



Annual Presentation to Victoria City Council: 2021 Activities

Gillian Lindquist
Executive Director

1

Snapshot of Restorative Justice Victoria (RJV)

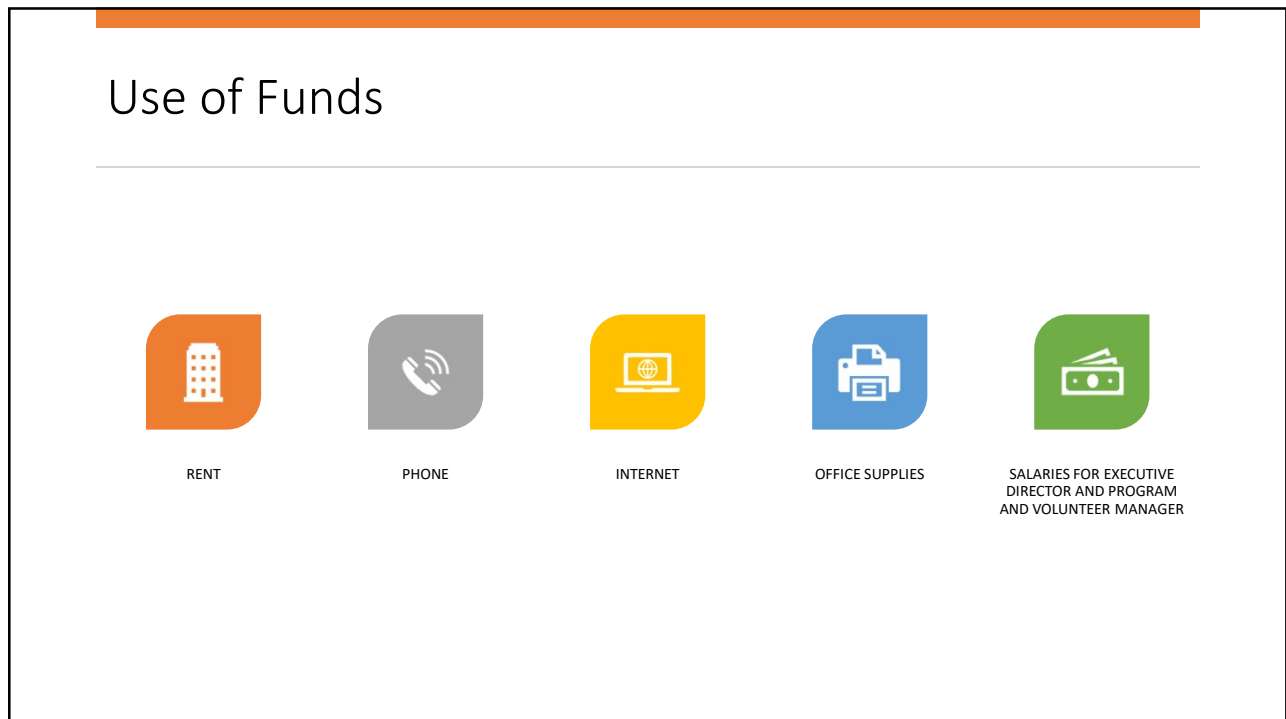
- Est. 2002; not-for-profit society & charity
- Five staff, approx. 50 volunteers (25-30 caseworkers)
- We work with youth and adult victims and offenders
- Receive referrals for a wide range of offences (minor to serious)
- Approximately 75 – 150 referrals per year
- Receive referrals from Saanich PD, VicPD, Crown, judiciary, schools, victims, offenders, agencies, and the general community
- Our services are free to the public



2



3



4

Allows For

Volunteer recruitment, training, and support

Case management

Liaising with community agencies/referrals sources

Fundraising

Public education

Program administration

5

Our Process

Referral

Intake and assessment

Preparation

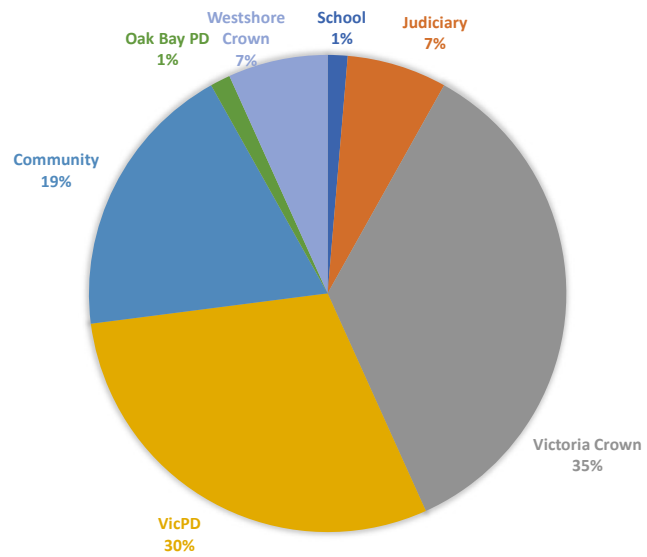
Dialogue and/or in-direct communication

Agreement completion

File closure

6

Referral Sources 2021



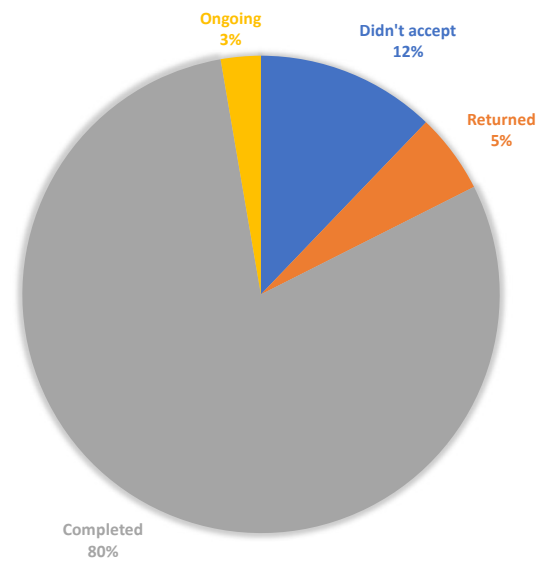
7

2021 Victoria-Based Offences/Harms Referred to RJV

Type of offence/harm	Number referred
Theft \$5,000 or under	9
Mischief \$5,000 or under	7
Assault	9
Assault causing bodily harm	4
Mischief – obstruct person in lawful use of property	4
Uttering threats	3
Assault with a weapon	2
Sexual assault	2
Dangerous operation of a motor vehicle	1
Impaired driving	1
Fraud over \$5,000	1
Making harassing communication	1
Conveying false message with intent to alarm	1
Mischief - religious	1
Breach	1
Harassment	1
TOTAL	48

8

Status of Referrals 2021



9



10

"We as a community applaud this young women for coming forward, for recognizing the effect this had on the community. It was a very difficult situation, but she made a genuine effort to make meaningful amends. It is something that we welcome. "



After a meeting between the offender and representatives of the Jewish community, Rabbi Kaplan said 'she acknowledged what she did, she realized the damage it caused, and she also took responsibility for the action.'

11

Agreement Outcomes

- Financial restitution to victims
- Attending counseling
- Conducting volunteer work in the community or donating to a community organization
- Letters of apology and gifts to those impacted
- Addictions support/rehabilitation programs and commitment to monitoring and/or reducing substance use
- Researching and discussing the impacts of specific harms
- Creating plans for budgeting, communication, boundaries, or self-care
- Courses on violence prevention, non-violent communication, communication skills, or anger management
- Self-reflection writing and self-development reading
- Prioritizing mental health, physical health, and/or support systems

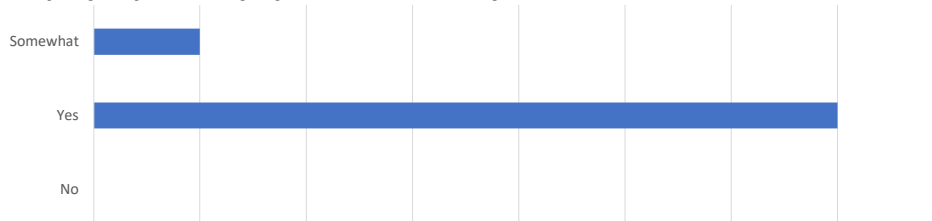
12

Victim Outcomes

Would you recommend RJ to someone else?



Do you feel your need for justice has been satisfied?



13

Victim Feedback

- *RJ has given me a place to be in charge of my court process which is something I didn't get before. Being able to direct every move that happened before, during, and after the dialogue was amazing. It felt like I had the power back in my hands.*
- *I found the process to be interesting and the outcome to be beneficial.*
- *The greatest benefit for me was community healing.*
- *What I found most helpful was being able to divert an Indigenous person from the criminal justice system and assistance in creating a bridge with the street involved community in my neighbourhood.*
- *My connection with [my RJ mentor] – fantastic support and understanding – felt validated and understood*
- *The circle conversation really helped us open up and speak truthfully about our experience*

14

Offender Outcomes

Would you recommend RJ to someone else?



Going through the RJ process left me feeling:

- better about myself: 91%
- better about my future: 93%
- less judged: 91%
- cared for by those in the room: 100%

15

Offender Feedback

- *RJ was a support and a help because these things I never had in my life.*
- *[RJ] taught me to deal with my anger. How to approach a situation in a different way instead of raging. Others see a change. No more chip on my shoulder. Stopped drinking. Taken courses to learn about myself and how to deal with people differently. I treat people with more respect and understanding. Not judging them right off the bat.*
- *I have learned that my anger can get the best of me and I need to find ways to control it. RJ has helped me identify and control my anger in situations where it arises.*
- *[RJ] made me have a sense of hope. It inspired me to know that there are people out there helping others. I felt comfortable. I usually don't trust people but I trusted the circle.*
- *I have benefited from my experiences in RJ because I learned to express feelings and build relationships in a healthy way that will benefit my future.*
- *There aren't words to describe the value this program has to me. I am grateful to have the opportunity.*

16

Partnership and Stakeholder Engagement 2021

Did two-hour presentations on RJ and RJV to VicPD's new recruits, VicPD's Records Department, and VicPD's volunteers

Met with personnel within VicPD, the Crown's office, Probation, and Youth Justice to further relationships and increase the use of RJ

Did presentations to staff at VSAC and for Team Victoria on RJ

Met with MLA to advocate for increased funds for RJ

Did presentations to stakeholders, justice professionals, and advocates (local and provincial)

Alongside Deputy Laidman at VicPD, presented to Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs and Regional and Deputy Crowns throughout BC on RJ and RJV

17

Over and Above Casework 2021

Projects

- Engaged in a six-month exploration with the Men's Therapy Centre on developing accountability groups
- Received funding and completed a year-long project to increase school-based referrals
- Provided a healing circle process for PEERS' clients
- Brought on a masters of social work student for a practicum project around the use of RJ at housing sites
- Started the process of developing a shoplifting referral pilot with VicPD and local businesses
- Participated in stakeholder meetings around finding alternatives to justice in cases of sexualized violence

Research

- Exploring Indigenous Justice and Restorative Justice in British Columbia and Saskatchewan: A Comparative Action Research Project

Program Improvement

- Recruited and trained 15 new casework volunteers
- Did a two-month long organization-wide training and Anti-Oppressive Practice in RJ
- Provided two advanced trainings to our casework volunteers on shame and trauma
- Moved to a larger office with more meetings rooms

18

Key Projects 2022-2023

1

Increase organizational capacity to safely and meaningfully address sexualized violence cases (United Way grant)

2

Increase diversity of staff and volunteers and increase organizational capacity related equity, diversity, and inclusion (Victoria Foundation grant)

3

Evaluation of RJV conducted by external evaluator (Community Safety and Crime Prevention grant)

19



20

Contact Us

www.RJVictoria.com

Gillian@RJVictoria.com

Office: 250-383-5801

Cell: 250-884-7904

