almost exclusively functioned through in-person meetings pre-pandemic.

One of the Board's accomplishments in 2021 was an update of our Vision and Mission statements and a review of our Core Values. They are as follows:

The RJPSC's Vision is: a future in which restorative justice and restorative practices are embedded throughout the Sunshine Coast.

Our Mission is: to heal harms and to restore and build healthy relationships in our community.

We support this Vision and Mission by practicing our Core Values of: Healing, Safety, Honesty, Respect, Compassion, Reconciliation, Connection, Inclusion, Trust, Listening, Accountability.

B. Highlights of RJPSC Activities in 2021

a) Volunteer trainings offered on Zoom included: Compassionate Listening; Understanding Neurodiversity/Brain Difference; Peace-Making Dialogue Circle Training; Truth and Reconciliation Commission and United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples documents - Reading and Dialogue group

b) Youth Engagement Projects: Our services are delivered to all residents of the Sunshine Coast; however, in 2021, there was a significant gap in services and consistent school and work environments for youth in particular. A small focus group of youth provided the information and ideas for the development of in-person and online activities to address their increased feeling of social isolation and depression. To this end, two pilot programs were



offered over Zoom, the “Youth Unmuted” dialogue circle and the “Cook to Connect” Zoom circles.

In addition, we were able to hire three youths interested in restorative work experience to work part-time with the youths and community projects and develop and practice leadership and restorative circles, citizenry, transferable employment skills, and positive work habits, health and life balance. Everyone learned how to transition from in-person work and learning to a hybrid combination of online and in-person. The employment piece was made possible in part by employment funding support from the Federal Government of Canada Summer Jobs program.

- c) Strategic Planning on Zoom in June 2021: This helped Our Board and organization to set our strategic goals and focus our efforts for the next three to five years.
- d) Pivoting our facilitation to Zoom so that our Community Justice Forums and Peace-making Circle Dialogues proceeded online rather than in person, still maintaining the confidentiality and healing processes that the community has come to expect from the RJPSC.
- e) Restorative Process Outcomes: funding from 4 sources provided a variety of restorative processes for referrals from community and service organizations, RCMP, Crown Council, individuals, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, schools, recreation and park facilities. Over 300 people from across the coast directly benefited from restorative processes and their positive outcomes. Specific referral types included vandalism, theft under 5K, uttering threats, graffiti, assault with a weapon, business, group and organizational conflict. Of the fourteen individuals referred to the program for criminal acts, seven received additional support to address challenges related to brain differences and injuries, mental health and addictions and grief and trauma as part of the written resolution agreements. With partnership and grant funds, the program provided “wrap around” support for those referred to the program, along with family and survivor conferencing and supper evening circles. Resolution agreements included repairing damaged property, regular mentoring and volunteerism with community activities and non-profit groups, Elder mentorship and learning indigenous ways of



being and protecting of nature, and creating artwork to give to volunteers as appreciation gifts and honoraria.

C. Gratitude and Appreciation to All Who Support the RJPSC

a) First and foremost, a very big thank-you to all our amazing and dedicated staff for their ongoing work through the challenging pandemic time that was 2021. This includes our Coordinator, trainers, consultants, contractors and Canada Summer Jobs employees. You are at the heart of our work within the RJPSC.

b) Next and equally important, we want to acknowledge the work of our Volunteers, who gave freely of their time and expertise to:

- serve on our Board of Directors, or work on a Board subcommittee
- support our staff with administrative work or organizing trainings, meeting minute-taking, membership drives, website development
- take a role in the work of Community Justice Forums or Peace-Making Dialogue Circles

And all the many and varied tasks that get asked of you. We simply couldn't do this work without you.

We also gratefully acknowledge the support of our Funders in 2021:

Canadian Red Cross
Province of B.C. (3 funds)
District of Sechelt
Town of Gibsons
School District #46
Government of Canada
Sunshine Coast Credit Union
Rotary Club of Sechelt
Individual Donors

A huge thank-you to the following program partners, businesses and stakeholders for their generous gifts of time, teachings, blessings, expertise, purchase discounts, letters of support, office/meeting/training space and resources given in-kind. The RJPSC could not exist without your support.



RCMP - our local detachment and “E” division
Halfmoon Bay and Chatelech Community School Association
Clayton’s Heritage Market
Coastal Crust Pizza
Marg Penney
Shorncliffe Care Facility
Staff of the District of Sechelt
shíshálh Nation
Metis Nation
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Vancouver Coastal Health, Mental Health and Addictions
Sunshine Coast Community Services: Circle of Support;
And Victims Services
School District #46
Vancouver Island Region Restorative Justice Assoc. (VIRRJA)
Sal Spring Island Restorative Justice Program
Resiliency B.C. Network - Organizing Against Racism

And finally, a big thank-you to all our referral sources, including: Indigenous Elders and families, RCMP, self-referring individuals and families, SD #46, Sunshine Coast agencies, businesses and community groups.

Submitted by: Donna Schmirler