

POLICE BASED VICTIM SERVICES - FUNDING OF SERVICES WITHIN BC

The Comox Valley Regional District board, on occasion, elects to support province-wide concerns and issues in the form of a board resolution. These resolutions are normally forwarded first to the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities (AVICC) for consideration but may also be forwarded directly to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM). Based on the nature of the concerns, UBCM will either endorse or not endorse the recommendation and if endorsed, will present the concerns to the provincial or federal government on behalf of all BC municipalities and regional districts.

Date of Board meeting: June 28, 2011

Board Resolution:

WHEREAS the matter of costs to local governments for providing police based victim services continues to escalate due to the increased demand for the service;

AND WHEREAS the authority for providing victim services is the responsibility of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General for victim's issues, development of legislation, policies and programs, and for providing training and delivering and funding programs that support victims and their families;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Comox Valley Regional District board of directors request the Union of BC Municipalities to urge the Province of BC, through the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to assume all responsibility for the provision and funding of victim services within the province of BC.

This resolution was referred to UBCM on, June 28, 2011

A response was received on October 4, 2011

Response from UBCM :

On motion, was ENDORSED at annual convention: The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions

requesting that the Province look at the funding for victim services programs (2010-B12; 2008-B4; 2006-B9;

2003

Additionally this resolution was referred to:

Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General

**The response from the
Ministry of Public Safety &
Solicitor General was:**

The Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General has a funding formula in place to distribute available funding dollars for victim service programs throughout the province. The formula is based on population and police strength and was updated in fiscal 08/09 which resulted in an average funding increase of 22% per program.

Police-based victim service programs are cost shared with local governments in communities that contribute to their policing costs. This cost-sharing approach recognizes the critical role that police-based victim service programs play in police and community response to crime and trauma, particularly around crisis response services.

The province provides over \$70 million annually in funding for services to support victims of crime including \$12.494 million for victim service programs, \$16.448 million for violence against women programs, \$12.343 for the Crime Victim Assistance Program and \$32 million for transition house services.