



WHISTLER

AGENDA

SPECIAL MEETING OF MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2010, STARTING AT 1:00 PM

In the Flute Room of Whistler Municipal Hall
4325 Blackcomb Way, Whistler, BC V0N 1B4

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approval of the Special Council agenda of January 19, 2010.

PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Exotic Dancing Bylaw
Report No. 10-001
File No. Bylaw 1408

That Council direct staff to revise Exotic Dancing Control Bylaw No. 1408, 1999 by substituting "Liquor Primary" for "C" in Section 3; and further

That Council consider adopting Exotic Dancing Control Bylaw No. 1408, 1999 as revised.

BYLAWS FOR ADOPTION AS REVISED

Exotic Dancing Control
Bylaw No. 1408, 1999

That Exotic Dancing Control Bylaw No. 1408, 1999 be adopted as revised.

OTHER BUSINESS

CORRESPONDENCE

FCM Payment for Whistler
Public Library
File No. 2072

Correspondence from Brock Carlton, Chief Executive Officer of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), regarding payment made from FCM to the Resort Municipality of Whistler in the amount of \$250,000 for the Whistler Public Library project.

Crime Stoppers Month –
January 2010
File No. 3009.1

Correspondence from Larry Murray, Chair of Sea to Sky Crime Stoppers, requesting January 2010 be proclaimed Crime Stoppers Month.

Treatment Options for
Youth Struggling with
Substance Abuse
File No. 3009

Correspondence from Barbara Westlake, Vice-chair of South Fraser Family Court & Youth Justice Committee, requesting that letters be sent to MLS Joan McIntyre, Attorney General Michael de Jong, and Premier Gordon Campbell recommending that the BC government re-open discussions regarding treatment options for youth struggling with substance abuse and refusing voluntary detox/treatment programs.

CRTC Review of
Community Television
Policy Framework
File No. 3009

Correspondence from Richard Ward, Director of Community Media Education
Society (C.M.E.S.), regarding C.M.E.S.'s submission to the CRTC on Broadcasting
Notice of Consultation CRTC 2009-661 Review of Community Television Policy
Framework.

ADJOURNMENT



REPORT | ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT TO COUNCIL

PRESENTED: January 19, 2010
FROM: Resort Experience
SUBJECT: EXOTIC DANCING BYLAW

REPORT: 10 - 001
FILE: Bylaw 1408

COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

That the recommendation of the General Manager of Resort Experience be endorsed.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council direct staff to revise Exotic Dancing Control Bylaw No. 1408, 1999 by substituting "Liquor Primary" for "C" in Section 3; and further

That Council consider adopting Exotic Dancing Control Bylaw No. 1408, 1999 as revised.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report has been prepared for Council to consider adoption of an outstanding bylaw to prohibit exotic dancing at liquor primary licensed establishments in Whistler.

DISCUSSION

Bylaw No. 1408, 1999, which is before Council for consideration of adoption, was given first three readings on March 15, 1999. The bylaw is authorized under the Liquor Control and Licensing Act and the Liquor Control and Licensing Regulations, which authorize a local government to restrict or prohibit the types of entertainment which are permitted in liquor licensed establishments. The bylaw as it is currently written prohibits exotic dancing in "C" licensed establishments. The "C" license or "Cabaret" license is a previous license category that no longer exists and has been replaced by the Liquor Primary license category, which also includes former "A" Class Lounge and Pub license types. Under current provincial liquor regulations there are no restrictions on the types of entertainment permitted for Liquor Primary licenses, unless they have been adopted by the local government as authorized. The municipality's adoption of Bylaw No. 1408, 1999 would prohibit exotic dancing from all Liquor Primary establishments in Whistler. For Food Primary licenses, exotic dancing is not a permitted form of entertainment under provincial licensing regulations.

In 2001 two further bylaws were brought forward to restrict and prohibit exotic dancing within certain designated areas of the municipality – Whistler Village, Upper Village, Creekside and Function Junction. These bylaws have also both been considered by Council and given first three readings. The two bylaws are Zoning Amendment Bylaw (Exotic Entertainment Definition and Prohibition Areas) No. 1510, 2001 and Business Regulation Bylaw (A Bylaw to Regulate Exotic Dancing) No. 1511, 2001. Bylaw 1510 prohibits exotic dancing as a land use within the designated areas and 1511 prohibits the use for all businesses in the designated areas and further provides for suspension of the business license if the regulation is violated.

The municipality's initiatives to bring forward bylaws controlling and prohibiting exotic dancing have been in response to period inquiries by certain establishments concerning this use, in particular in Whistler Village. The bylaws introduced in 2001 provided for the previously existing use at the Boot Pub.

The rationale for bringing forward these bylaws to prohibit exotic dancing has been that this use is not compatible with Whistler's vision, the resort experience and image that Whistler is pursuing and adjacent land uses. Whistler's Liquor Primary licenses are predominantly located within the core commercial areas of the resort community which cater to the needs and experiences of all Whistler's visitors of all ages.

WHISTLER 2020 ANALYSIS

W2020 Strategy	TOWARD Descriptions of success that resolution moves us toward	Comments
Arts, culture and heritage	Arts, cultural and heritage opportunities attract visitors and contribute to the experience and local economy	The proposed use may be considered a performing art to some, and may cater to a specific market, but overall the use does not positively contribute to the overall experience of the resort community.
Economic	Whistler proactively seizes economic opportunities that are compatible with tourism, and effectively adapts to changing external conditions.	The proposed use may be seen as an economic opportunity for a specific business but does not support Whistler's tourism brand, which includes a safe, fun environment for people of all ages.

W2020 Strategy	AWAY FROM Descriptions of success that resolution moves away from	Mitigation Strategies and Comments
Visitor Experience	Visitors feel genuinely welcome	Exotic dancing is a use that may make many of Whistler's visitors feel uncomfortable and unwelcome; night time noise and rowdiness is already an issue in Whistler Village and this may add to the issue.
Partnership	Decisions consider the community's values as well as short and long-term social, economic and environmental consequences.	On balance exotic dancing is not seen to support Whistler's values or its short and long-term social and economic success.
Recreation and Leisure	Residents and visitors of all ages and abilities enjoy activities year-round that encourage healthy living, learning and a sense of community.	Exotic dancing does not encourage healthy living, learning and sense of community

OTHER POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

There are no other policy considerations.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

There are no budget considerations.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

Exotic dancing has been a longstanding issue for the municipality and the recommended bylaw No. 1408, 1999 (A Bylaw to Control Exotic Dancing) may be adopted by municipal Council without further delay, effective immediately upon adoption. For further consideration of Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 1510 a new public hearing has been advised, and for Business Regulation Bylaw 1511, 2001 new public notice would be required.

SUMMARY

Over the years the municipality has reacted to inquiries for exotic dancing in licensed establishments within Whistler Village. Three separate bylaws have been prepared and have received first three readings. This report recommends adoption of No. 1408, 1999 (A Bylaw to Control Exotic Dancing) which would prohibit exotic dancing in all Liquor Primary establishments in Whistler, effective immediately.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Kirkegaard
MANAGER, RESORT PLANNING
for
Keith Bennett
GENERAL MANAGER OF RESORT EXPERIENCE

RESORT MUNICIPALITY OF WHISTLER

A BYLAW TO CONTROL EXOTIC DANCING

BYLAW NO. 1408, 1999

WHEREAS Council is authorized by the Liquor Control and Licencing Act and the Liquor Control and Licencing Regulations to restrict or prohibit the types of entertainment which are permitted in an establishment which is licenced under the Act and Regulations;

AND WHEREAS Council considers it desirable to limit exotic dancing within the Resort Municipality;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Resort Municipality of Whistler, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

Title

1. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes "Exotic Dancing Control Bylaw No. 1408, 1999".

Definitions

2. In this bylaw:

"Exotic Dancing" means any dancing in which the pubic area, genitals, nipples or areola of the dancer is exposed to the view of another person.

Prohibition

3. No exotic dancing is permitted in any establishment in respect of which a Liquor Primary licence has been issued under the Liquor Control and Licencing Regulations.

GIVEN FIRST READING THIS 15th day of March, 1999.

GIVEN SECOND READING THIS 15th day of March, 1999.

GIVEN THIRD READING THIS 15th day of March, 1999.

ADOPTED THIS _____ day of _____, ____.

Ken Melamed
Mayor

Laurie-Anne Schimek
Deputy Corporate Officer

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this is a true copy of “Exotic Dancing Control Bylaw No. 1408, 1999”

Shannon Story
Corporate Officer



Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Fédération canadienne des municipalités

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Maire Jean Perrault
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Chief Executive Officer
Chef de la direction
Brock Carlton
Ottawa, Ontario

December 18, 2009

His Worship Mayor Ken Melamed
and Members of Council
The Resort Municipality of Whistler
4325 Blackcomb Way
Whistler, BC
V0N 1B4

Project Title: Whistler Public Library
Application Number: GMF 9183

Dear Mayor Melamed and Members of Council:

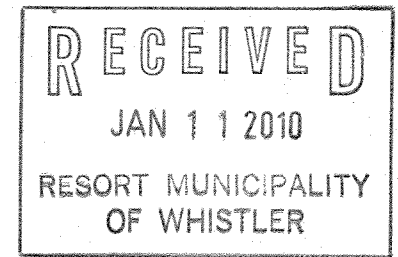
We would like to inform you that a payment was made from FCM to the Resort Municipality of Whistler in the amount of \$250,000. This amount constitutes payment of our first contribution to the project.

The FCM is grateful to the Resort Municipality of Whistler for its initiative and its partnership with the Green Municipal Fund.

Yours sincerely,

Brock Carlton
Chief Executive Officer

BC:at



Since 1901
Depuis 1901

Sea to Sky



Squamish / Whistler / Pemberton

January 2, 2010

Memo to Mayor Melamed and Council

RE: Crime Stoppers Month – January 2010

This memo is a request to have Council proclaim January 2010 as Crime Stoppers Month.

The attached letter from Prime Minister Stephen Harper supports this request. Across Canada, January is celebrated as a time to understand the role of Crime Stoppers in helping to create safer and crime free communities.

Locally, the Sea to Sky Crime Stoppers works closely with the RCMP and other law enforcement agencies and conducts its work through a Board of Directors of local citizens. In 2009, Sea to Sky Crime Stoppers handled over 60 calls in relation to keeping the Corridor communities safe.

We would be pleased if Council could endorse this proclamation.

Proclamation:

- *Whereas the month of January 2010 is a Canada wide celebration of Crime Stoppers and its role in keeping communities safer and crime free and in recognition of the need to inform citizens of this service, the Municipality of Whistler proclaims January 2010 as Crime Stoppers Month.*

Thank you,

Larry Murray
Chair, Sea to Sky Crime Stoppers.

Attached: Letter from PM Stephen Harper

Larry Murray
Education Consultant
210-1203 Pemberton Ave.,
Squamish, B.C. V8B 0J7
Tel - 604-892-5463
Cell - 604-892-4561
lawm@telus.net



PRIME MINISTER . PREMIER MINISTRE

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone marking Crime Stoppers Month.

Citizens who are alert and involved are key to ensuring that their neighbourhoods remain safe, friendly places in which to live and work. Crime Stoppers is a special partnership between these concerned individuals, the local media and police, that endeavours to solve and prevent crime in our communities.

Crime Stoppers Month is an opportunity to raise awareness of this successful international effort, which has developed a respected and strong presence in Canada with more than one hundred community-based programs and over two hundred thousand cases cleared. I would like to commend the many staff members and volunteers associated with Crime Stoppers for their valuable role in assisting our dedicated police forces in the fight against crime. You may take great pride in your efforts to safeguard our communities.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, please accept my best wishes for every success in the years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Harper'.

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.

OTTAWA
2010



PRIME MINISTER . PREMIER MINISTRE

Je suis heureux de présenter mes salutations les plus chaleureuses à tous ceux et celles qui soulignent le mois Échec au crime.

La vigilance et la participation des citoyens sont essentielles au maintien de quartiers sûrs où il fait bon vivre et travailler. Le programme Échec au crime est un partenariat spécial réunissant citoyens, médias locaux et services de police qui mettent tout en œuvre pour résoudre et prévenir les actes criminels au sein de nos collectivités.

Le mois Échec au crime se veut une occasion de mieux faire connaître ce concept fructueux adopté à l'échelle internationale. Au Canada, l'initiative, qui jouit d'une forte popularité, a été reprise par plus de cent communautés et a permis de résoudre plus de deux cent mille affaires. Je tiens à féliciter les nombreux employés et bénévoles du programme Échec au crime de l'aide précieuse qu'ils offrent à nos dévoués policiers dans la lutte contre le crime. Vous pouvez être fiers des efforts que vous déployez pour protéger nos collectivités.

Au nom du gouvernement du Canada, je vous souhaite à tous et à toutes le meilleur des succès pour les années à venir.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Harper'.

Le très honorable Stephen Harper

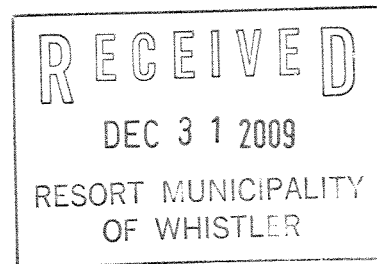
OTTAWA
2010

**SOUTH
FRASER**

FAMILY COURT & YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE

December 21, 2009

Whistler Family Court Committee
Mayor Ken Melamed and members of Council
Resort Municipality Whistler
4325 Blackcomb Way
Whistler, BC
V0N 1B4



Dear Whistler Family Court Committee, Mayor Melamed and members of Council;

If you have a child struggling with substance abuse and refusing treatment in Whistler, or anywhere else in BC, there is nothing you can do to help get your child into care, even though, 20% of BC's teen overdose deaths in the past 11 years have been in the BC Coroners Vancouver Metro Region. Currently, Whistler parents cannot place their child, who is struggling with substance abuse and refusing treatment, into a detox/treatment program.

The British Columbia government has previously considered developing legislation (Secure Care Act) to protect our youth struggling with substance abuse who refuse treatment. However, at the time (2000), the Act was not proclaimed, because it was believed that the Act was too broad, the maximum period of time in care was too long (100 days), and the effectiveness of involuntary intervention had not been demonstrated.

In light of the new practice-based research, we would like the BC government to re-open their discussions regarding treatment options for youth, struggling with substance abuse and refusing treatment.

On behalf of the South Fraser Family Court and Youth Justice Committee, I am asking for your support and participation in our letter writing campaign. During the last year, we have carried out research exploring options for families whose children are struggling with substance abuse and who are refusing to access treatment programs in British Columbia. Currently, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba are the only provinces that have developed, implemented, and evaluated legislation for detox/treatment programs for families with youth struggling with substance abuse who refuse treatment. Legislation was developed in response to an identified gap in addiction services for youth, who have serious alcohol and other drug problems, and refuse treatment. The intent is to provide another avenue of support when all other options for intervention and voluntary treatment have failed.

The attached Research Summary reviews our research. This research includes information on similar legislation in the above provinces, challenges faced, and a summary of the evaluations of the work these provinces have done.

South Fraser Family Court & Youth Justice Committee

Whistler Family Court Committee

December 21, 2009

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We are requesting that Whistler supports our letter writing campaign by sending letters to:

1. MLA Joan McIntyre;
2. Honourable Michael de Jong, Attorney General; and
3. Honourable Gordon Campbell, Premier;
 - To support our letter writing campaign's impact, we ask that copies of these letters be sent to our committee.

Furthermore, in your letter to MLA Joan McIntyre:

- please request that she sends a similar letter of support to Honourable Michael de Jong, Attorney General; and to Honourable Gordon Campbell, Premier and
- that she sends copies of these letters to the South Fraser Family Court Committee.

As many parents in British Columbia face the desperate challenge of helping their children who are struggling with severe substance abuse and refusing to access treatment, **we ask you to recommend that the BC government re-opens their discussions regarding treatment options for youth, struggling with substance abuse and refusing voluntary detox/treatment programs.**

We are aware that many letters of support may be needed to encourage our BC Government to implement another avenue of support when all other options for intervention and voluntary treatment have failed; therefore, it is our goal to collect letters of support from: municipal councils, MLAs, and other Family Court & Youth Justice Committees throughout BC. Once we have collected these letters, we will forward them as a "Support Package" to the British Columbia government.

If you have any questions or comments regarding our initiative, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Barbara Westlake,
Vice-chair South Fraser Family Court & Youth Justice Committee
Sub-Committee Chair Youth Recovery
youthrecovery@eastlink.ca

Enclosure

Summary of Research:
YOUTH, SUBSTANCE ABUSE, & PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION

Definitions:

- **Detoxification and Stabilization:** Removing the substance from the body and stabilizing the person's health. During this time, the symptoms of withdrawal are treated. Detoxification and stabilization is the primary step in any drug treatment program.
- **Treatment:** Teaching, supporting, and aiding the individual in achieving and maintaining long-term recovery. Treatment programs may include, life-skills training, support groups, individual, or family counselling sessions.
- **Youth:** Within the context of involuntary detoxification/treatment services, a youth is aged 12 - 17 years.

BC Youth and Substance Use

According to the Adolescent 2008 BC Health Survey conducted by the McCreary Centre Society:

- Of those surveyed, 25% of BC 18 year olds reported passing out as a result of their substance use and 31% were unable to remember things they had done or said
- The rate of BC students (grade seven - twelve) ever using alcohol, marijuana, mushrooms, cocaine, and amphetamines (including crystal meth) has decreased in the past 10 years. Alcohol still remains the most commonly used substance among youth of all ages
- The rate of BC students (grades seven - twelve) using prescription medication without a doctor's consent has increased as well as the rate for the use of hallucinogens (such as ecstasy) and steroids
- 17% of those BC students (grades seven - twelve) that reported drinking the weekend prior to taking the survey fell within the two highest-risk categories (5 - 10 drinks and more than 10 drinks)

According to the Adolescent 2003 Health Survey conducted by the McCreary Centre Society:

- Of BC students (grades seven - twelve) surveyed who used alcohol, 44% binge drank within the previous month (this rate has remained consistent since 1998)
- Marijuana use among BC students (grades seven - twelve) increases as they get older:
 - 20% of youth 14 years old and younger have tried marijuana
 - 45% of 15 and 16 year olds have tried marijuana
 - 56% of 17 years old and older have tried marijuana
- The percentage of BC students (grades seven - twelve) who had tried illegal drugs increases as they get older:
 - 14% of youth 14 years old and younger have tried illegal drugs
 - 25% of 15 and 16 years old have tried illegal drugs
 - 33% of 17 years old and older have tried illegal drugs
- 23% of BC students (grades seven - twelve) have used illegal drugs, not including marijuana:
 - The three most commonly used substances are:

- Mushrooms (13%)
- Prescription medication without a doctor's consent (9%)
- Cocaine (5%)

2006 Vancouver Youth Drug Survey by Vancouver Coastal Health:

- 25% of those surveyed who tried heroin use it every day
- 20% of respondents who used crystal meth use it daily and 12% use it once a week or more
- Of youth aged 16 - 18 years who use heroin, 100% reported having difficulty stopping or reducing their drug use
- 66% of respondents aged 16 - 18 years who used crack cocaine reported having difficulty stopping or reducing their drug use
- 75% of respondents aged 16 - 18 years old who used crystal meth reported having difficulty stopping or reducing their drug use

According to a report from the Office of the Chief Coroner of BC:

- Between Jan 1997 – Sept 2008, there were 90 overdose deaths of teenagers, aged 13 - 19 years:
 - 55/90 of these deaths were a result of illicit drug use
 - 6/90 of these deaths were a result of alcohol consumption

Key Components of Provincial Legislation Regarding Involuntary Youth Detox Services

Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan have developed and implemented legislation that provides families and child care providers with options for accessing services on behalf of a youth who is unwilling or unable to engage in voluntary service for severe substance abuse. Legislation was developed in response to an identified gap in services for youth, who have serious alcohol and other drug problems, and refuse treatment. The intent is to provide another avenue of support when all other options for intervention and voluntary treatment have failed.

Alberta: The *Protection of Children Abusing Drugs Act (PChAD-2006 amended 2009)* states that a parent/guardian of a child under 18 years may apply for an order of apprehension and an order of confinement for the child. However, prior to petitioning the court for a confinement order, the parents must attend an information counselling session. If the court believes the youth meets the criteria for involuntary detoxification (criteria listed below), an order is issued and the youth is transported to a detoxification safe house. During the youth's stay in the protective safe house information is gathered during the assessment process to create a treatment plan/recommendation for the youth to consider pursuing when he/she is discharged.

In 2009, amendments were made to the Act to include:

- increasing the maximum length of confinement period from 5 days to 15 days for the purpose of expanding support services
- enhancing the involvement of parents/caregivers
- addressing pressure on police transportation services
- strengthening the review process

Since the legislation was enacted, Alberta has noted 49% of youth who were sent to an involuntary detox program accessed voluntary drug treatment programs following discharge.

Saskatchewan: Under the *Youth Drug Detoxification and Stabilization Act (2006)*, a parent, youth care professional, or person with whom the youth has a close personal relationship can petition the court for involuntary detox by demonstrating that the youth is suffering from a severe drug addiction. When the court is satisfied that the youth

meets the criteria for involuntary treatment (criteria listed below), the court will then issue a warrant to apprehend the youth and transport him/her to a physician for an assessment. If the physician believes the youth meets the criteria for involuntary detox, the doctor can order involuntary detox and stabilization in either the youth's home community (Community order – maximum of 30 days) or in a locked facility (Involuntary Detoxification order – maximum of 5 to 15 days). Within 24 hours, a second doctor must assess the youth. Both doctors must agree or the order is terminated. Since the legislation was enacted, Saskatchewan has noted that 71% of the youth sent to involuntary detox voluntarily accessed drug treatment following their discharge.

Manitoba: Under the *Youth Drug Stabilization (Support for Parents) Act (2006)*, families in Manitoba can access short-term stabilization for their children under the age of 18 years. A parent seeking an apprehension order must demonstrate to the court that the youth is struggling with a severe drug addiction (criteria listed below). The court will then authorize the police to apprehend and transport the youth to a stabilization facility for an assessment by two addictions specialists, who will assess the youth and then decide whether to issue a stabilization order. The youth can be upheld for up to 7 days. Since the enactment of the legislation, Manitoba found that 83% of youth detained under the Youth Drug Stabilization Act have accessed voluntary drug/alcohol treatment following their discharge.

Criteria for Involuntary Detoxification

According to the above-mentioned provincial legislation, when an individual requests a court order of involuntary youth detoxification, the petitioner must demonstrate that the youth is struggling with a severe drug addiction and is:

- At risk of serious harm (to themselves or others)
- Needs confinement to ensure safety (of themselves or others)
- Needs confinement to assist with detoxification and stabilization
- Needs an assessment by an addictions specialist (AB), two physician (SK) or two addictions specialists (MB) to determine whether or not the youth should be placed in a detoxification program
- Is refusing to access voluntary treatment

If at any time, it is deemed (as determined by a physician and/or addictions specialist) that the youth is able to make sound decisions regarding their own treatment and no longer meets the abovementioned criteria the court order may be terminated.

Rights of the Youth

According to the three provincial legislations, when a youth is brought into an involuntary detoxification program, they are informed of their rights as follows:

- The youth has the right to contact a lawyer
- Why the youth is being confined
- How long he/she will be confined
- Their right to ask the court for a review of their confinement order

Furthermore, the youth has the right to appeal the confinement and apprehension order at any time. Each youth can ask for a review of their case and the review will be granted. The court can make an order confirming, changing, or ceasing the original order. However, the court cannot lengthen the period of confinement set by the original order. NOTE: In Alberta, the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission may appeal the court order on behalf of the child.

British Columbia: The British Columbia government has previously considered developing legislation (Secure Care Act) to protect our youth struggling with substance abuse who refuse treatment. However, at the time (2000), they did not proclaim the Act, because it was believed that the Act was too broad, the maximum period of time in care was too long (100 days), and the effectiveness of involuntary intervention had not been confirmed.

Involuntary Youth Detoxification in Canada

The investigation is ongoing....

According to Susan McLean, MSW, RSW Provincial PChAD Coordinator of Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission, "In Canada, mandatory youth detoxification legislation is still in its infancy, but preliminary outcomes suggest the programs are working as they were intended: youth are detoxed and stabilized, while parents are given another avenue of support when all other options have failed. Additionally, youth and parents are satisfied with the services they receive and a proportion of youth are pursuing voluntary treatment upon discharge..."

**Mandatory Youth Detoxification Evaluation: A Comparison across Jurisdictions*
<http://www.issuesofsubstance.ca/SiteCollectionDocuments/2007%20IOS%20Documents/SusanMcLean.pdf>

Let's keep the discussion open....

As a committee, we recognize that involuntary youth detox is a controversial issue. We also recognize that research into best practice options for youth suffering from severe substance addictions and refusing treatment is ongoing. However, in light of the new practice-based research, we are asking for your support in persuading the BC government to re-open the discussion regarding treatment options for BC families, whose child is struggling with substance abuse and is unwilling to access treatment.

-----Original Message-----

From: Community Media Education Society [mailto:cmes@vcn.bc.ca]

Sent: January 11, 2010 3:33 PM

To: Mayor's Office

Subject: Re: CRTC Review of Community Television Policy

January 11, 2010

To Mayor Ken Melamed and Council:

Attached is CMES' submission to the CRTC on Broadcasting Notice of Consultation 2009-661, Review of Community Television Policy Framework, <http://www.crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/2009/2009-661.htm>.

The deadline for comments on this Notice is February 1, 2010.

Sincerely,

Richard Ward, Director

Telephone: (403) 613-0869

C.M.E.S. Community Media Education Society

4837 Sophia Street

Vancouver, BC, Canada V8V 3W5

Telephone: (604) 324-2682

January 8, 2010

Robert A. Morin
Secretary General
CRTC
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N2

**Re: Broadcasting Notice of Consultation CRTC 2009-661
Notice of Hearing - 26 April 2010
Review of Community Television Policy Framework**

- 1) C.M.E.S. Community Media Education Society is pleased that the CRTC is reviewing Canada's community television policy framework: [Broadcasting Notice of Consultation CRTC 2009-661](#). C.M.E.S. would like to appear at the public hearing in Gatineau, because of our long history working for participatory public access community television.
- 2) Our main comments on the Notice are directed to Questions 7, 17, 20 and 26.
- 3) Sovereignty is the reason Canada has the *Broadcasting Act*. It was no accident when Clifford Lincoln, Chair of the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage, chose *Our Cultural Sovereignty* as the title for Parliament's exhaustive study of Canada's media system.
- 4) Some of us fear that, in our modern world with multinational corporations, sovereignty is an outmoded concept. When companies become large enough, they behave like governments. We, as individuals, lose power. Any small investor knows that voting as a citizen is more effective than voting as a shareholder.
- 5) If we want democracy to mean anything, then we need to see that election issues are publicized widely. Municipal governments especially benefit when mayors, councillors and their opponents can set out ideas in full before a television audience. Voters recognize leaders they admire. Once again they feel that they themselves matter in the democratic process. During those long periods when community television encouraged volunteer participation it was a successful mass medium, preferred by those viewers who turn away from American television and its imitators, exactly the kind of viewers who identify strongly with Canada.
- 6) If we don't guard Canada's sovereignty, it could simply evaporate. There are two reasons this is a serious possibility. One is that American television continues to define the norm for a large and influential class in Canadian society. The other is that the Internet, by its technological structure, cannot be national. The metaphor of an information cloud is a good one.

-
- 7) **Question 26:** Now that we have the Internet, do we still need community access to traditional television production? The answer has to be yes. Traditional audiences need more contact with Internet devotees who in turn need to get out and broaden their neighbourhood horizons. TV still has a better picture and a bigger audience.
 - 8) New media don't replace old ones; they transform them. Radio, then film and now television are all finding new roles after their days of dominance. In each case, public support spent for a social benefit gets fiscal leverage proportionate to the traditional popularity of each medium. As the Internet uses older media, it is shaped by them.
 - 9) It's no accident that C.M.E.S. focuses on community television as the mirror of Canada's identity. It's important to have individuals support leaders who can speak for them, but it's better when ordinary people can also speak to large audiences themselves.
 - 10) Community television exists not for its own sake but rather as the most effective method to communicate the goals or enthusiasms of local production teams. In the recent battle over fees between the TV broadcasters and the cable companies, both businesses have ignored the high technical quality, the creativity and audience loyalty that used to characterize the volunteer-produced community channel. If a nation can't hear local voices it's like a pyramid balancing on its point. In the days when community TV offices had thousands of volunteers, ideas had a way of bouncing off each other and averaging out. It was a stable relationship. Today, when the only TV producer who matters is a network owner, the entire industry veers recklessly between world conquest and collapse.
 - 11) **Question 7** asks why there has been such a modest uptake for the CRTC's offer to license community programming undertakings—only one licence since 2002. Here C.M.E.S. has firsthand experience.
 - 12) In 2007 we underwent a CRTC hearing to offer a community programming service in BC and Alberta when Telus said it had no plans for community TV. The CRTC recognized we had strong community support—interventions from the cities of Prince George and Medicine Hat, among many other groups and individuals. Nonetheless we were told we were producing locally but distributing from regional hubs and that was insufficiently local.
 - 13) We were also told that, if the BDU failed to meet revenue goals, we had to have the resources to fund the channel ourselves. Very few not-for-profits meet the test of matching BDU funding out of their own pockets.
 - 14) In **Question 17** the CRTC quotes the Dunbar-Leblanc report which took the general theme of maximizing revenue for the Canadian broadcasting system; thus they favour community channel advertising. There are two problems here.

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- 15) First, community TV ads take money away from commercial stations where two-thirds of revenue comes from national advertisers, and that income has dropped precipitously during the world economic downturn.
 - 16) Second it can be argued that, if not-for-profit access groups can sell ads, they don't need public money. The Prime Minister's Office, which appoints regulators directly, is always looking for a way to cut public spending. This is not the place. It may be that something like the public library system is necessary. Library boards are accountable to elected municipal councils. Library budgets are the same order of magnitude as community TV budgets. Commercializing public discussion misplaces accountability.
 - 17) **Question 20** asks whether \$116 million in annual BDU contributions should be directed to access programming. This has been our main goal since deregulation in 1997. We all know the answer is yes, and we've been saying so for a long time, in some cases since 1971.
 - 18) In those early days, Canada created a model much of the world has followed while here at home we hesitated. Community TV is a well-tested system. If we return to the principle that fiscal support must have a public purpose, then there's every reason to believe Canadian community television is finally ready to get it right. We can have public access, participation and independence from BDU gate-keeping. Maintaining funding levels along with accountable governance, traditional TV volunteers and added Internet distribution gives us a multimedia merger that answers all the questions raised in CRTC 2009-661.

Sincerely,

Richard Ward, Director
C.M.E.S. Community Media Education Society

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