



PACIFIC CENTRE

family services association

Crime Reduction and Education (CRED) Program **Municipality of Esquimalt Report 2014**

The Crime Reduction and Education (CRED) Program at Pacific Centre Family Services Association began as a two year pilot project, funded by the Ministry of Justice, to provide prevention, intervention, and mentorship to youth who have come to the attention of the law or who are vulnerable to becoming involved in criminal and gang activities. Although the funding from the Ministry of Justice came to an end in August 2014, PCFSA has succeeded in offering the program in a part-time capacity due to investment of independent funds and successfully acquiring small grants, including \$500 from the Municipality of Esquimalt.

The overall goal of the CRED program is to prevent youth involvement in gang activity in the Capital Regional District (CRD) by providing targeted intervention and support to youth at high risk of gang involvement, youth displaying gang-related behaviours, and youth who are gang-entrenched. Core strategies of the program include: one-on-one support plans and assessment; providing information, resources and pro-social opportunities and choices for youth participants, including a boys' group; providing support, resources and information to families and communities; coordinating and collaborating with other youth-serving agencies and actors in the community; and engaging in ongoing information-gathering through online media, walking the streets, and networking.

During 2014, the CRED program has engaged 34 youth (32, males and 2 females) aged 12-21 who were actively engaged in gangs, exhibiting gang-related behaviour or demonstrating risk of gang-involvement. The youth who were served by the program were distributed throughout the capital region, including 2 youth from the Municipality of Esquimalt. Gang activities and their impacts, however, are not limited to municipal boundaries.

In addition to gang involvement, CRED youth participants have had a range of police contacts and involvements with the justice system, including: Robbery; Obstruction; Assault with a deadly weapon; Break and entry; Assault causing bodily harm; Mischief; Possession; Robbery with a deadly weapon; Extortion; Shoplifting; Trafficking; Uttering threats; Breaches of parole.

During this reporting period, 5 cases (3 males and 2 females) have been successfully closed. All 3 of the males were leaders or high ranking gang members (from the West Side Bloods and the WCGF) who successfully exited their gangs as a direct result of their participation in the program. The average length of time in the program by those who successfully exited is 10 and a half months.

The Program Coordinator uses a range of strength and needs-based approaches to conduct comprehensive assessments of participants, and to help guide plans for ongoing engagement and support. Individualized plans have been created for each of the youth the program has engaged thus far. These plans include, but are not limited to:

- one-on-one work with program coordinator, with a view to building trust and relationships
- participation in the boys' group or other pro-social groups
- In cases where youth have been victim or perpetrator of violence, building their knowledge and understanding of relationship violence
- support work with parents, including parent education
- suicide assessment, where risk was identified, and related referral to medical professional
- Liaising with probation, MCFD and other external agencies, identifying where contact / interventions by other agencies would be advisable
- Referrals and supporting youth to participate in other programs (as deemed relevant) and/or supporting school registration where required
- Supporting youth by attending court with them, where relevant

Additions to individualized plans are made as needed through regular check-ins made by Program Coordinator.

During 2014, the Program Coordinator partnered with the Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST) officer, to deliver a presentation to Rockheights Middle School on exploitation and gang prevention and spoke with Esquimalt High about CRED and offered resources on gang prevention. The CRED Program Coordinator and MYST officer also consulted with and aided police from the West Division (Esquimalt PD) of the Victoria police with youth related matters and provided information regarding gang related trends in the Municipality of Esquimalt.

Though the CRED Program has been reduced from a full-time to a part-time position, we have been able to maintain our high level of impact in the CRD region, offering education and consultation to community partners, as well as service intervention with vulnerable youth. The CRED program continues to be viewed as a key resource in the community around youth needs, gang activity and other trends in the wider community.

Liz Nelson
Program Manager
January 2015

Financial summary to December 31, 2014

Expenses		\$
	Wages & Salaries	36,241.47
	EI Expense	962.70
	CPP Expense	1,755.88
	Employee benefits	5,004.84
	Accounting & Legal	396.50
	Administration	4,398.00
	Advertising & Promotions	174.59
	Board/Staff/Volunteer Recognition	17.85
	Computer/Technical	755.07
	Insurance	140.88
	Membership, Dues & Subscriptions	34.62
	Mileage	931.23
	Office Supplies	165.01
	Training & Development	50.00
	Building Occupancy	1,518.00
	Storage	77.20
	Supplies	350.75
	Telephone	379.04
	Travel	144.24
	Van Expense	63.10
	Workshops & events	21.79
Total		53,582.76
Revenues	PCFSA	48,333.00
	Esquimalt	500.00
	Family Court youth Justice Committee	2,500.00
	Colwood	500.00

	Sooke	500.00
	Oak Bay	500.00
	North Saanich	500.00
	Highlands	250.00
Total		53,583.00