

**BCCJA¹ Discussion Meeting
Wednesday, 2009 07 29
10:00 AM to 11:30 AM**

**Lower Lounge
Church of St. John the Divine**

Participants:

Dave Johnson	John Howard Society (JHS)
Chantal Jacques	William Head Institution, Correctional Service Canada (CSC)
Peter Coulson	BC Corrections & BCCJA
Sandra Bryce	Mary Manning Centre
Bob Downie	Saanich Police Department & JHS
Andrew McWhinnie	Circles of Support & Accountability
Clark Russell	Victoria Police Department
Donna Geer	CSC R ² & Lethbridge Community College
Jim Hackler	University of Victoria R
Bill Foster	BC Corrections R & JHS
John Braithwaite	CSC R, BCCJA & CCJA ³
Bob Brown	CSC R

Regrets:

Ranjit Atwal	Ministry for Children & Families
Roger Cutler	Crown Counsel
Dave Wilmot	BC Corrections

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks

Bob Brown welcomed the participants to the discussion meeting held in the lower lounge of Saint John the Divine Anglican Church. He indicated he would be co-chairing the meeting with John Braithwaite and thanked the participants for their attendance.

It was noted that this meeting was both the inaugural discussion meeting for the possible initiation of the Vancouver Island "Branch" of BCCJA and the first meeting to be held in the newly refurbished lower lounge of the church.

Both Bob & John declared that they would not serve as officers of the proposed branch but would continue assist with its development and provide support as appropriate.

¹ British Columbia Criminal Justice Association

² R - Retired

³ Canadian Criminal Justice Association

The regrets of those highlighted above were noted. The Agenda was adopted with the addition of “community/drug courts” under Agenda item 5.

2. Introductions

Each participant introduced themselves and provided relevant information concerning their respective involvement with the criminal justice system.

3. Introduction/Formalization of a Vancouver Island BCCJA Branch

John on behalf of both CCJA and BCCJA welcomed the participants to the session. He provided a brief history of the 2 associations and the positive affiliation that has existed between them over the years. He also provided a brief overview of their respective missions and mandates.

John highlighted the positive contribution that BCCJA members from Victoria made to the successful Congress 91 held in Victoria and the positive contributions that Jim Hackler has made over the years to maintain a forum for discussion of significant criminal justice issues at University of Victoria. Currently there are approximately 25 BCCJA members on Vancouver Island, mostly residing in greater Victoria.

In summary it was concluded that: we have the numbers; the support of a provincial and national organization; and, some funds – what remains is to organize and encourage others to join.

The discussion led to a number of questions related to the “mechanics” of establishing a local branch. Issues such as:

- Compliance with the Societies Act;
- Linkage to BCCJA & in turn to CCJA;
- Percentage of membership fee to the branch?
- Degree of independence and autonomy; and,
- Local structure re Executive body & makeup.

It was agreed that these are matters that should best be pursued by the initial organizing body and the emerging executive group.

Examples were given of CCJA affiliates with branch(es) e.g. the Branches of the Alberta Association. It was concluded that obtaining information related to branch affiliation, organization, funding, etc. from these jurisdictions would be a critical next step.

On occasion issues related to the potential activities of the branch crept into the discussion. It was suggested; however, that these discussions would be more appropriately addressed by the new branch membership. As a guideline to future discussions it was felt that having four key planned activities per year would be a laudable goal and an incentive for colleagues and friends to “get involved.”

4. **September 18th Forum (CCJA & BCCJA Presidents & Vic PD⁴ Chief Constable)**

This item and the September 18th forum were introduced as an initial promotional effort and an example of possible future activities for the branch. The following status report was provided:

- Friday, September 18th was confirmed as the event date;
- 3 speakers are confirmed; Cathy Gregory, CCJA President, Jeff Christian, BCCJA President; and, Chief Constable Jamie Graham, Victoria Police Department; and,
- \$1500 has been provided by BCCJA to support the creation of a branch, inclusive of this initiative.

The attendance of the two Association Presidents was highlighted as their full support for both the branch discussion and this event. The full cooperation of the Chief Constable was a further indication of support.

Following considerable discussion the following decisions/recommendations were made:

- Theme/title consistent with:

**Coming Together ^{and} Moving Forward:
Vancouver Island to Establish a Branch of the
BC Criminal Justice Association?**

- Audience not to be exclusive but targeting the criminal justice community – potentially a “rebirth” of past local criminal justice gatherings;
- Preferred venue – Lower Lounge of St. John the Divine, Anglican Church;
- Participants agreed to discuss and encourage friends and colleagues to get involved and attend the event & to distribute a promotional one pager (to be prepared) to their respective constituencies;
- Master of Ceremonies – Rector of St. John – Reverend Canon Harold Munn (consultation with Reverend Munn indicated that he would be honoured to play this role); and,
- Time - Friday, September 18th 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM.

Concerning the theme it was felt that the coming together of the participants representing various parts of the criminal justice system, the community, and the two associations was consistent with key messages such as inter-agency cooperation, community outreach and participation. Such messages are also consistent with the

⁴ Victoria Police Department

mission and mandates of BCCJA and CCJA and could contribute to the development of the raison d'être for the Vancouver Island Branch.

John & Bob agreed to action the following issues:

- Follow up discussions/consultations with the two Presidents, the Chief Constable and Reverend Munn;
- Pursue the possibility of coffee, snacks or finger food for the 18th; and,
- Prepare a one page promotional flyer for further distribution by the supporters enumerated above.

5. Other

Jim shared his involvement with attempting to determine the current status of “a community or drug court” for Victoria. Although the current status was not determined it highlighted an issue that could be the basis for review, investigation, comment, etc by a local BCCJA branch

6. Next Meeting

It was concluded that another meeting prior to the September 18th event, at this point in time was not needed. It was agreed; however, that contact would be maintained via email and individuals called on to assist, as required. The contact list is appended.

Websites for Review

- Canadian Criminal Justice Association
<http://www.ccja-acjp.ca/en/>
- British Columbia Criminal Justice Association
<http://www.bccja.com/>

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September 18th
“BCCJA” Contact List

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