

## Clark, Perry JAG:EX

**From:** Godenzie, Lisa JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2014 10:04 AM  
**To:** McNally, Lynne M JAG:EX; Pecknold, Clayton JAG:EX  
**Cc:** Clark, Perry JAG:EX; Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX; Bard, Jenni JAG:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Victoria police refuse to hold young in cells - Louise Dickson and Lindsay Kines - Times Colonist (Victoria)

This is the same debate as <sup>NR</sup>, and now youth....  
Here is an excerpt from a letter/email written a while ago, but has been confirmed as the RCMPs stance on this issue (see highlights)

"At about the same time C/Supt. Moulton(D/Crops- Contract at the time) forwarded a memorandum to all District Officers and Municipal Detachment Commanders advising them to meet with their municipal partners regarding the KOP, that the budget had been reduced and new prisoner data was to be collected to establish a per diem reimbursement rate. Apparently <sup>s. 15, s. 16</sup>

s. 15, s. 16

s. 14 s. 15, s. 16

s. 14, s. 15, s. 16

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**From:** McNally, Lynne M JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2014 9:05 AM  
**To:** Pecknold, Clayton JAG:EX; Godenzie, Lisa JAG:EX  
**Cc:** Clark, Perry JAG:EX; Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX; Bard, Jenni JAG:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Victoria police refuse to hold young in cells - Louise Dickson and Lindsay Kines - Times Colonist (Victoria)

NR

s. 14, s. 15

s. 14, s. 15

s. 13

s. 13

The Standards in effect right now are the BCPC ones (voluntary) – they were last updated when we did the review of detention facilities a number of years ago and most recently we have amended them to refer to the Youth Criminal Justice Act instead of the Young Offenders Act. Here are the applicable BCPC Standards:

D11.2.2	amended	2013	Written policy establishes procedures regarding young persons who have been taken into custody, and includes: notifying the young persons immediately of their constitutional rights; and notifying the young persons' parents or guardians.  <i>Notes: The intent of the standard is to ensure compliance with the <del>Young Offenders Act</del> <u>Youth Criminal Justice Act</u>.</i>	Outdated
E1.2.1	amended	2002	Detention facilities provide the following minimum conditions for prisoners: sufficient lighting; <del>sufficient</del> circulation of air; <del>in accordance with local public health standards</del> ; access to a toilet, wash basin or shower, and drinking water; and a bed and bedding for each prisoner held in excess of eight hours.	Amended following provincial review of Detention Facilities

			<i>Notes: Policy may provide exceptions for prisoners who are deemed to be suicidal or self-destructive.</i>	
E1.4.9	amended	2013	<p>Written policy requires that young persons are detained separately from adult prisoners.</p> <p><i>Notes: Department policy must be consistent with the <del>Young Offenders Act</del> Youth Criminal Justice Act. Young persons should be separated by sight and sound from adult prisoners.</i></p>	Outdated

**From:** Pecknold, Clayton JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2014 7:31 AM  
**To:** McInally, Lynne M JAG:EX; Godenzie, Lisa JAG:EX  
**Cc:** Clark, Perry JAG:EX; Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX  
**Subject:** Fw: Victoria police refuse to hold young in cells - Louise Dickson and Lindsay Kines - Times Colonist (Victoria)

See below. I assume we will be asked whether they can refuse. Perhaps give me your thoughts.

This communication is for INTERNAL government use only. Further dissemination without the express consent of the originator is prohibited.

**From:** Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX <[Donna.Sitter@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Donna.Sitter@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2014 07:10  
**To:** Pecknold, Clayton JAG:EX  
**Subject:** Fwd: TNO: Victoria police refuse to hold young in cells - Louise Dickson and Lindsay Kines - Times Colonist (Victoria)

as mentioned

DS

Begin forwarded message:

Pages 3 through 4 redacted for the following reasons:

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s 3

Date

Ref: 216910

The Honourable Chief Judge Thomas J. Crabtree  
Office of the Chief Judge  
P.O. Box 10287, Pacific Centre  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada  
V7Y 1E8  
[info@provincialcourt.bc.ca](mailto:info@provincialcourt.bc.ca)

Re: Youth Justice Services and Victoria Youth Custody Centre

I am writing to inform you about changes in the delivery of Youth Custody Services (YCS) and to ask that you please share this information with the justices, judges and other judicial officers of your courts.

The Minister for Children and Family Development is today announcing the decision to close the Victoria Youth Custody Centre. The specific time-lines around the closure will be announced in the next few weeks.

After much consideration of options, and in the face of both declining funding and increasingly low numbers of youth in custody, a decision has been made to implement the following changes:

- The Victoria Youth Custody Services Centre will be closed and all youth custody services will be delivered at the Burnaby and Prince George Youth Custody Services Centres
- Keeping with best practices, services for female youth will remain centralized at Burnaby Youth Custody Services.

The new provincial capacity level will be set which will provide sufficient staffed capacity to respond any possible count fluctuations.

YCS is currently staffed for a provincial capacity of 132 youth. During the 2013-14 fiscal year there was an average daily population of 74 youth leaving 58 unoccupied but staffed bed spaces on any given day. This compares to an average daily population of 220 in 2002/2003.

Under-utilization has progressively increased, particularly over the past two years. Despite the closure of four custody centres between 2003 and 2005 and other reductions, including those made as recently as 2012, the youth custody system has been consistently under-utilized. Similar declines in custody counts have been noted in many other jurisdictions across Canada.

We are shifting services to two custody centres and ensuring that programs and services follow best practice approaches.

The following remains a priority:

- Continued development and implementation of enhanced programs addressing the specific needs of youth in custody (e.g., trauma informed practices, addictions and mental health services, programs for Aboriginal male youth in Prince George, and gender specific programs for females in Burnaby).
- Strengthening of the community engagement strategy including family visitation programs through both the increased use of technology to facilitate contact with families and communities, and some financial assistance to families for on-site family visits and reintegration leave supports as appropriate.
- Support for youth when returning to their home community upon release from custody.

The effect of this change once complete will mean that youth in Victoria on pre-court detention, short periods of remand or those who are serving short sentences will be held in police lock-up. This practice is consistent with the current experience of other communities throughout the province where youth are not directly proximate to a custody facility.

We anticipate an orderly transfer of youth from the Victoria Custody Centre to the Burnaby Custody Centre and that the change will not be fully implemented before summer.

In transferring youth during this period, we will use a combination of custody staff and the BC Sheriff Services dependent on circumstances, which is the current practice elsewhere in the province. About 50-60% of youth at Victoria Youth Custody Centre are from the Victoria area, the rest being from other communities on the island or elsewhere in the province. Once the closures have been fully realized and transfers of youth currently in custody completed, the BC Sheriff Services will affect future transfers.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact me directly. I would also be please to meet with you or other members of your courts to discuss this, or indeed any other issue related to youth custody matters, further at your discretion.

Sincerely,

Lenora E. Angel, BScN, MPA  
Provincial Director Youth Justice  
Executive Director Youth Justice and Forensic Services  
Ministry of Children and Family Development

MacLeod, Peggy JAG:EX

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**From:** Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, July 4, 2014 2:20 PM  
**To:** Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX  
**Subject:** FW: KM - NR Youth Correctional Closure  
**Attachments:** Corrections NR, s. 17 - Youth Correctional Closure - KM - 28 Apr.doc  
**Importance:** High

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**From:** Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, April 28, 2014 11:16 AM  
**To:** Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX; Holmes, Kjerstine L JAG:EX  
**Cc:** Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Indridson, Ian GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** KM - NR I/Youth Correctional Closure  
**Importance:** High

Hi there - please see the attached key messages from MCFD about the closure of the youth correctional centre that they are announcing today. Please see this highlighted bit. NR we will  
need to do an issues note on this – do you have a BN? I understand a meeting is underway now.

Increased use of police cells in Greater Victoria is anticipated for youth on pre-court detention or short-term remand status which may require further discussion regarding the Keep of Prisoners Agreement managed by the Ministry of Justice.

DS  
Office - 250-387-3520  
BB - s. 17

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**From:** Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, April 28, 2014 10:42 AM  
**To:** Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: KM in Approval - NR Youth Correctional Closure

Hey Donna – these are with Corr for review. Is there anything you want to add from a policing perspective now that youth will be held in police cells for periods of time?

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**From:** Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** April-28-14 10:30 AM  
**To:** Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** KM in Approval - NR Youth Correctional Closure

IN approval with Corr...just in case she's asked...ya never know.

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Tasha Schollen | Media Relations and Issues Manager  
Ministry of Justice | Solicitor General Communications Office

Phone: 250-387-5009 | Cell: 250-889-1121

# Victoria Youth Correctional Facility Closure

## KEY MESSAGES

### Confidential

Apr. 28, 2014

#### **Background:**

On Apr. 24, 2014, the Ministry of Children and Family Development is announcing that it will close the Victoria Youth Custody Services in Victoria. The closure reflects declining numbers of youth in custody in B.C. and will achieve savings offsetting a loss of \$4.45M in annual federal funding for youth justice services. A total of 24 beds in Victoria will be closed with Burnaby and Prince George maintaining their current operating capacity.

Workforce adjustments will impact all Victoria Youth Custody Services staff (53 FTEs); BCGEU (probation officers, correctional officers and supervisors, administrative staff, and a chaplain); BCNU (nurses); and, excluded managers. An additional seven regular BCGEU employees will be reduced at Burnaby Youth Custody Services. Formal notice to employees will be given dependent on announcement timing.

Increased use of police cells in Greater Victoria is anticipated for youth on pre-court detention or short-term remand status which may require further discussion regarding the Keep of Prisoners Agreement managed by the Ministry of Justice.



MacLeod, Peggy JAG:EX

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**From:** Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, July 4, 2014 2:19 PM  
**To:** Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX  
**Subject:** FW: meeting summary april 28, 2013  
**Attachments:** Meeting with Chiefs of police.docx

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**From:** Angel, Lenora MCF:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2014 4:27 PM  
**To:** Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX; Holmes, Kjerstine L JAG:EX; 'frank.elsner@vicpd.ca'; 'sgreen@saanichpolice.ca'; 'jim.faulkner@rcmp-grc.gc'  
**Cc:** Charlie, Tanya MCF:EX; Angel, Lenora MCF:EX  
**Subject:** meeting summary april 28, 2013

Attached please find my promised summary – I look forward to future discussions

Lenora



April 30, 2014

To: Clayton Pecknold, ADM, Policing and Security Programs, Ministry of Justice  
Kjerstine Holmes, Director, Public Safety Initiatives, Ministry of Justice  
Lisa Anderson, Executive Director and Deputy Director, Ministry of Justice  
Frank Elsner, Chief Constable, Victoria Police Department  
Scott Green, Inspector, Saanich Police Department  
Jim Faulkner, Operations Officer, RCMP Island District Headquarters

Re: **Meeting with Chiefs of police / MAJ/ MCFD April 28, 2014**

As requested I am providing you with a summary of my comments from our meeting -

- The number of youth in custody has gone down across the province – as is the trend in many jurisdictions across Canada.
- We've seen a decline of approximately 65 per cent over the last decade in B.C. – from an average of 220 in 2003 to an average of 74, last fiscal year.
- In the past year, B.C.'s three youth custody centres have been operating at an average capacity of 56 per cent.
- In the case of the 60-bed Victoria Youth Custody Centre (VYCC), on any given night last year, there was only an average of 15 youth in our care. In the first quarter of this calendar year (January thru March 2014) the average was 11 (4 not sentenced).
- On average 50-60 percent of the youth in custody at Victoria on any given day are from other areas of Vancouver Island or the province and can be transported to Burnaby instead of being transported to Victoria.
- In the first quarter of this year – in those 90 days - there were 18 /39 distinct youth from the south island in custody in VYCC.
- During 2013/14, 65% of the residents at VYCC were sentenced status, meaning we have predictable release dates to plan for their return to the community.
- While the closure of Victoria Youth Custody Service will help the ministry offset a loss of almost \$4.5 million in annual federal funding for youth justice services, it's important to point out that this is an operational decision that would have been made regardless.
- Greater Victoria youth who would have previously been housed at VYCC following their arrest and court appearance will instead be transported to Burnaby youth custody at the earliest opportunity.
- The Victoria facility will continue to operate normally until its closure, likely sometime in the summer. However there will still be custody staff on pay even after the physical closure. As the terms of the collective agreement move forward these staff will be redeployed including providing interim transportation to and from Burnaby Custody.
- Discussion with the sheriff services will be occurring and the idea of including them in our future meetings is an excellent one.

- Clearly there are a number of issues that present themselves as a result of having few youth in custody. There are a number of challenges, many we talked about when we met on Monday of this week and we may identify others as we move forward with our discussions over the weeks and months to come.
- This announcement allows us time to work through issues and feasible alternatives.
- We need to develop protocols, MOUs and strategies with local police agencies and the BC Sheriff Services as we move forward to ensure collaborative and rational approaches to the transportation and care of male youth prisoners.

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**From:** Angel, Lenora MCF:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2014 5:48 PM  
**To:** 'jim.faulkner@rcmp-grc.gc.ca'; 'SGREEN@saanichpolice.ca'; 'frank.elsner@vicpd.ca'; Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX; Holmes, Kjerstine L JAG:EX; Corrado, Paul JAG:EX; Faoro, Rick MCF:EX; Mand, Nin MCF:EX  
**Cc:** Pecknold, Clayton JAG:EX; Jardine, Kevin JAG:EX  
**Subject:** proposed meeting --Chiefs of Police, JAG, Sheriff Services, MCFD

Good afternoon

I am hoping to meet again to discuss the planned closure of Victoria Custody  
I will be asking my assistant, Tanya Charlie to set up the meeting  
As per our discussions – the Sheriff's services are being invited to participate  
I would ask that you make this meeting a priority in your schedules

As a starting point for the agenda

- a) clarification of any questions that may have arisen out of the all chiefs meeting that occurred May 1, 2014
- b) impacts and strategies
- c) next steps

Of interest – I am attaching ---

Nine years of our data – capacity versus occupancy  
and

Information on the youth aged 12 – 17 – When we met there was concern about the population 12 -17 years and what those numbers looked like.

The data attached was run May 2014 – the numbers are slightly different for both the province and Victoria than our published numbers, they are lower as I have removed all youth over age 17 – as I assume adults (age 18 and over) are not at issue --- we have a number of youth in custody serving youth sentences in the age ranges 18-20 years.

Additionally as discussed when we last met the picture of the Victoria custody population is as follows

40—50% of the residents are from elsewhere in the province – the interior, the lower mainland and the rest of the island

65% of the population is sentenced

Lastly, if there are others that you think should be included in our discussions – please let me know and I will be happy to invite them.

I look forward to our discussions

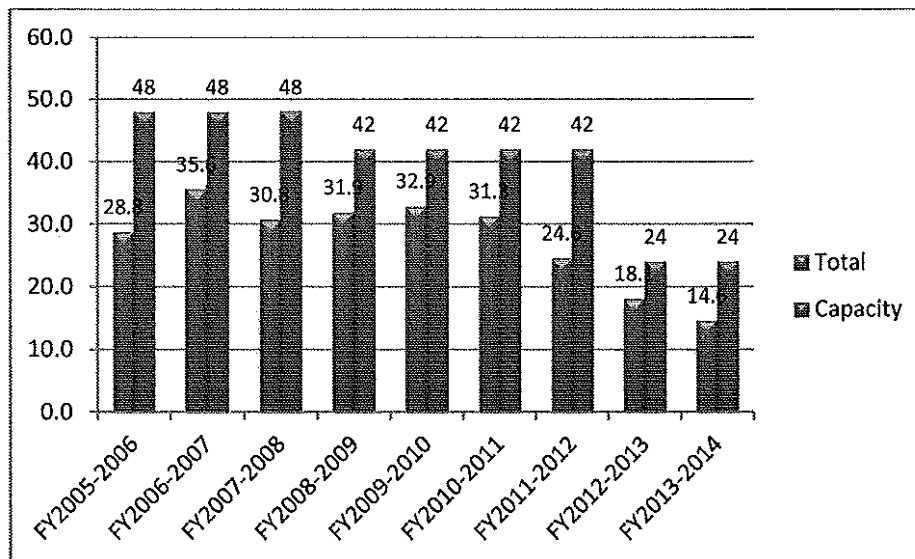
I have some additional data that you might find interesting and will send that along prior to our meeting

Lenora

**Lenora E. Angel**, BScN, MPA  
Provincial Director Youth Justice  
Executive Director Youth Justice and Forensic Services  
Ministry of Children and Family Development  
PO box 9717 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9S1  
phone 250.356.1970  
Fax 250.356.2079  
Location: 2A - 940 Blanshard St. Victoria

Youth Under age 18 in Custody Active-In Count (Total) vs. Capacity

Active In Count	Victoria Youth Open Custody (2012)	Victoria Youth Secure Custody (0040)	Total	Capacity
FY2005-2006	13.3	15.5	28.8	48
FY2006-2007	16.6	18.9	35.6	48
FY2007-2008	14.9	15.9	30.8	48
FY2008-2009	15.7	16.2	31.9	42
FY2009-2010	14.8	18.1	32.9	42
FY2010-2011	14.5	16.8	31.3	42
FY2011-2012	10.8	13.7	24.6	42
FY2012-2013	8.0	10.2	18.1	24
FY2013-2014	6.3	8.3	14.6	24

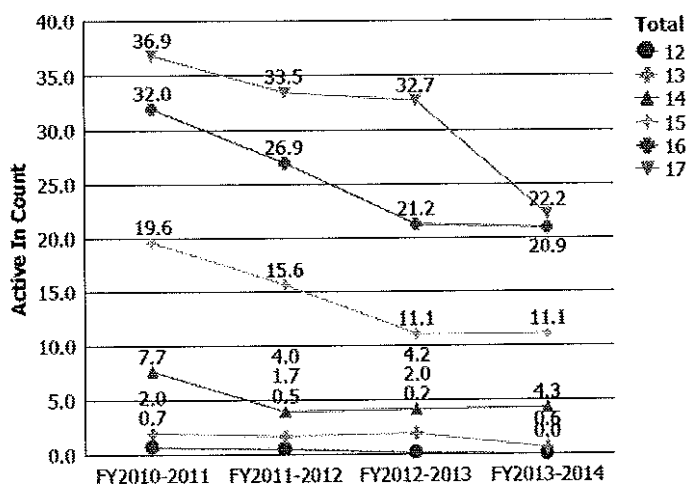
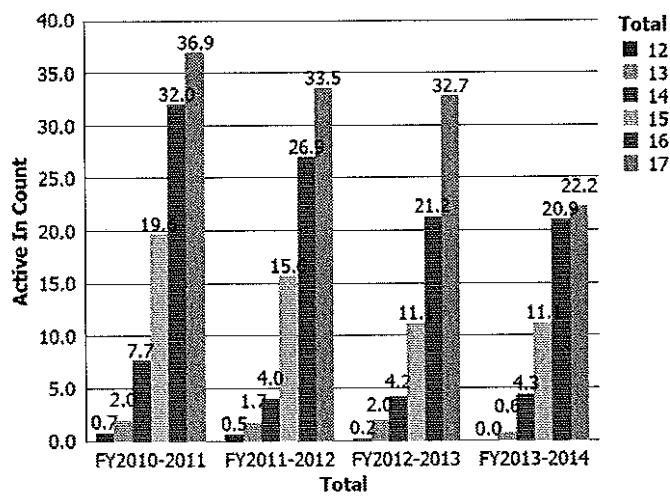


May 5, 2014

Youth Under Age 18 In Custody/By FY Year/By Age

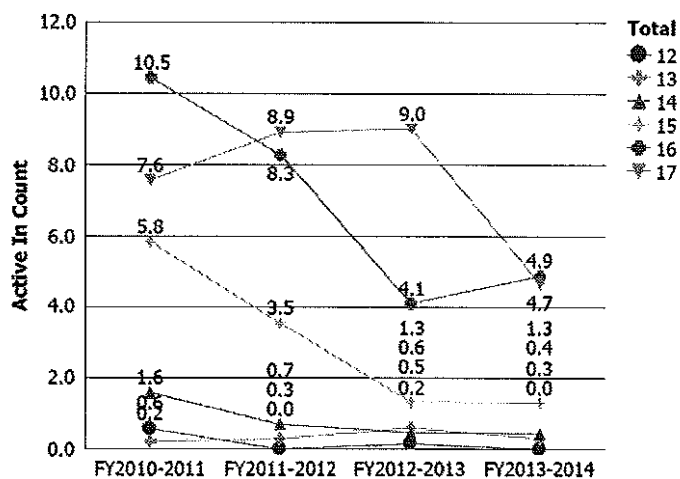
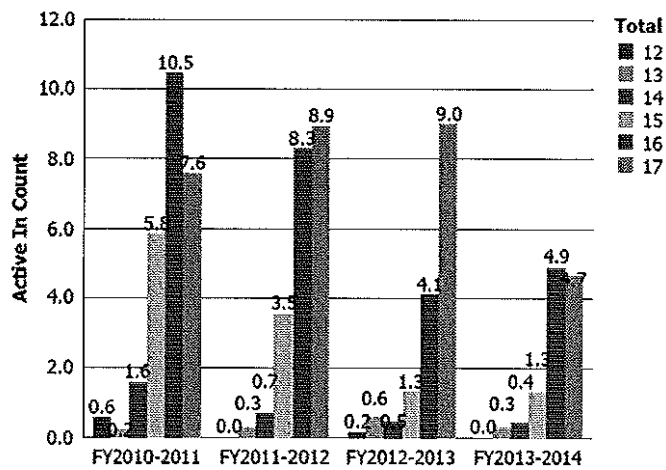
**Total**

Active In Count	FY2010-2011	FY2011-2012	FY2012-2013	FY2013-2014	Total
12	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.3
13	2.0	1.7	2.0	0.6	1.6
14	7.7	4.0	4.2	4.3	5.0
15	19.6	15.6	11.1	11.1	14.3
16	32.0	26.9	21.2	20.9	25.3
17	36.9	33.5	32.7	22.2	31.3
Total	98.7	82.2	71.3	59.1	77.9



# Victoria Youth Custody Services Only

Total					
Active In Count	FY2010-2011	FY2011-2012	FY2012-2013	FY2013-2014	Total
12	0.6	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2
13	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.3
14	1.6	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.8
15	5.8	3.5	1.3	1.3	3.0
16	10.5	8.3	4.1	4.9	6.9
17	7.6	8.9	9.0	4.7	7.5
Total	26.2	21.7	15.7	11.6	18.8





MacLeod, Peggy JAG:EX

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**From:** Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, July 4, 2014 2:17 PM  
**To:** Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX  
**Subject:** FW: as requested - youth custody  
**Attachments:** youth custody.docx

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**From:** Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 8, 2014 2:44 PM  
**To:** Pecknold, Clayton JAG:EX  
**Subject:** as requested - youth custody

Hi Clayton.....as requested here is a summary of the meeting that took place on April 28, 2014.

Attachment includes;

- Kjerstine's notes
- My notes (only additions to Kjerstine's)
- Summary of the meeting prepared by MCFD

Please let me know if you need this in a more formalized format.

Lisa

Lisa Anderson  
Executive Director and Deputy Director of Police Services  
Policing and Security Branch  
Ministry of Justice  
Office - 604-660-1741  
Cell -  
Email - [Lisa.R.Anderson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lisa.R.Anderson@gov.bc.ca)

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## **Kjerstine's notes**

General Police comments without attribution:

s. 16, s. 17

It was stated that the Keep of Prisoners Agreement may need to be re-opened because is out of date.

Will police have standards for youth in detention imposed on them if they are forced to house youth in cells?

### Victoria Police Department comments:

Jamie Graham's statement that VicPD is "not in the business of holding kids" was reiterated. Then why have police been involved in the discussion about closing the facility so late in the day?

The liability is the biggest piece of the equation for having these youth in police cells. Further, their Police Board needs to know and they might say "no" to even contemplating police cells might be an option even in extreme circumstances for these youth. There needs to be some type of agreement in place to frame the circumstances in which possible youth detention in police cells might occur. Police cells are not built for kids – Cells are small, there are no showers, no exercise facilities, no windows, lights stay on 24/7, cells are noisy, open to other adults in lock up, they hand out "A & W meals", – no place for kids in trouble.

VicPD indicated that they would be bringing this issue to the attention of their board for their discussion at their May 14<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. Area chiefs would be discussing the issue as well.

### Summary of Police Issues related to housing youth in detention in police cells:

1. Liability
2. Fee Schedule
3. Protocols to ensure police are the last resort, not the first.

## **Lisa's notes**

Police comments (in addition to what has been noted above):

Not happy about being notified at such a late stage. Feels this is a ministry issue and not a police issue. No plan, no consultation, no risk management. Question about contingencies if labour unrest. This is not a negotiation. Costs to government to house the youth in police cells needs to be high enough to make government notice – can't make it too easy for them. Government treats police not what like I'm used to (Victoria chief). Raised the issue of a potential private solution (ie. Victoria Friendship Centre)

The following summary was prepared by MCFD and circulated to the chiefs a few days after the meeting and was provided so they could use them for their upcoming meeting with all the area chiefs.

**Re: Meeting with Chiefs of police / MAJ/ MCFD April 28, 2014**

As requested I am providing you with a summary of my comments from our meeting -

- The number of youth in custody has gone down across the province – as is the trend in many jurisdictions across Canada.
- We've seen a decline of approximately 65 per cent over the last decade in B.C. – from an average of 220 in 2003 to an average of 74, last fiscal year.
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- This announcement allows us time to work through issues and feasible alternatives.
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**MacLeod, Peggy JAG:EX**

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**From:** Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, July 4, 2014 2:16 PM  
**To:** Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Youth Custody Services meeting May 14  
**Attachments:** Victoria Youth Custody Services.pptx

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**From:** MCF Youth Justice MCF:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2014 4:16 PM  
**To:** Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX; Holmes, Kjerstine L JAG:EX; Jardine, Kevin JAG:EX; Corrado, Paul JAG:EX; 'SGREEN@saanichpolice.ca'; 'jim.faulkner@rcmp-grc.gc.ca'; 'frank.elsner@vicpd.ca'  
**Cc:** Faoro, Rick MCF:EX; Young, Shawn G MCF:EX; Mashford, Paige P MCF:EX; 'collette.mahon@vicpd.ca'  
**Subject:** Youth Custody Services meeting May 14

Please find attached correspondence forwarded on behalf of Lenora Angel, Executive Director Youth Justice & Forensic Services, Ministry of Children and Family Development, for the meeting on May 14, 2014 11AM to 1PM 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor – 940 Blanshard Street.

#### **Agenda Items**

- a) Clarification of any questions that may have arisen out of the all chiefs meeting that occurred May 1, 2014
- b) Impacts and Strategies
- c) Next steps
- d) Other

**Youth Justice & Forensic Services**  
**Ministry of Children & Family Development**  
PO Box 9717 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC V8W 9S1  
Phone: 250-387-0978

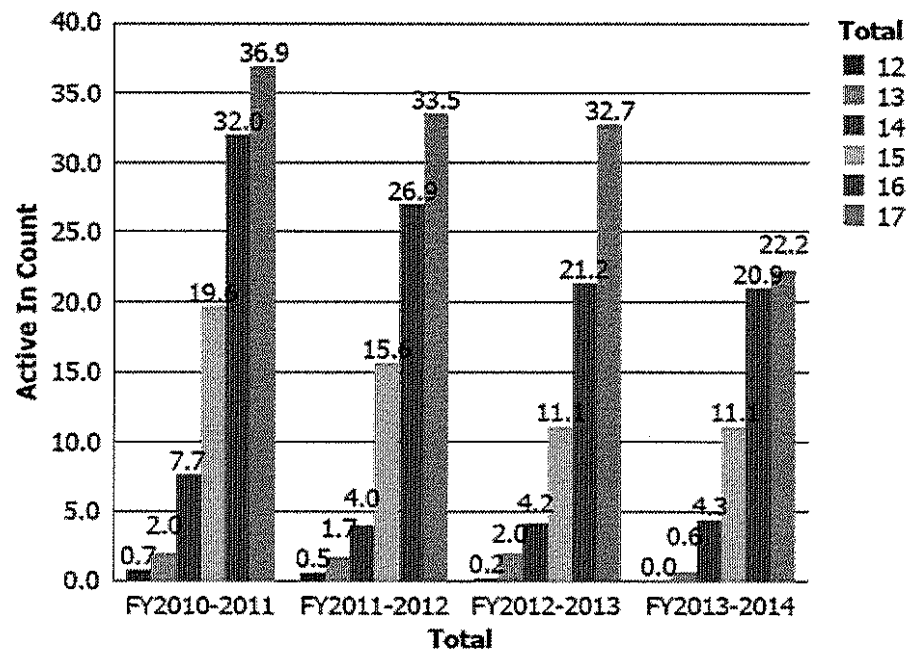


# Youth Justice & Forensic Services

Background Data

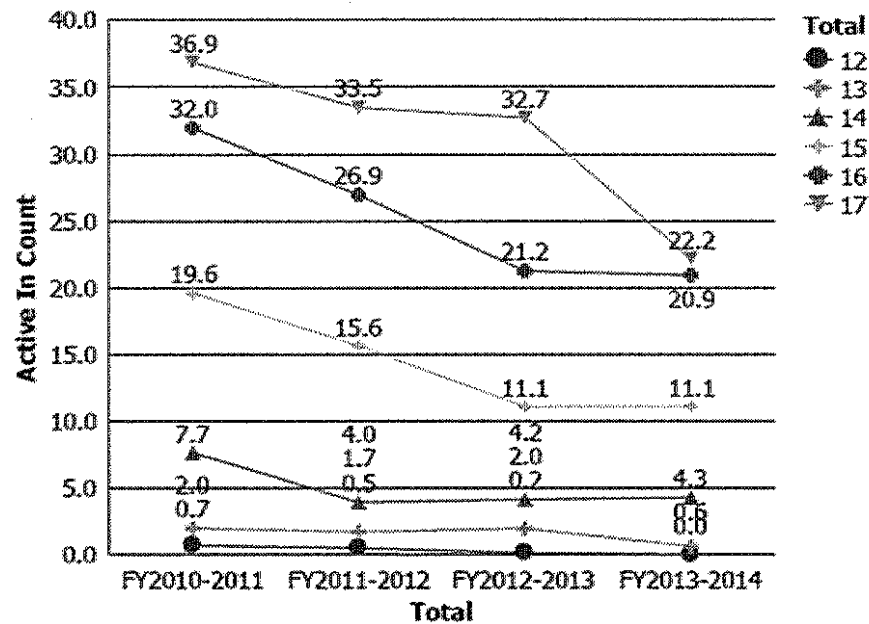
May 13, 2014

# All Youth Custody Services Open/Secure



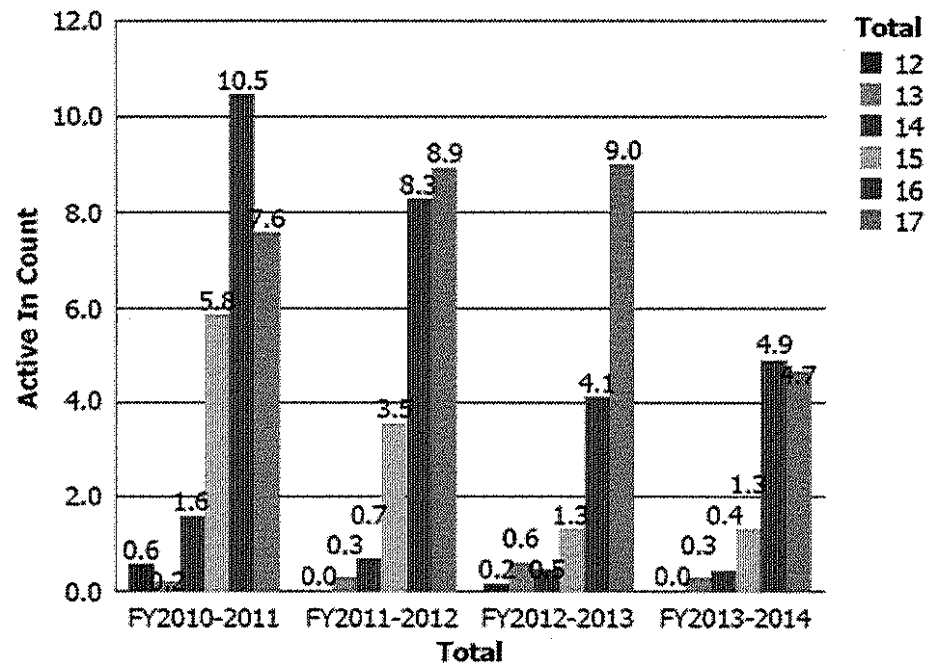
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<b>Total</b>	<b>98.7</b>	<b>82.2</b>	<b>71.3</b>	<b>59.1</b>	<b>77.9</b>

# All Youth Custody Services Open/Secure



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17	36.9	33.5	32.7	22.2	31.3
Total	98.7	82.2	71.3	59.1	77.9

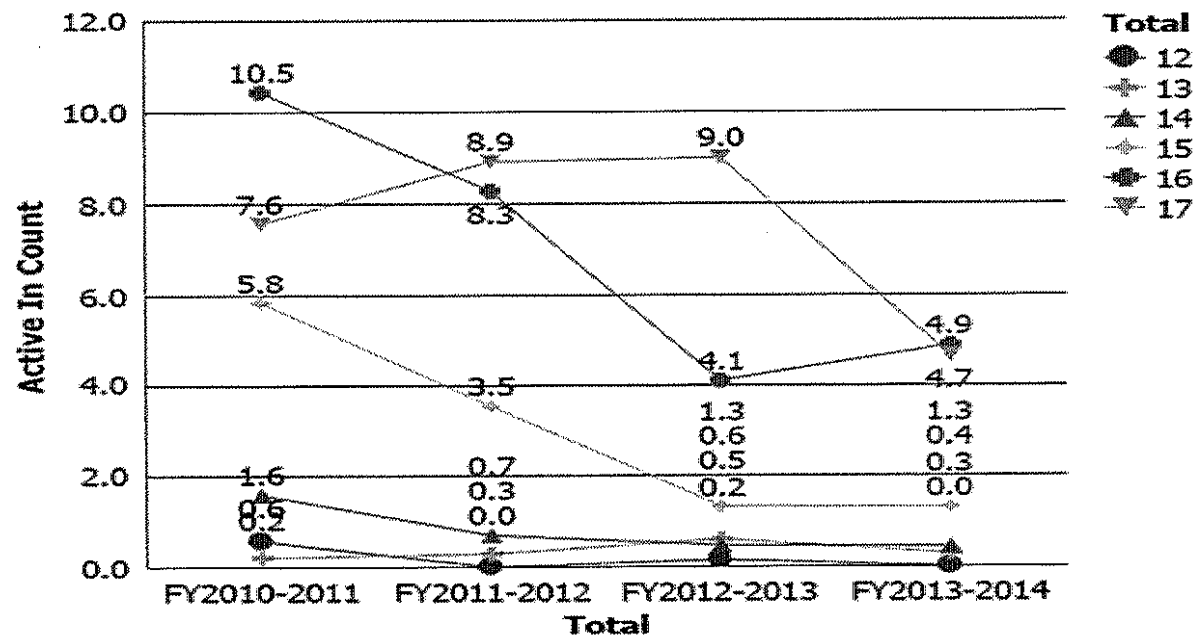
# Victoria Youth Custody Only



Active In Count	FY2010-2011	FY2011-2012	FY2012-2013	FY2013-2014	Total
12	0.6	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2
13	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.3
14	1.6	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.8
15	5.8	3.5	1.3	1.3	3.0
16	10.5	8.3	4.1	4.9	6.9
17	7.6	8.9	9.0	4.7	7.5
Total	26.2	21.7	15.7	11.6	18.8



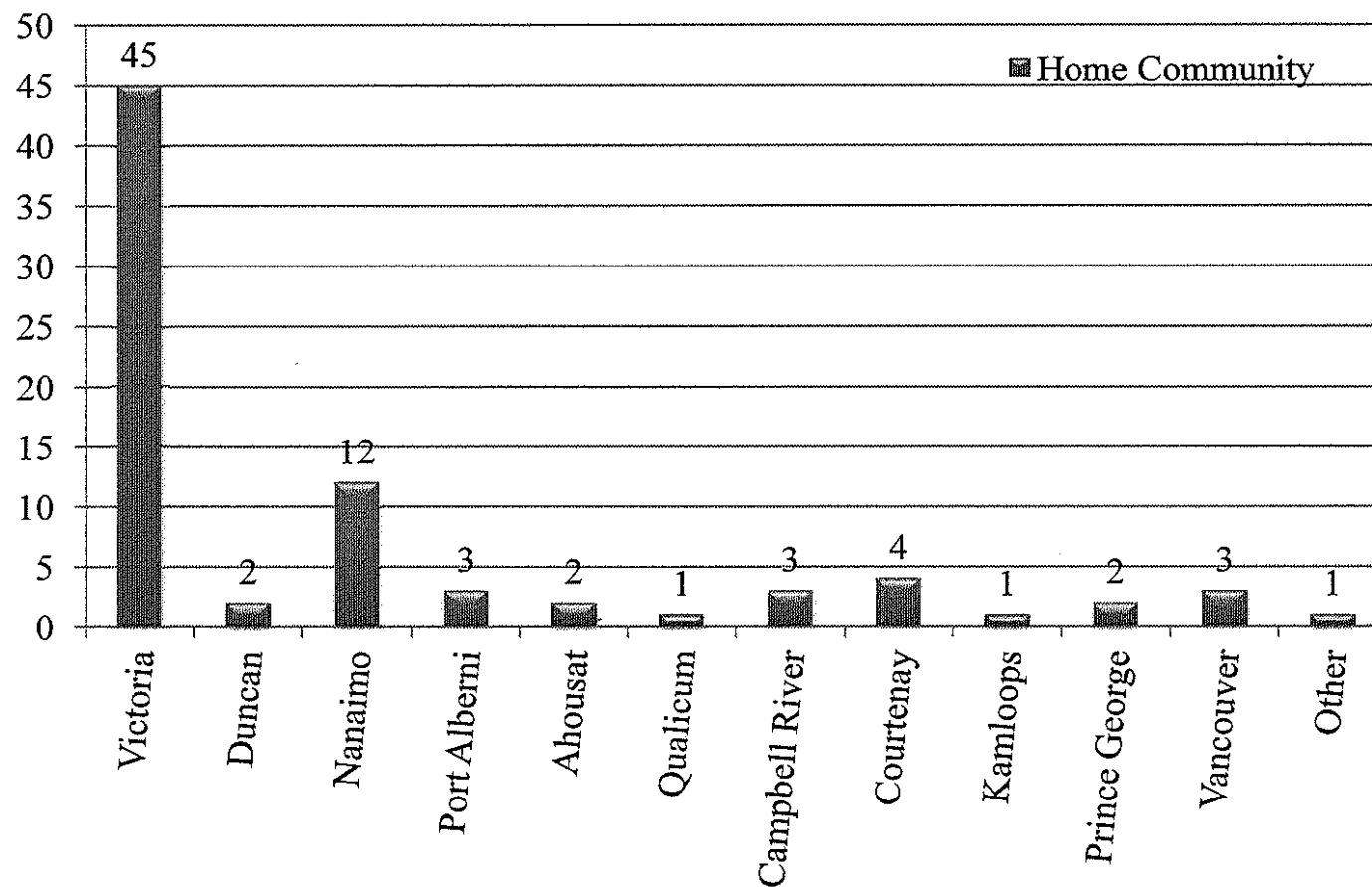
# Victoria Youth Custody Only



Active In Count	FY2010-2011	FY2011-2012	FY2012-2013	FY2013-2014	Total
12	0.6	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2
13	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.3
14	1.6	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.8
15	5.8	3.5	1.3	1.3	3.0
16	10.5	8.3	4.1	4.9	6.9
17	7.6	8.9	9.0	4.7	7.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>26.2</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>18.8</b>

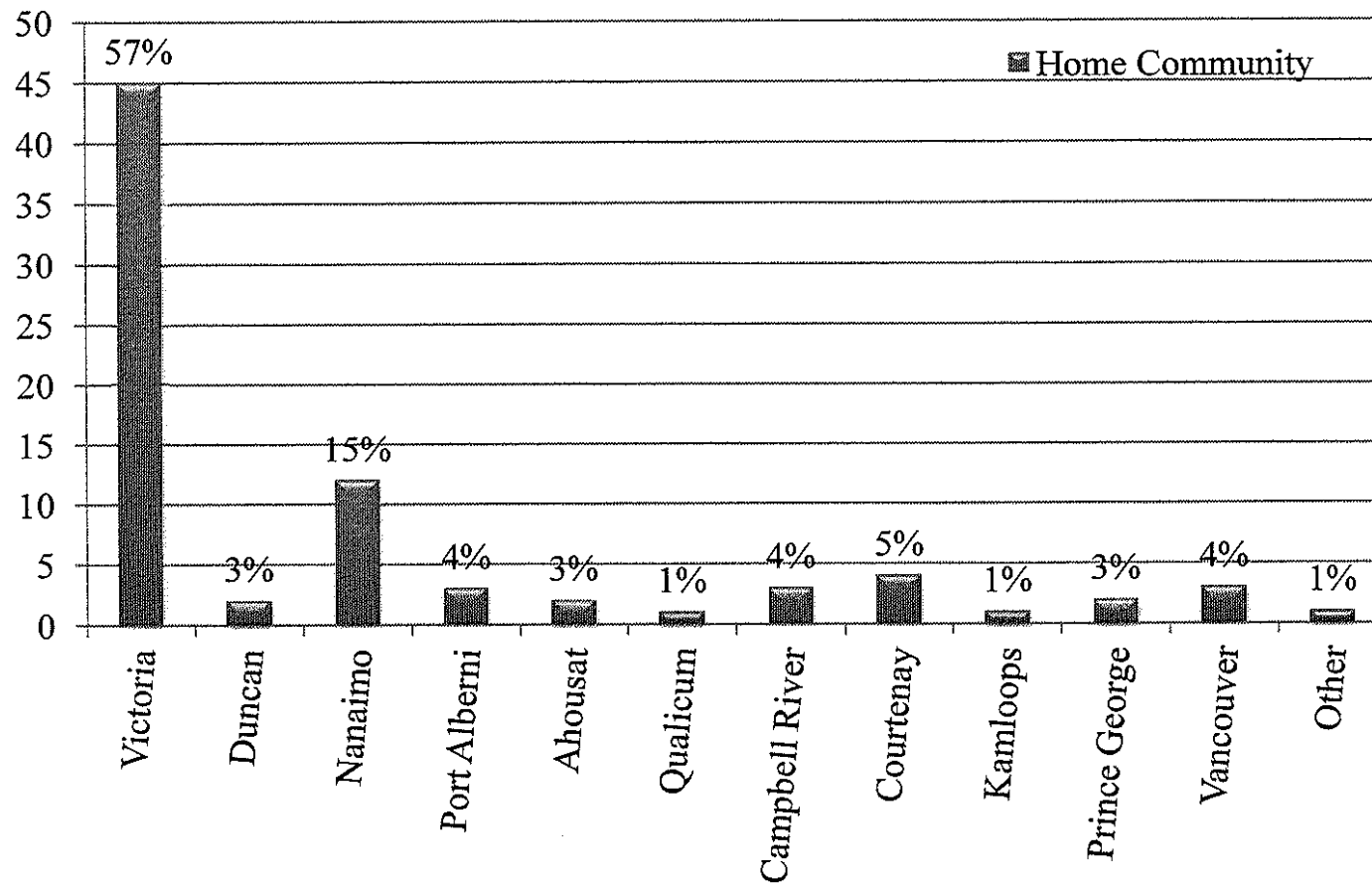
# VYCS – Youth's Home Community

FYTD 2013/2014 (Feb 24, 2014)

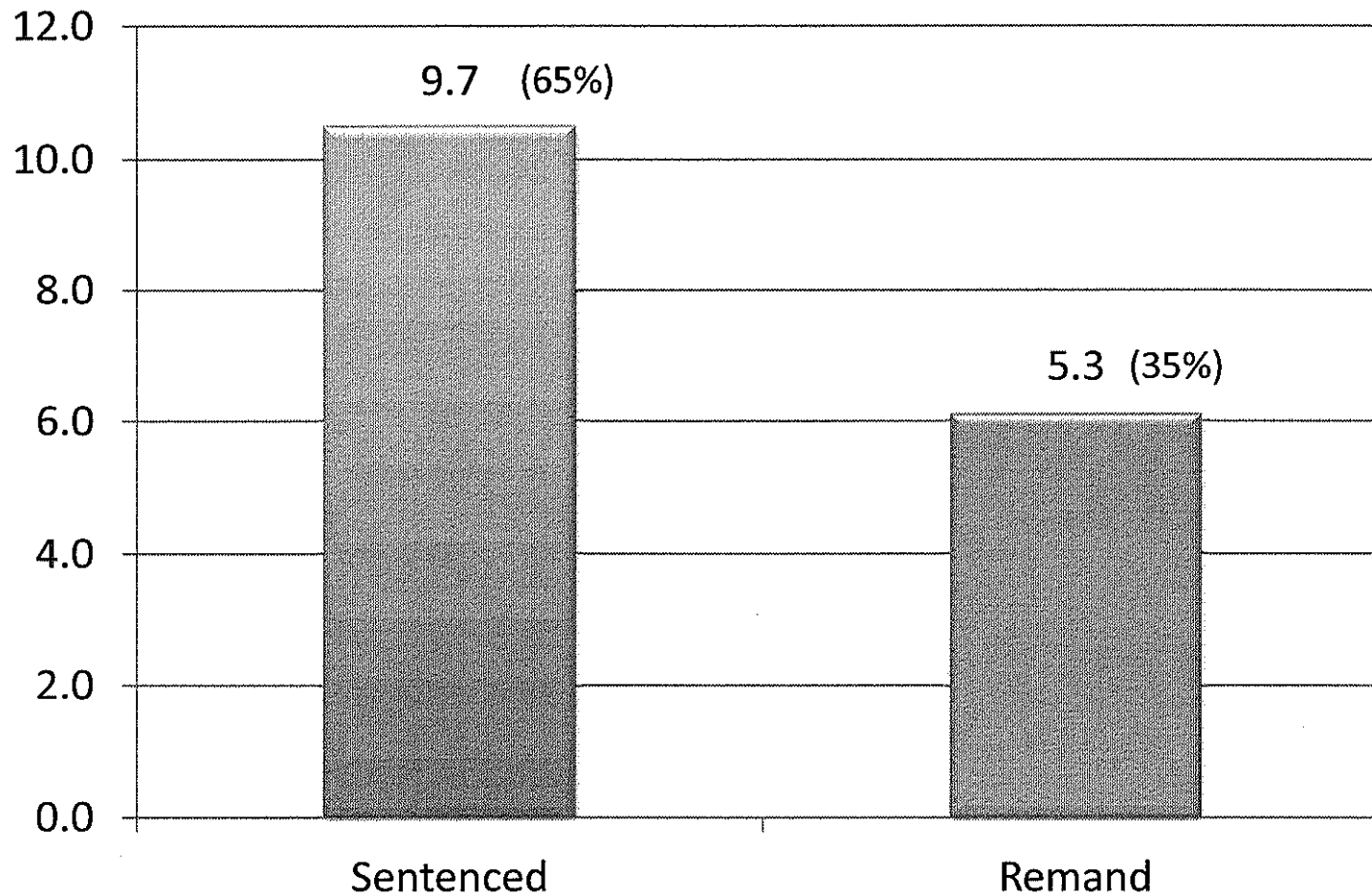


# VYCS – Youth's Home Community

FYTD 2013/2014 (Feb 24, 2014)



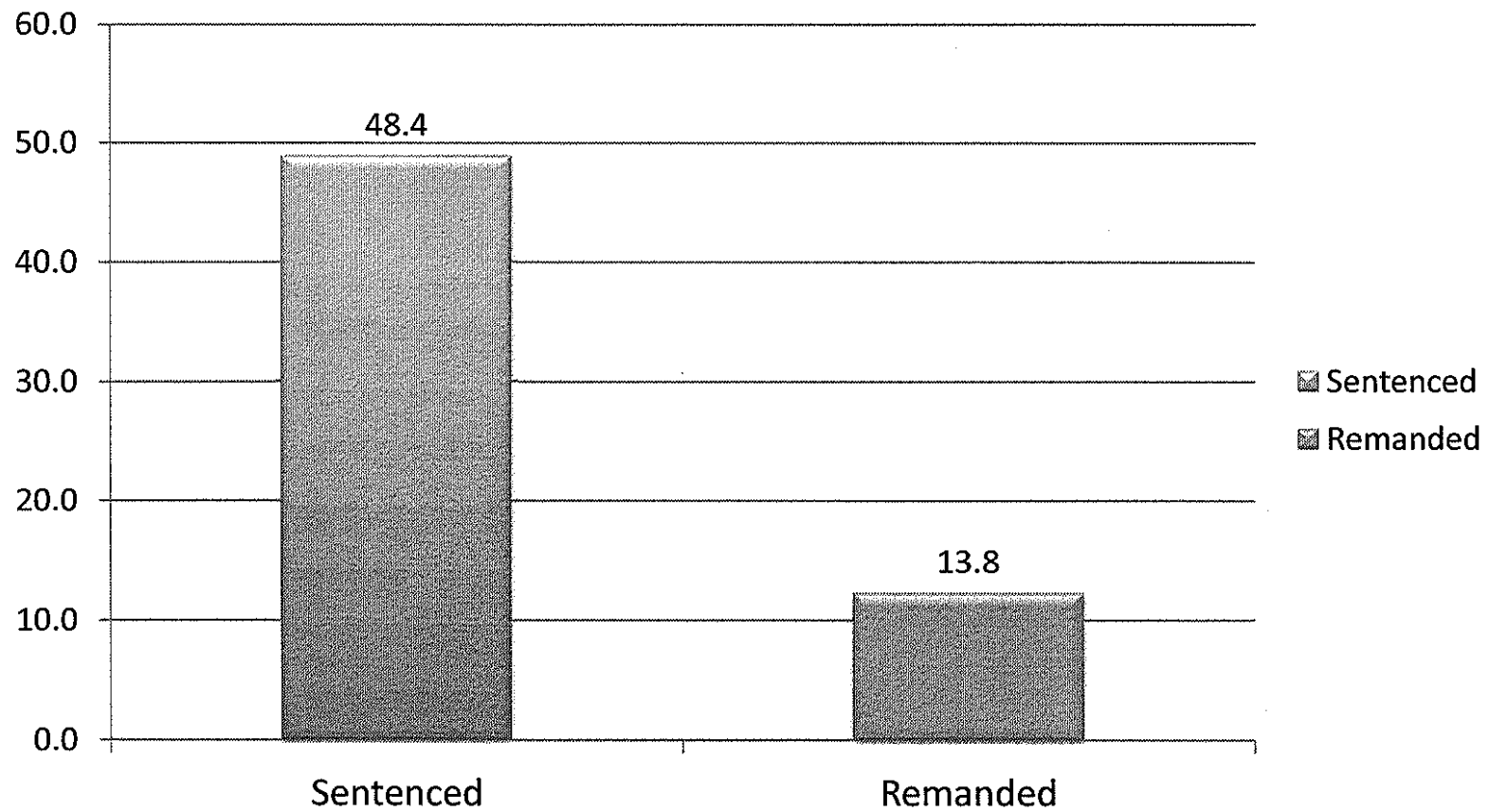
## VYCS Sentenced vs. Remand FYTD 2013/2014



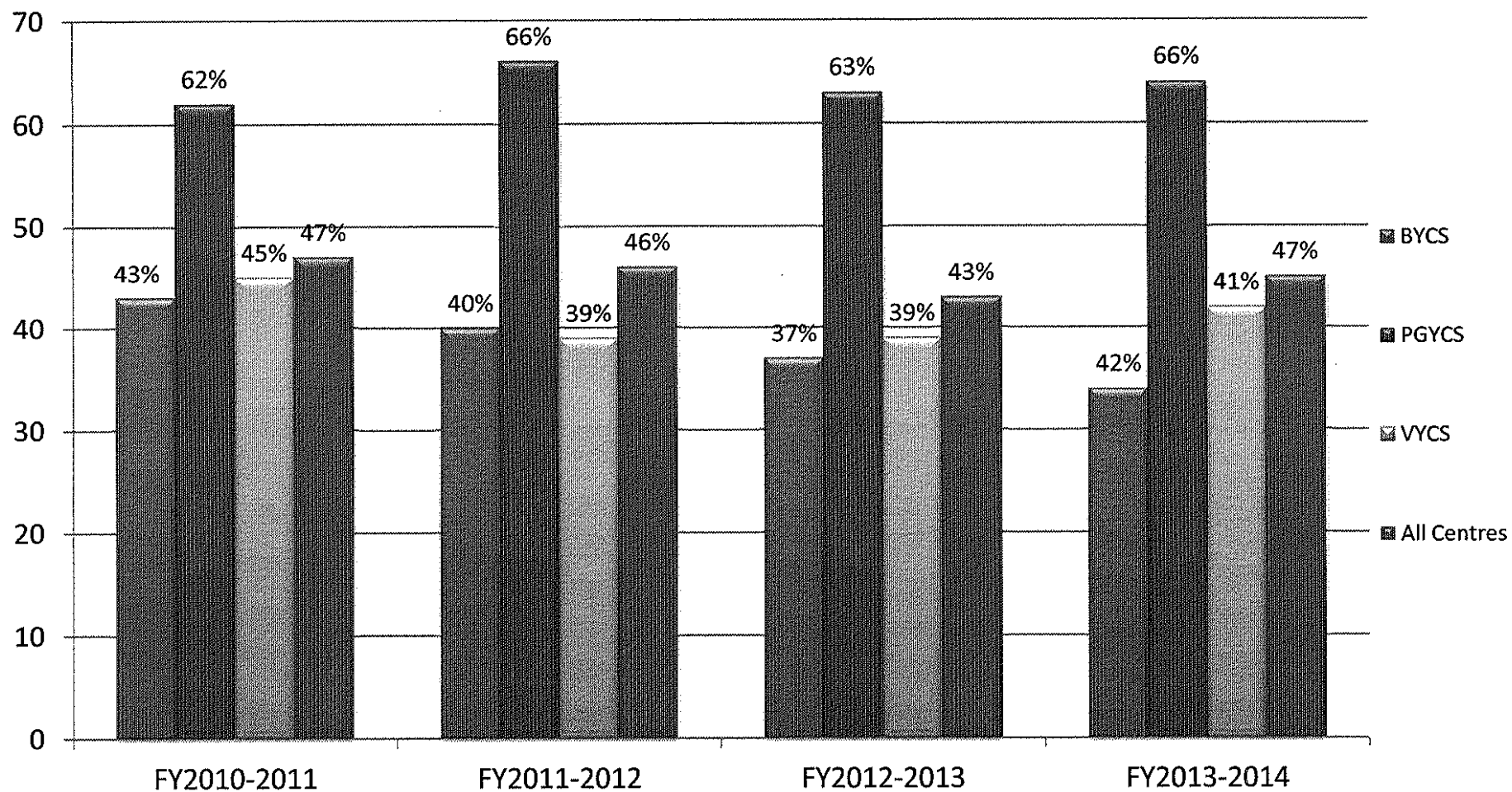
Dual status youth – i.e., youth who are serving a sentence and are remanded at the same time – as well as suspensions of supervision in the community, are included in the sentenced count.

Data extract – Youth Justice Business Intelligence System - February 24, 2014.

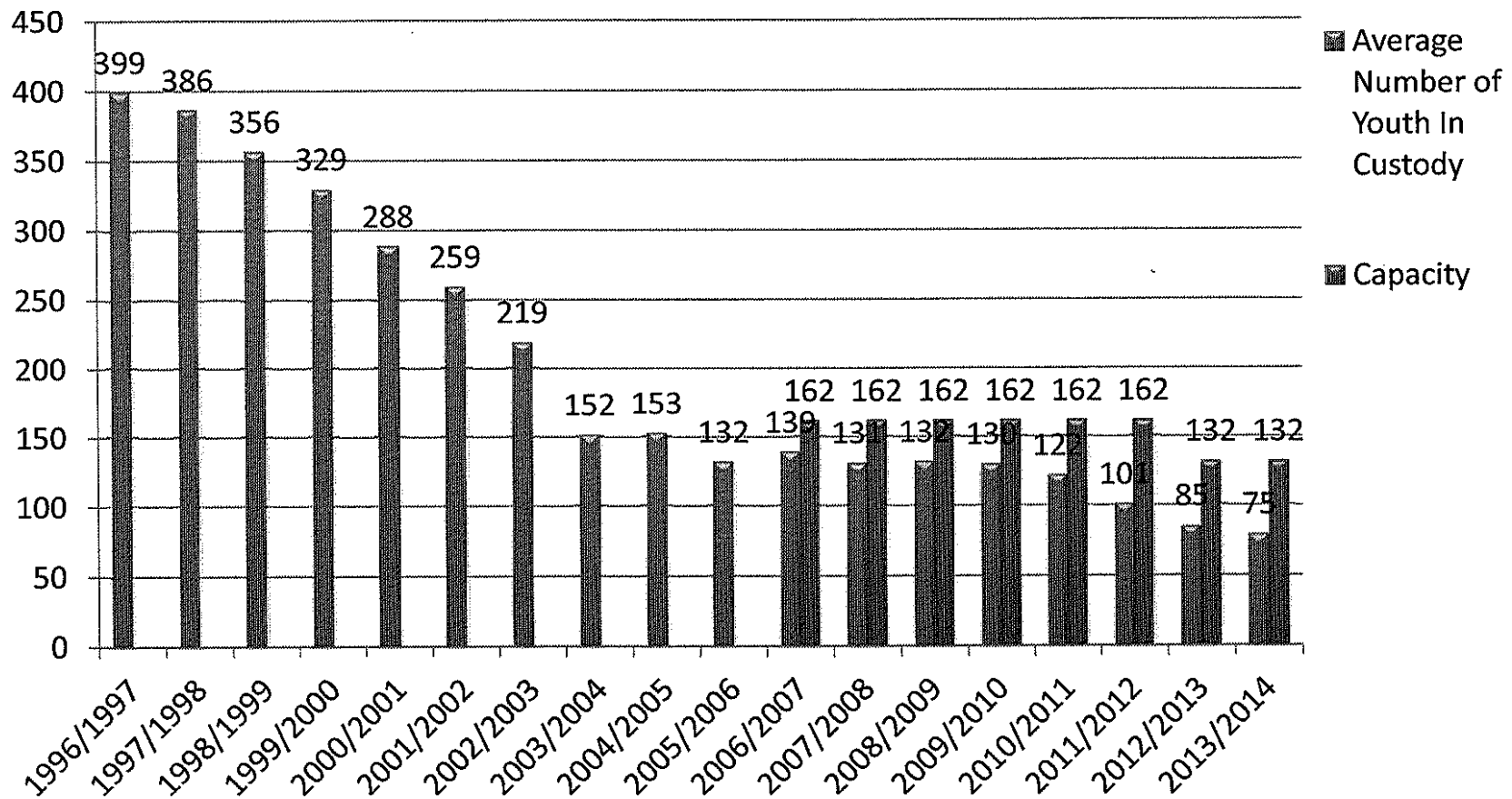
## VYCS Average Length of Stay Days



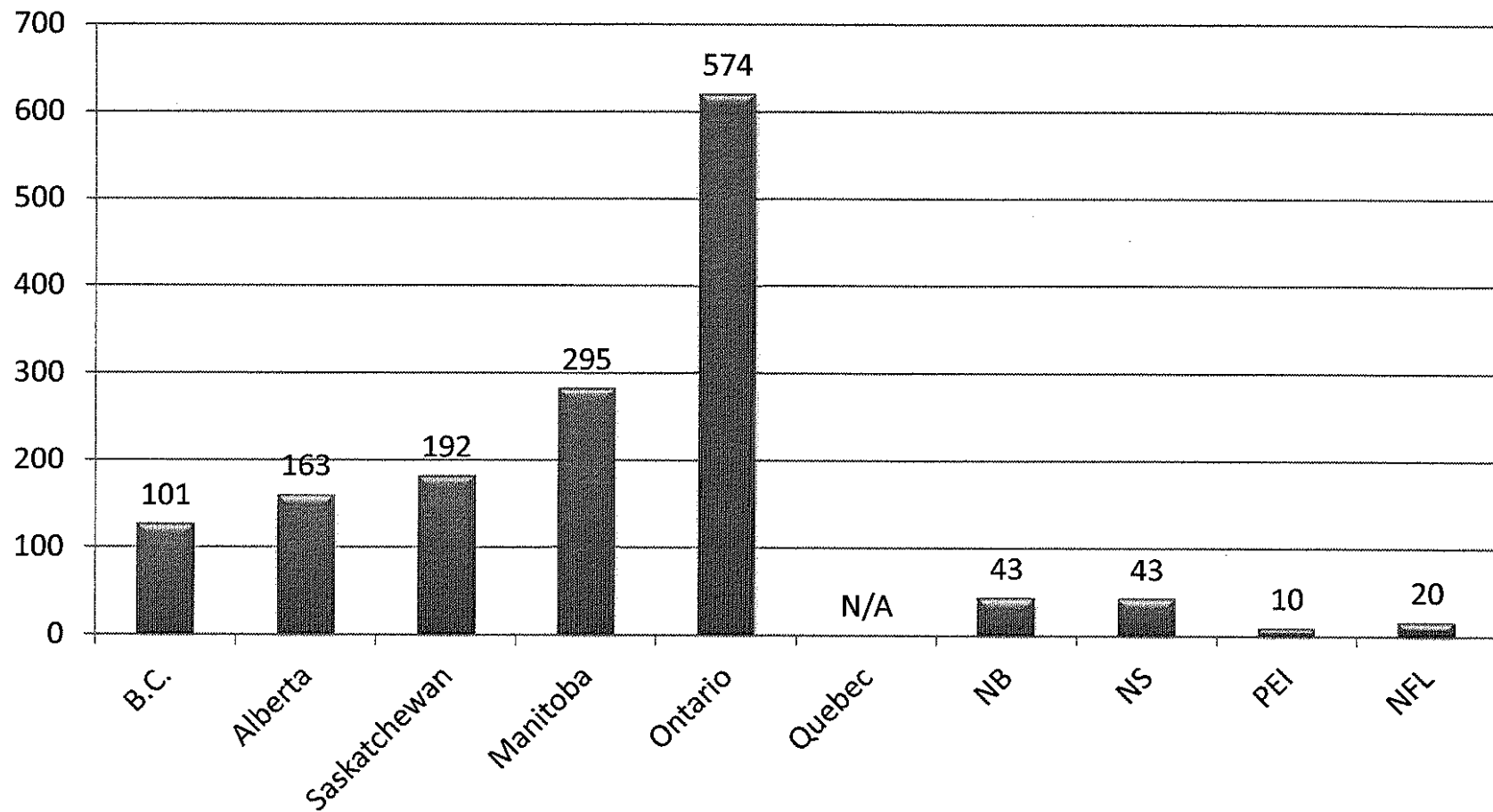
## Aboriginal Youth in Custody Percentage



## Average Number of Youth In Custody vs. Centre Capacity

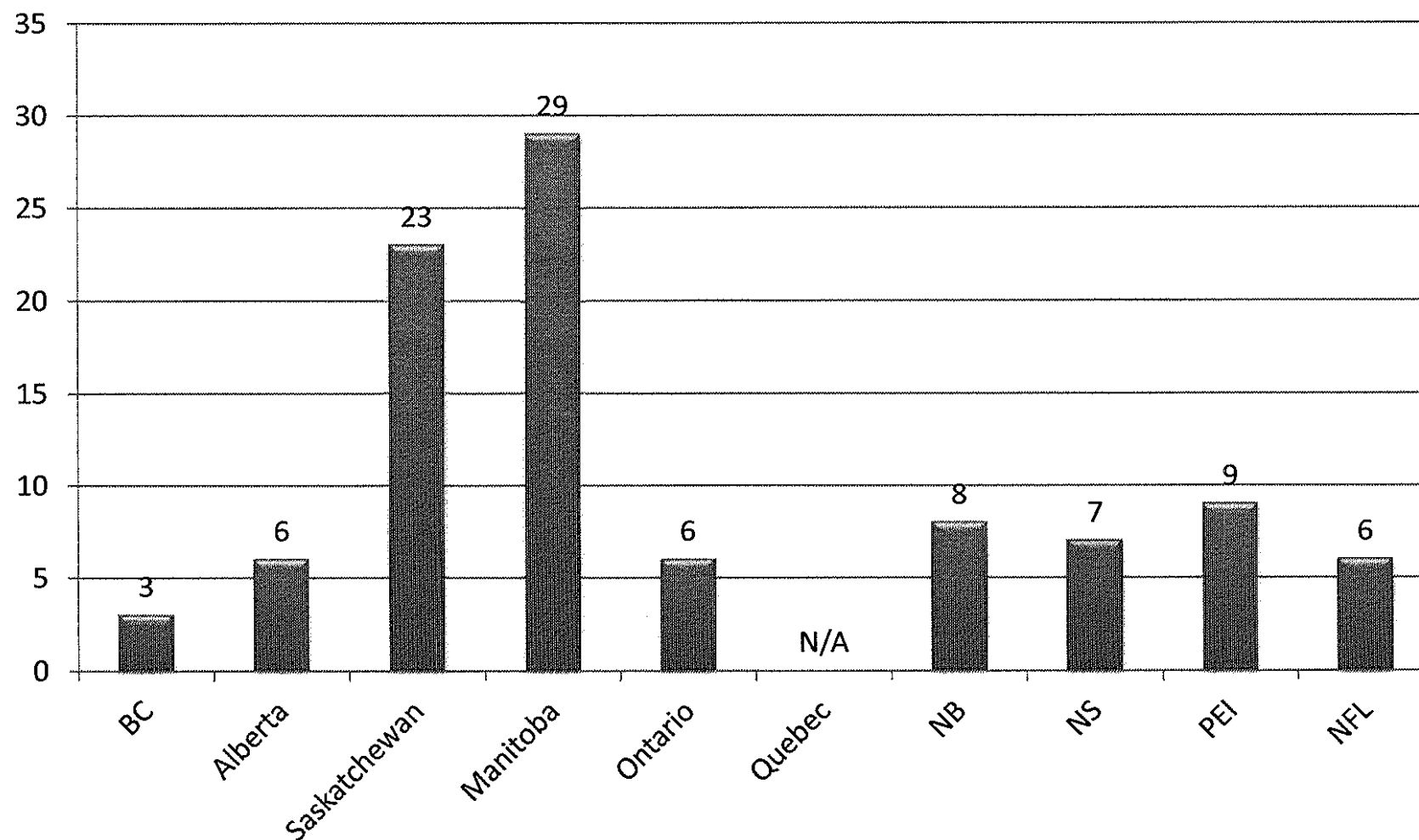


## Average Counts of Youth in Custody by Province FY2011/2012



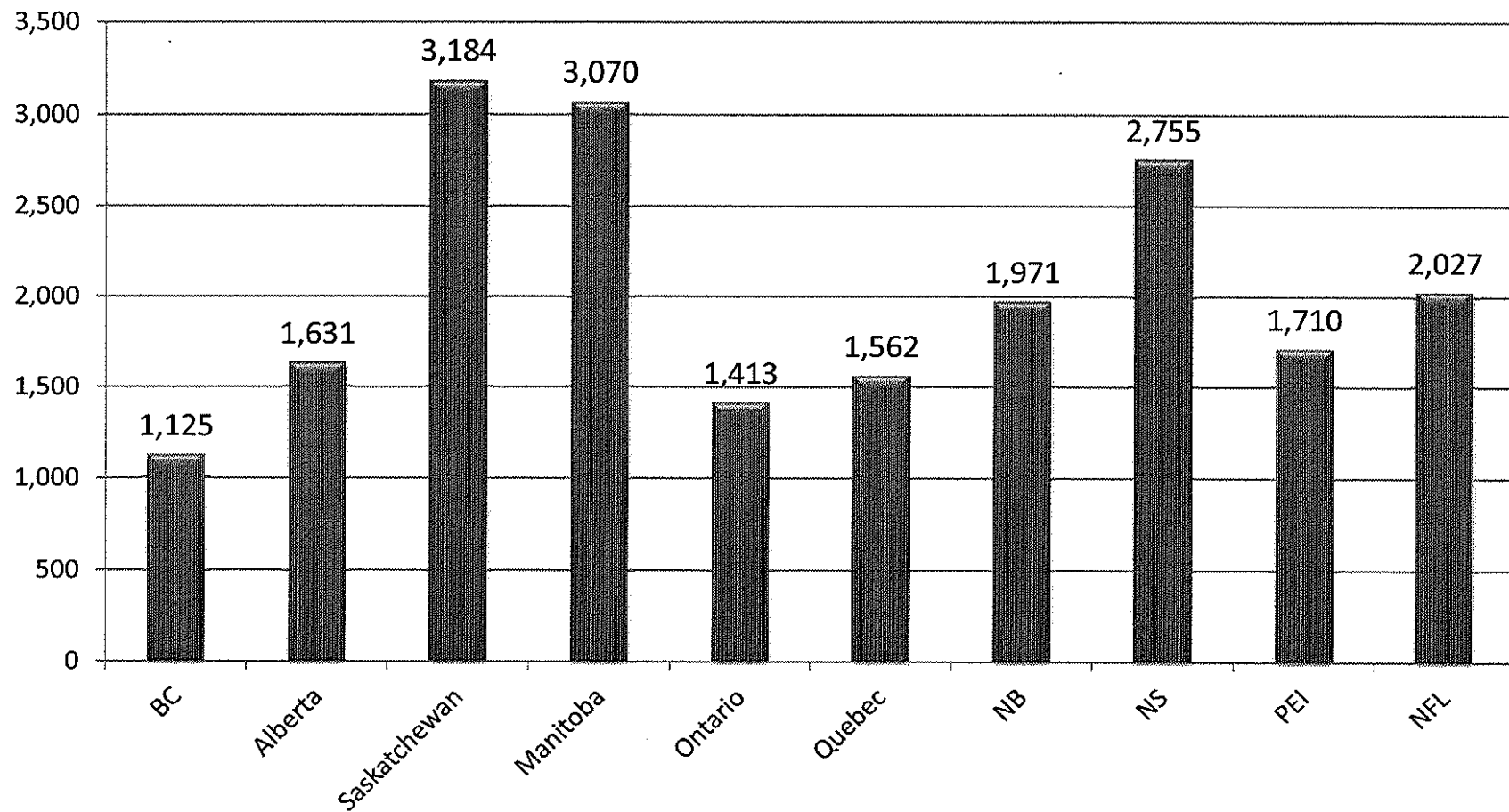


## Per Capita Rates of Youth in Custody by Province 2011/2012



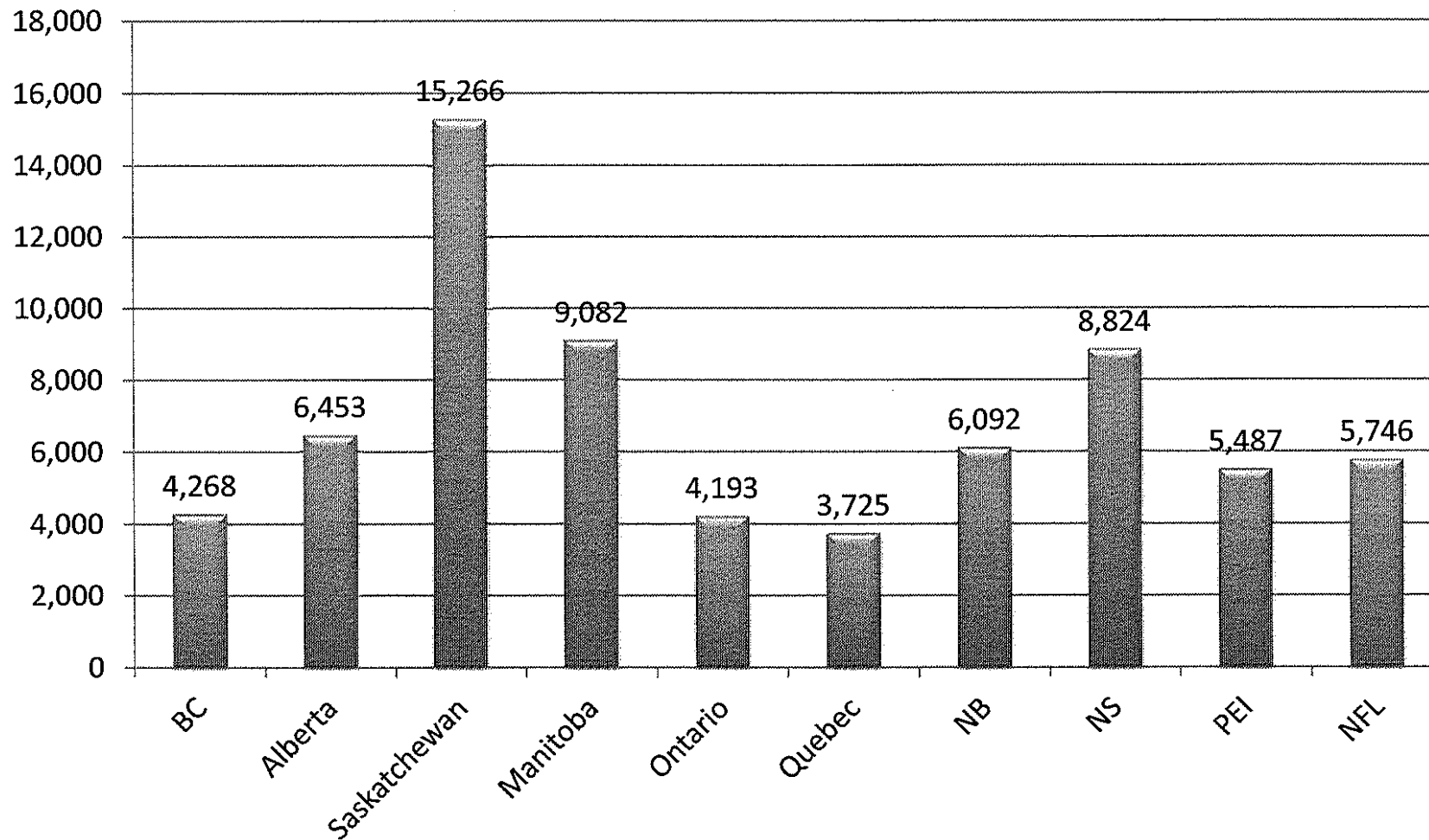
Rates are calculated per 10,000 youth age  
12 to 17

## Per Capita Violent Youth Crime Rates by Province 2012



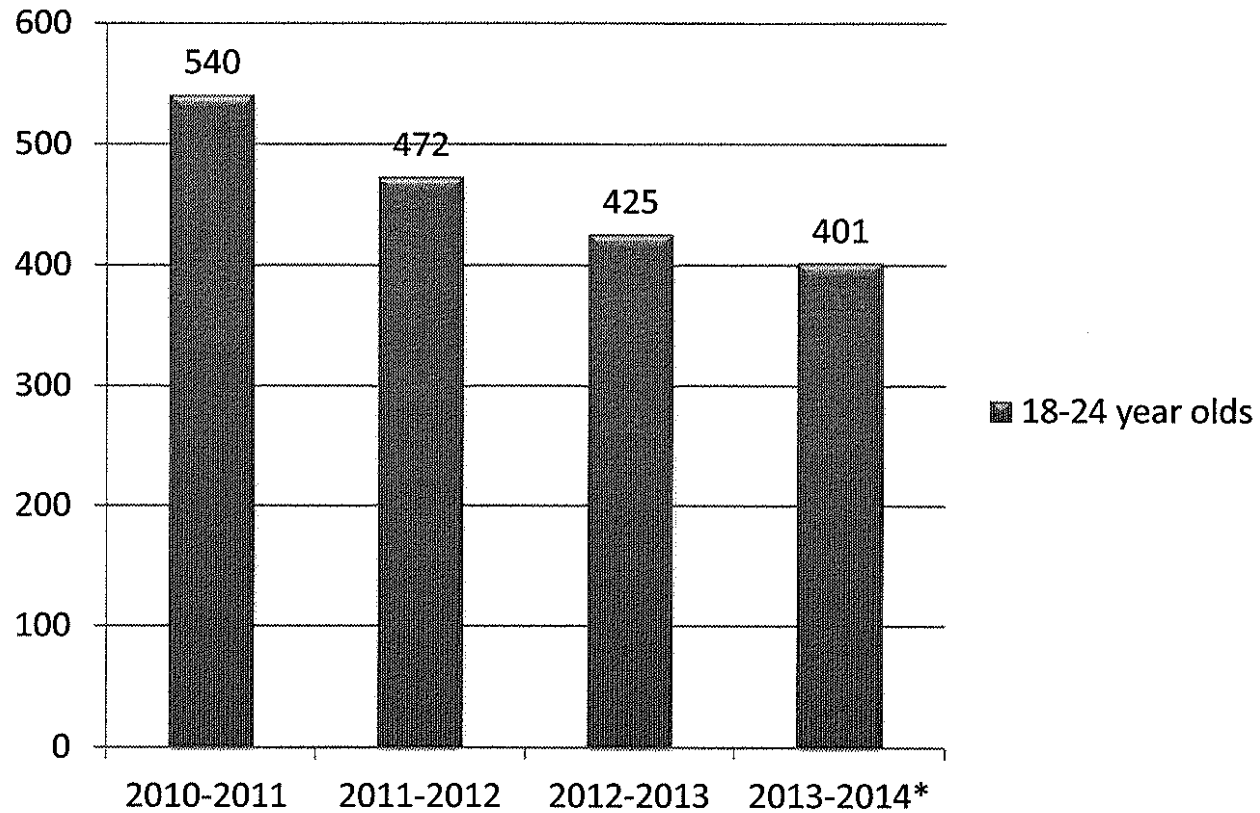
Rates are calculated per 100,000 youth age  
12 to 17

## Per Capita Total Youth Crime Rates by Province 2012

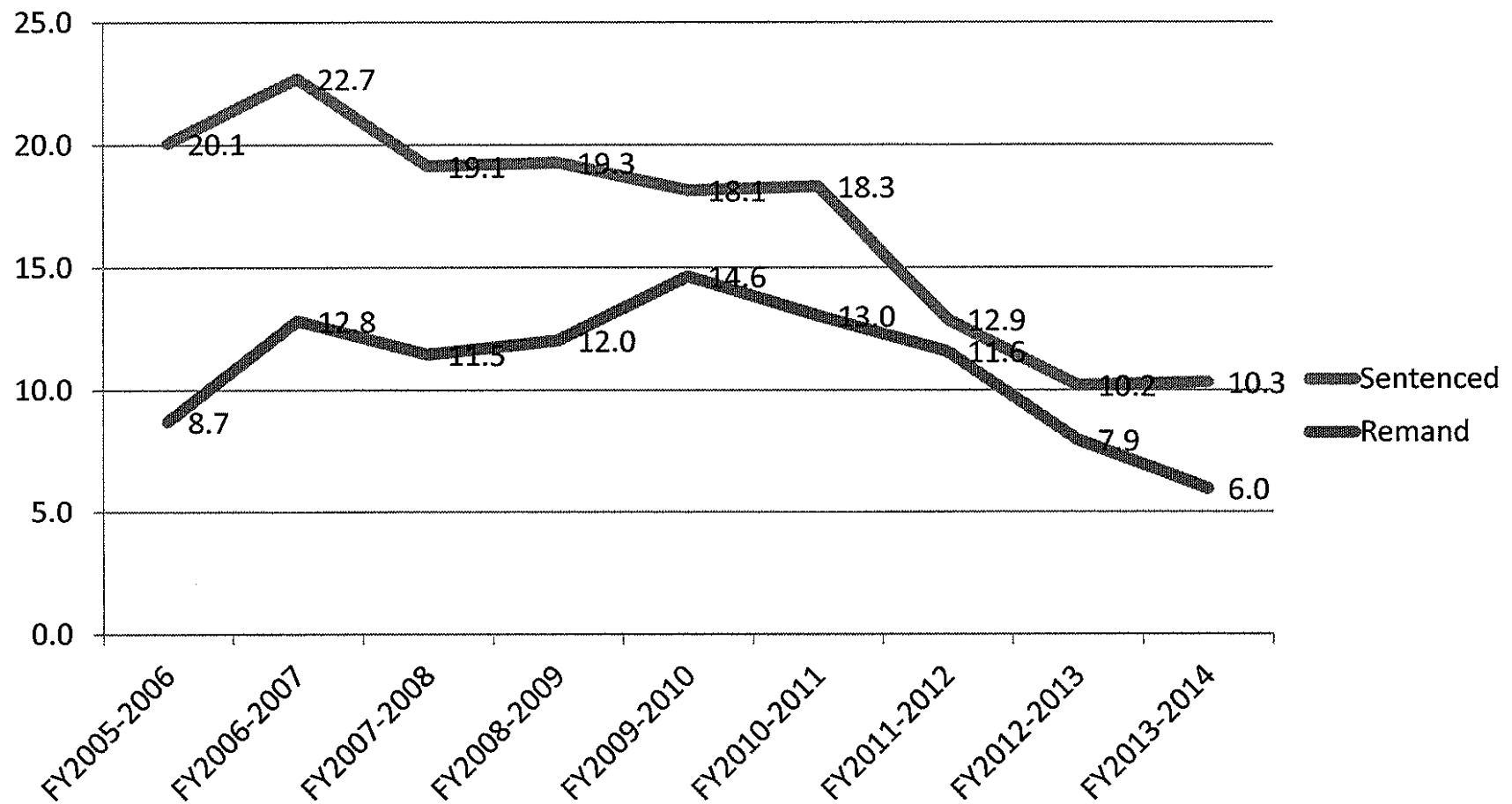


Rates are calculated per 100,000 youth age  
12 to 17

## Average Daily Inmate Count 18-24 year olds



# Victoria Youth Custody Count Remand vs. Sentenced



**MacLeod, Peggy JAG:EX**

---

**From:** Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, July 4, 2014 2:15 PM  
**To:** Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX  
**Subject:** FW: 502077 - BN for information re. Closure of Victoria Youth Custody Centre

---

**From:** Butterfield, Nicole JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, May 30, 2014 12:15 PM  
**To:** Cornett, Kathy M JAG:EX  
**Cc:** Pecknold, Clayton JAG:EX; Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX; Holmes, Kjerstine L JAG:EX; Hoskins, Jeannie JAG:EX; Edwards, Lauren JAG:EX; Herman, Justine JAG:EX  
**Subject:** 502077 - BN for information re. Closure of Victoria Youth Custody Centre



140528\_C502077\_I  
nfoBN\_ClosureV...

Hi Kathy:

The attached BN has been approved by the ADM and is being forwarded to you for the DSG's approval and further distribution to Minister's office for information.

Thank you,

Nicole

*Nicole Butterfield  
Executive Assistant to the  
Assistant Deputy Minister and  
Director of Police Services  
Policing and Security Branch  
Ministry of Justice  
Phone - 250 387-1100  
Fax - 250 356-7747  
Email - [Nicole.Butterfield@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Nicole.Butterfield@gov.bc.ca)*

**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE  
POLICING AND SECURITY BRANCH  
BRIEFING NOTE**

**PURPOSE:** For INFORMATION for Suzanne Anton, Attorney General  
and Minister of Justice

**ISSUE:** Closure of the Victoria Youth Custody Centre.

**SUMMARY:**

- The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) has announced the closure of the Victoria Youth Custody Centre (VYCC).
- The closure of the VYCC may result in an increased need for use of police cells in the Greater Victoria region for youth on pre-court detention or short-term remand status.
- Discussions are continuing, lead by MCFD, with Ministry staff and Victoria area police to ensure that the needs of police are considered in the process of moving to a new operating model for male youth affected by the closure.

**BACKGROUND:**

- On April 28, 2014 MCFD announced the closure of the youth detention centre in Victoria due to the declining number of youth in custody. The date of closure has not yet been confirmed, however, it is anticipated to close in late June or early July 2014.
- There has been an approximate 65 per cent decline of youth in custody over the last decade in BC. The average youth custody count was 220 in 2003 and the average youth custody count in the last fiscal year was 74. In general, in the past year, BC's three youth custody centres have been operating at an average capacity of 56 per cent.
- The Victoria Youth Custody Centre (VYCC), which has the capacity to house 60 youth had an average count of 15 youth in custody through 2013. From January to March 2014, the average count declined to 11.
- The closure of VYCC will assist MCFD to offset a loss of almost \$4.5 million in annual federal funding for youth justice services, however, MCFD has indicated that this is an operational decision and would have been made regardless of the loss of federal funding.
- Once the centre is closed, Greater Victoria youth who would have previously been housed at VYCC will instead be transported to the Burnaby Youth Custody Centre (BYCC) pending their next court appearance (on remand status) or to

serve their sentence.

- In the absence of a youth custody centre in the Greater Victoria area, MCFD will be dependent on police to house youth as follows:
  - Pending transport to BYCC following the initial court appearance/tele-bail hearing when the youth has been remanded in custody.
  - Overnight on the night before a scheduled court appearance for remanded male youth (same day travel is currently only available through the Sheriff Services for female youth) or nightly for trials that run over consecutive days.
  - To serve short sentences (ie. if a youth received a two-day sentence, it would likely not be feasible to transport the youth to BYCC on the day of sentencing only to be returned to the Greater Victoria area by MCFD staff the following day for release).
- The Executive Director of Youth Justice and Forensic Services met with the Assistant Deputy Minister of Police Services on April 17, 2014 to advise of the pending closure. A meeting with the chief constables from the Victoria and Saanich police departments and the RCMP's Island District was held on April 28, 2014; at the same time that the closure was being announced publicly.
- A further meeting which included Youth Justice & Forensic Services, Police Services, the Assistant Deputy Minister for Court Services, the chief sheriff, the deputy chief constables from both Saanich and Victoria Police departments and a representative from Westshore RCMP was held on May 14, 2014.
- Saanich and Victoria police departments have taken a position that they will not house 'provincial' youth prisoners.

s. 15, s. 17

s. 14

- Despite police practice in remote areas across the province,

s. 16

s. 16, s. 15, s. 17



**OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:**

- Ministry staff are working with MCFD, BC Sheriff Services, Court Services and police agencies.

**Prepared by:**  
Kjerstine Holmes  
Director, Public Safety Initiatives  
Policing and Security Branch  
250 387-2170

**Approved by:**  
Lisa Anderson  
Executive Director and Deputy  
Director of Police Services  
Policing and Security Branch  
604 660-2532

**Approved May 30, 2014 by:**  
Clayton Pecknold  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
and Director of Police Services  
Policing and Security Branch  
250 387-1100



June 4, 2014

Ref: 217748  
Via Email

To: Clayton Pecknold, Assistant Deputy Minister & Director of Police Service  
Ministry of Justice, Policing and Security Programs  
PO Box 9285 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9J7  
Email: [Clayton.Pecknold@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Clayton.Pecknold@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Clayton Pecknold:

Further to my memorandum regarding the closure of the Victoria Youth Custody Services Centre, I am writing to advise you that the provisions of the collective agreement involving formal notice to staff begins June 5, 2014. No final closure date has been established at this time. A phased transition of youth to Burnaby will occur over the coming months. Further discussions will occur as we move forward with the planning for Vancouver Island youth. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 250-387- 0978.

Sincerely,

Lenora E. Angel, BScN, MPA  
Provincial Director Youth Justice  
Executive Director Youth Justice and Forensic Services  
Ministry of Children and Family Development

## **Pecknold, Clayton JAG:EX**

---

**From:** Pecknold, Clayton JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 4, 2014 3:03 PM  
**To:** Butterfield, Nicole JAG:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Victoria Youth Custody Services next steps  
**Attachments:** 217748 - Ministry of Justice Policing & Security Programs - Pecknold.pdf

Cliff pls

---

**From:** MCF Youth Justice MCF:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 4, 2014 2:27 PM  
**To:** Pecknold, Clayton JAG:EX  
**Subject:** Victoria Youth Custody Services next steps

Clayton Pecknold, Assistant Deputy Minister & Director of Police Service,

Please find attached priority correspondence forwarded on behalf of Lenora Angel, Executive Director Youth Justice & Forensic Services, Ministry of Children and Family Development.

**Youth Justice & Forensic Services**  
**Ministry of Children & Family Development**  
PO Box 9717 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC V8W 9S1  
Phone: 250-387-0978

## Pecknold, Clayton JAG:EX

---

**From:** Pecknold, Clayton JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 5, 2014 6:33 AM  
**To:** Wanamaker, Lori JAG:EX  
**Subject:** Fw: next steps - youth justice- further announcements- embargoed until article 29 meeting at 4 pm today

---

**From:** Angel, Lenora MCF:EX <[Lenora.Angel@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lenora.Angel@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 4, 2014 12:23  
**To:** Jardine, Kevin JAG:EX; Pecknold, Clayton JAG:EX; Merchant, Brent JAG:EX; Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX  
**Cc:** Bond, Allison MCF:EX  
**Subject:** next steps - youth justice- further announcements- embargoed until article 29 meeting at 4 pm today

Gentlemen – we are going to move onto next steps

This afternoon various groups – police etc ( same as with initial announcement) will receive a memo from me ( *wording below*)

Staff will be called this pm to attend meeting tomorrow AM – the meeting will be about next steps  
Tomorrow they will be informed we are moving to article 13 – and the associated article for nurses

I truly want to thank each of you – you have been stellar and your staff have been great – we have had a few bumpy points along the way and probably still a couple left – but it always feels better when you feel that others have joined you in the boat and are helping to bail – thanks again

*Further to my memorandum regarding the closure of the Victoria Youth Custody Services Centre, I am writing to advise you that the provisions of the collective agreement involving formal notice to staff begins on June 5, 2014. No final closure date has been established at this time. A phased transition of youth to Burnaby will occur over the coming months. Further discussions will occur as we move forward with the planning for Vancouver Island youth. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 250-387- 0978.*

Sincerely,

Lenora E. Angel

## Bordua, Karine JAG:EX

---

**From:** Jardine, Kevin JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 4, 2014 12:26 PM  
**To:** Angel, Lenora MCF:EX; Pecknold, Clayton JAG:EX; Merchant, Brent JAG:EX; Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX  
**Cc:** Bond, Allison MCF:EX; Corrado, Paul JAG:EX  
**Subject:** RE: next steps - youth justice- further announcements- embargoed until article 29 meeting at 4 pm today

Thx, Lenora, for this update.

Rgds,  
K.

---

**From:** Angel, Lenora MCF:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 4, 2014 12:23 PM  
**To:** Jardine, Kevin JAG:EX; Pecknold, Clayton JAG:EX; Merchant, Brent JAG:EX; Anderson, Lisa R JAG:EX  
**Cc:** Bond, Allison MCF:EX  
**Subject:** next steps - youth justice- further announcements- embargoed until article 29 meeting at 4 pm today

Gentlemen – we are going to move onto next steps

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*Further to my memorandum regarding the closure of the Victoria Youth Custody Services Centre, I am writing to advise you that the provisions of the collective agreement involving formal notice to staff begins on June 5, 2014. No final closure date has been established at this time. A phased transition of youth to Burnaby will occur over the coming months. Further discussions will occur as we move forward with the planning for Vancouver Island youth. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 250-387- 0978.*

Sincerely,

Lenora E. Angel

## Bordua, Karine JAG:EX

---

**From:** Knittelfelder, Stuart PSA:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 17, 2014 8:44 AM  
**To:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Youth Correctional Centre Placements

Perfect. Thank you Brent.

Stuart

---

**From:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, June 16, 2014 5:38 PM  
**To:** Knittelfelder, Stuart PSA:EX  
**Cc:** Coulson, Peter JAG:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Youth Correctional Centre Placements

Given this will impact Pete's Division I'll let him reply to you on who the most appropriate contact person should be for this project. Pete and his delegate(s) would go to the first meeting and then subject to that meeting I assume Pete would decide if he needed to attend additional meetings or if he would delegate this to one of his senior staff. Pete is in tomorrow so he will probably phone or email you to work out the details.

---

**From:** Knittelfelder, Stuart PSA:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, June 16, 2014 4:26 PM  
**To:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX  
**Subject:** Youth Correctional Centre Placements

Brent:

The 90 day informal notice period has now commenced for the Correctional Officers at Victoria Youth Custody Centre. We are at a point where we can start working with your staff to identify how many COs you can absorb from the VYCC and we can start to identify who the potential placements are. We can also establish how soon some staff can transition over as time lines for closure of the YCC start to firm up.

Do you want to be directly involved in the meeting with Agency representation and Children & Family representation (Lenore Angel / Tim Osborne)? I am guessing you will want Tony Porter involved? If I set up a meeting who should I be inviting from your end?

Thanks Brent.

Stuart Knittelfelder, Executive Account Director  
Executive Account Management and Consulting | BC Public Service Agency  
810 Blanshard Street | Victoria, BC | V8W 9V1 | 250 882.8252  
[MyHR@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MyHR@gov.bc.ca) | 250.952-6000 | Toll Free 1.877.277.0772



Where ideas work

**Bordua, Karine JAG:EX**

---

**From:** MCF Youth Justice MCF:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 4, 2014 2:27 PM  
**To:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX  
**Subject:** Victoria Youth Custody Services next steps  
**Attachments:** 217748 - Ministry of Justice Corrections Branch - Merchant.pdf

Brent Merchant, Assistant Deputy Minister,

Please find attached priority correspondence forwarded on behalf of Lenora Angel, Executive Director Youth Justice & Forensic Services, Ministry of Children and Family Development.

**Youth Justice & Forensic Services**  
**Ministry of Children & Family Development**  
PO Box 9717 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC V8W 9S1  
Phone: 250-387-0978

**Bordua, Karine JAG:EX**

---

**From:** MCF Youth Justice MCF:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2014 2:15 PM  
**To:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX  
**Subject:** Youth Custody Services and Victoria Youth Custody Services Centre  
**Attachments:** 216974 - Ministry of Justice Corrections Branch - Merchant.pdf

Dear Brent Merchant,

Please find attached priority correspondence forwarded on behalf of Lenora Angel, Executive Director Youth Justice & Forensic Services, Ministry of Children and Family Development.

**Youth Justice & Forensic Services**  
**Ministry of Children and Family Development**  
PO Box 9717 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria BC V8W 9S1  
Phone: 250-387-0978



## **Bordua, Karine JAG:EX**

---

**From:** Stoughton, Maryanne MTIC:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 26, 2014 4:59 PM  
**To:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX  
**Subject:** FW: 101251 - Victoria Youth Custody Centre

Good afternoon Brent,

Sorry you were missed on the original email.

Please find attached a memorandum for your review regarding Victoria Youth Custody Centre.

### **Memorandum:**



101251\_ADM\_ME  
MO\_VYCC\_JAG.pdf

Thank you,

Michael Blaschuk  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Real Property Division  
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services  
Tel: 250 387-8280

## Bordua, Karine JAG:EX

---

**From:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 5, 2014 2:38 PM  
**To:** Currie, Sylvia JAG:EX; Balicki, Stan JAG:EX; Clark, Elenore JAG:EX; Coulson, Peter JAG:EX; Green, Dina I JAG:EX; Hendricks, Susan JAG:EX; Howard, Tedd JAG:EX; Macpherson, Stephanie JAG:EX; Merchant, Brent JAG:EX; Rose, Cindy JAG:EX; Small, Bill R JAG:EX; Tadla, Dana JAG:EX  
**Subject:** FW: BC News - Update on Victoria youth custody centre closure

FYI

**From:** [noreply.newsondemand@gov.bc.ca](mailto:noreply.newsondemand@gov.bc.ca) [<mailto:noreply.newsondemand@gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** June 5, 2014 2:22 PM  
**To:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX  
**Subject:** BC News - Update on Victoria youth custody centre closure



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

NEWSROOM

News on Demand - As it Happens

*Thursday, June 5, 2014*

### [Update on Victoria youth custody centre closure](#)

Starting July 3, 2014, the Ministry of Children and Family Development will begin transferring youth from Victoria to Burnaby Youth Custody Services.

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Sector - Government Operations

Ministry - Children and Family Development

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[Visit the BCNewsroom](#)



June 4, 2014

Ref: 217748

To: Brent Merchant, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Minister of Justice, Corrections Branch  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor – 1001 Douglas Street  
Victoria BC V8W 9J7  
Email: [Brent.Merchant@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brent.Merchant@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Brent Merchant:

Further to my memorandum regarding the closure of the Victoria Youth Custody Services Centre, I am writing to advise you that the provisions of the collective agreement involving formal notice to staff begins June 5, 2014. No final closure date has been established at this time. A phased transition of youth to Burnaby will occur over the coming months. Further discussions will occur as we move forward with the planning for Vancouver Island youth. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 250-387- 0978.

Sincerely,

Lenora E. Angel, BScN, MPA  
Provincial Director Youth Justice  
Executive Director Youth Justice and Forensic Services  
Ministry of Children and Family Development

## Bordua, Karine JAG:EX

---

**From:** Macpherson, Stephanie JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, April 28, 2014 6:17 PM  
**To:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX; Rose, Cindy JAG:EX; Lapsley, Amy JAG:EX  
**Subject:** Fw: VYCC Announcement

Fyi

Stephanie Macpherson  
Deputy Provincial Director  
Ministry of Justice | BC Corrections  
Adult Custody Division  
Office s. 17 | Cell s. 17

---

**From:** Morgan, Shauna M JAG:EX <[Shauna.Morgan@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Shauna.Morgan@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 28, 2014 5:54 PM  
**To:** Macpherson, Stephanie JAG:EX  
**Subject:** Fwd: VYCC Announcement

Sorry - should have copied you on this note.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Morgan, Shauna M JAG:EX" <[Shauna.Morgan@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Shauna.Morgan@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Date:** April 28, 2014 at 17:33:17 PDT  
**To:** PSSG VIRCC Staff <[ag-vircc-staff@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca](mailto:ag-vircc-staff@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** VYCC Announcement

As you may have heard, the Ministry of Children and Family Development announced today they are closing the Victoria Youth Custody Centre. Their other two facilities in Burnaby and Prince George will remain open and Victoria youth will be transferred to those locations. At this point MCFD does not yet have a date for closing VYCC or information on how this may impact staff there. They will begin working with the youth custody staff to start the planning process and there will may be more specific information forthcoming within a few weeks.

We recognize that there will be further questions from many of you on how this may impact staff here at VIRCC. We appreciate that this is a challenging time, and will share information regarding any impacts this may have on staff, if any, as soon as we know more.

Shauna Morgan  
Warden VIRCC

s. 17



April 30, 2014

Ref: 216974

To: Brent Merchant, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Minister of Justice, Corrections Branch  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor – 1001 Douglas Street  
Victoria BC V8W 9J7  
Email: [Brent.Merchant@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brent.Merchant@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Brent Merchant;

I am writing to inform you about changes in the delivery of Youth Custody Services (YCS) and to ask that you please share this information with your staff.

The Minister for Children and Family Development has announced the decision to close the Victoria Youth Custody Centre. The specific time-lines around the closure will be announced in the next few weeks.

After much consideration of options, and in the face of both declining funding and increasingly low numbers of youth in custody, a decision has been made to implement the following changes:

- The Victoria Youth Custody Services Centre will be closed and all youth custody services will be delivered at the Burnaby and Prince George Youth Custody Services Centres
- Keeping with best practices, services for female youth will remain centralized at Burnaby Youth Custody Services.

The new provincial capacity level will be set which will provide sufficient staffed capacity to respond any possible count fluctuations.

YCS is currently staffed for a provincial capacity of 132 youth. During the 2013-14 fiscal year there was an average daily population of 74 youth leaving 58 unoccupied but staffed bed spaces on any given day. This compares to an average daily population of 220 in 2002/2003.

Under-utilization has progressively increased, particularly over the past two years. Despite the closure of four custody centres between 2003 and 2005 and other reductions, including those made as recently as 2012, the youth custody system has been consistently under-utilized. Similar declines in custody counts have been noted in many other jurisdictions across Canada.

We are shifting services to two custody centres and ensuring that programs and services follow best practice approaches.

The following remains a priority:

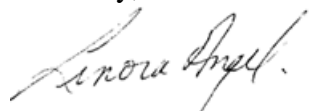
- Continued development and implementation of enhanced programs addressing the specific needs of youth in custody (e.g., trauma informed practices, addictions and mental health services, programs for Aboriginal male youth in Prince George, and gender specific programs for females in Burnaby).
- Strengthening of the community engagement strategy including family visitation programs through both the increased use of technology to facilitate contact with families and communities, and some financial assistance to families for on-site family visits and reintegration leave supports as appropriate.
- Support for youth when returning to their home community upon release from custody.

We anticipate an orderly transfer of youth from the Victoria Custody Centre to the Burnaby Custody Centre and that the change will not be fully implemented before summer.

In transferring youth during this period, we will use a combination of custody staff and the BC Sheriff Services dependent on circumstances, which is the current practice elsewhere in the province. About 50-60% of youth at Victoria Youth Custody Centre are from the Victoria area, the rest being from other communities on the island or elsewhere in the province. Once the closures have been fully realized and transfers of youth currently in custody completed, the BC Sheriff Services will effect future transfers.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact me directly. We appreciate your partnership and support as we move forward with the next steps in the process.

Sincerely,



Lenora E. Angel, BScN, MPA  
Provincial Director Youth Justice  
Executive Director Youth Justice and Forensic Services  
Ministry of Children and Family Development

## Bordua, Karine JAG:EX

---

**From:** Jardine, Kevin JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, April 28, 2014 8:31 AM  
**To:** Mulholland, Lauren GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Richter, Connie JAG:EX; Corrado, Paul JAG:EX; Merchant, Brent JAG:EX; Pecknold, Clayton JAG:EX  
**Subject:** Fwd: 216910 Youth Justice Services VYCS - Honourable Chief Judge Crabtree  
**Attachments:** 216910 Youth Justice Services VYCS - Honourable Chief Judge Crabtree.docx; ATT00001.htm

FYI...assuming the announcement proceeds today, this letter will be forwarded to Chief Justice Hinkson & Chief Judge Crabtree.

Rgds,  
K.

s. 17

\*please excuse any inadvertent spelling or grammatical errors.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Angel, Lenora MCF:EX" <[Lenora.Angel@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lenora.Angel@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Date:** April 28, 2014 at 7:50:05 AM PDT  
**To:** "Bond, Allison MCF:EX" <[Allison.Bond@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Allison.Bond@gov.bc.ca)>, "Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX" <[Jeremy.Uppenborn@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jeremy.Uppenborn@gov.bc.ca)>, "Johnson, Sheldon GCPE:EX" <[Sheldon.Johnson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sheldon.Johnson@gov.bc.ca)>, "Jardine, Kevin JAG:EX" <[Kevin.Jardine@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kevin.Jardine@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** "Mand, Nin MCF:EX" <[Nin.Mand@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Nin.Mand@gov.bc.ca)>, "Faoro, Rick MCF:EX" <[Rick.Faoro@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Rick.Faoro@gov.bc.ca)>, "Charlie, Tanya MCF:EX" <[Tanya.Charlie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tanya.Charlie@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** 216910 Youth Justice Services VYCS - Honourable Chief Judge Crabtree

This is the now changed letter to judges to go out this AM – at the same time as the minister is announcing

Any comment/concerns to me asap please

Date

Ref: 216910

The Honourable Chief Judge Thomas J. Crabtree  
Office of the Chief Judge  
P.O. Box 10287, Pacific Centre  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada  
V7Y 1E8  
[info@provinciacourt.bc.ca](mailto:info@provinciacourt.bc.ca)

Re: Youth Justice Services and Victoria Youth Custody Centre

I am writing to inform you about changes in the delivery of Youth Custody Services (YCS) and to ask that you please share this information with the justices, judges and other judicial officers of your courts.

The Minister for Children and Family Development is today announcing the decision to close the Victoria Youth Custody Centre. The specific time-lines around the closure will be announced in the next few weeks.

After much consideration of options, and in the face of both declining funding and increasingly low numbers of youth in custody, a decision has been made to implement the following changes:

- The Victoria Youth Custody Services Centre will be closed and all youth custody services will be delivered at the Burnaby and Prince George Youth Custody Services Centres
- Keeping with best practices, services for female youth will remain centralized at Burnaby Youth Custody Services.

The new provincial capacity level will be set which will provide sufficient staffed capacity to respond any possible count fluctuations.

YCS is currently staffed for a provincial capacity of 132 youth. During the 2013-14 fiscal year there was an average daily population of 74 youth leaving 58 unoccupied but staffed bed spaces on any given day. This compares to an average daily population of 220 in 2002/2003.

Under-utilization has progressively increased, particularly over the past two years. Despite the closure of four custody centres between 2003 and 2005 and other reductions, including those made as recently as 2012, the youth custody system has been consistently under-utilized. Similar declines in custody counts have been noted in many other jurisdictions across Canada.



We are shifting services to two custody centres and ensuring that programs and services follow best practice approaches.

The following remains a priority:

- Continued development and implementation of enhanced programs addressing the specific needs of youth in custody (e.g., trauma informed practices, addictions and mental health services, programs for Aboriginal male youth in Prince George, and gender specific programs for females in Burnaby).
- Strengthening of the community engagement strategy including family visitation programs through both the increased use of technology to facilitate contact with families and communities, and some financial assistance to families for on-site family visits and reintegration leave supports as appropriate.
- Support for youth when returning to their home community upon release from custody.

The effect of this change once complete will mean that youth in Victoria on pre-court detention, short periods of remand or those who are serving short sentences will be held in police lock-up. This practice is consistent with the current experience of other communities throughout the province where youth are not directly proximate to a custody facility.

We anticipate an orderly transfer of youth from the Victoria Custody Centre to the Burnaby Custody Centre and that the change will not be fully implemented before summer.

In transferring youth during this period, we will use a combination of custody staff and the BC Sheriff Services dependent on circumstances, which is the current practice elsewhere in the province. About 50-60% of youth at Victoria Youth Custody Centre are from the Victoria area, the rest being from other communities on the island or elsewhere in the province. Once the closures have been fully realized and transfers of youth currently in custody completed, the BC Sheriff Services will affect future transfers.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact me directly. I would also be please to meet with you or other members of your courts to discuss this, or indeed any other issue related to youth custody matters, further at your discretion.

Sincerely,

Lenora E. Angel, BScN, MPA  
Provincial Director Youth Justice  
Executive Director Youth Justice and Forensic Services  
Ministry of Children and Family Development

## Bordua, Karine JAG:EX

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**From:** Knittelfelder, Stuart PSA:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2014 8:23 AM  
**To:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Message from the Deputy -- Changes to Youth Custody Services

Works for me – thanks Brent

---

**From:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2014 8:22 AM  
**To:** Knittelfelder, Stuart PSA:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Message from the Deputy -- Changes to Youth Custody Services

The only time before 2 on Thursday would be from 08:30 to 09:30. If that works for you I'll send out a meeting invite to the people attending – Everyone's schedule shows that they are free at that time.

*Brent Merchant  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
BC Corrections Branch*

[Brent.Merchant@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brent.Merchant@gov.bc.ca)  
*Office: 250-387-5363  
Cell: s. 17*

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**From:** Knittelfelder, Stuart PSA:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2014 8:10 AM  
**To:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Message from the Deputy -- Changes to Youth Custody Services

I am not in the office today, s. 22 but will come in if you prefer today

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**From:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2014 8:09 AM  
**To:** Knittelfelder, Stuart PSA:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Message from the Deputy -- Changes to Youth Custody Services

What about at 2 today

*Brent Merchant  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
BC Corrections Branch*

[Brent.Merchant@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brent.Merchant@gov.bc.ca)  
*Office: 250-387-5363  
Cell: s. 17*

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**From:** Knittelfelder, Stuart PSA:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2014 8:09 AM  
**To:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Message from the Deputy -- Changes to Youth Custody Services

Thursday would work great, anytime prior to 2:00pm.

Thanks you.

Stuart

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**From:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2014 7:05 AM  
**To:** Knittelfelder, Stuart PSA:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Message from the Deputy -- Changes to Youth Custody Services

We could meet today or Thursday. One of those days work for you

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

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**From:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, April 28, 2014 5:14 PM  
**To:** Knittelfelder, Stuart PSA:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Message from the Deputy -- Changes to Youth Custody Services

Only for you Stuart. I'll set something up for this week

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

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**From:** Knittelfelder, Stuart PSA:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, April 28, 2014 4:45 PM  
**To:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Message from the Deputy -- Changes to Youth Custody Services

Brent

You likely have a copy of this email from another source but it is a good reason for me to connect with you. I am the Agency Account Director working with the ministry on the closure. I am hoping to bring Gail MacLean-Pollock over to meet with you (and Tony) to discuss the skills and competencies that displaced Youth Correctional Officers will need should they look towards Adult Corrections as a placement opportunity, and how Article 13 of the collective agreement might fit in. I understand that Lenora Angel has already met with you and initiated the discussion.

Do you have any time available later this week, or early next week?

Stuart Knittelfelder, Executive Account Director  
Executive Account Management and Consulting | BC Public Service Agency  
810 Blanshard Street | Victoria, BC | V8W 9V1 | 250 882.8252  
[MyHR@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MyHR@gov.bc.ca) | 250.952-6000 | Toll Free 1.877.277.0772

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**From:** "MCF Deputy Ministers Office MCF:EX"  
<[MCF.DeputyMinistersOffice@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MCF.DeputyMinistersOffice@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Date:** April 28, 2014 at 3:06:46 PM PDT  
**To:** MCF All Exchange mailboxes <[MCF\\_DL\\_ALL@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca](mailto:MCF_DL_ALL@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Message from the Deputy -- Changes to Youth Custody Services

I want to provide you an update on changes taking place within our youth custody services.

As some of you may be aware, B.C. has one of the lowest youth custody rates in all of Canada, matched only by Quebec. Those rates have consistently declined in the past ten years, from an average of 220 youth in custody in 2003, to an average of just 74 this past fiscal year. Our three custody facilities have been operating at an average capacity of just 56 per cent.

While our low custody rates are, without question, a success story, maintaining three fully staffed and fully funded custody centres – operating consistently at about half capacity – simply does not make good sense. For this reason and after much careful thought, a decision has been made to close the Victoria youth custody centre.

I know this is unsettling news, and I want to assure all staff that this closure is **strictly an operational decision** based on the long time underutilization of our facilities. It is in no way part of our ministry's broader core review process and does not reflect the ability of our staff within the custody centres. Indeed, it is the extraordinary commitment and professionalism of those staff that has led to our high rates of success in serving youth in the communities, and in the centres.

While I can't at this time offer a detailed timeframe for the closure, I do know some staff within our youth custody services teams will be directly impacted.

The coming weeks will see us working closely with all affected staff -- both those directly and indirectly impacted -- to ensure they are well-supported during this transition period. As well, we will be working with the unions and a number of key youth justice stakeholders to begin to plan for the transition of youth to the Burnaby Youth Custody Services centre.

I want to reiterate that the closure of the Victoria Youth Custody Services centre is an isolated operational decision and does not reflect the important services provided by staff in this field, nor – *and I want to be absolutely clear about this* – is it indicative of any further workforce adjustment within the ministry itself.

That being said, I know this is an incredibly stressful time for those within the centres and all ministry staff. I want to thank you for your continued professionalism during this difficult time and let you know that details of the closure will be shared with you as they become available.

Sincerely,

Mark Sieben  
Deputy Minister

## Bordua, Karine JAG:EX

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**From:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, April 28, 2014 6:39 PM  
**To:** Knittelfelder, Stuart PSA:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Message from the Deputy -- Changes to Youth Custody Services

Who would you like to have join us for this meeting with Stuart

---

**From:** Knittelfelder, Stuart PSA:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, April 28, 2014 4:45 PM  
**To:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Message from the Deputy -- Changes to Youth Custody Services

Brent

You likely have a copy of this email from another source but it is a good reason for me to connect with you. I am the Agency Account Director working with the ministry on the closure. I am hoping to bring Gail MacLean-Pollock over to meet with you (and Tony) to discuss the skills and competencies that displaced Youth Correctional Officers will need should they look towards Adult Corrections as a placement opportunity, and how Article 13 of the collective agreement might fit in. I understand that Lenora Angel has already met with you and initiated the discussion.

Do you have any time available later this week, or early next week?

Stuart Knittelfelder, Executive Account Director  
Executive Account Management and Consulting | BC Public Service Agency  
810 Blanshard Street | Victoria, BC | V8W 9V1 | 250 882.8252  
[MyHR@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MyHR@gov.bc.ca) | 250.952-6000 | Toll Free 1.877.277.0772



Where ideas work

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**From:** "MCF Deputy Ministers Office MCF:EX"  
<[MCF.DeputyMinistersOffice@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MCF.DeputyMinistersOffice@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Date:** April 28, 2014 at 3:06:46 PM PDT  
**To:** MCF All Exchange mailboxes <[MCF\\_DL\\_ALL@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca](mailto:MCF_DL_ALL@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Message from the Deputy -- Changes to Youth Custody Services

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That being said, I know this is an incredibly stressful time for those within the centres and all ministry staff. I want to thank you for your continued professionalism during this difficult time and let you know that details of the closure will be shared with you as they become available.

Sincerely,

Mark Sieben  
Deputy Minister



Ref: 101251

Date: June 26, 2014

To: Joyce Dewitt-Van Oosten, Assistant Deputy Attorney General, Ministry of Justice  
Tara Faganello, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Justice  
Jay Chalke, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Justice  
Kevin Jardine, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Justice  
Allan Castle, Executive Lead, Ministry of Justice  
Betty Chen-Mack, Executive Director, Ministry of Justice

Re: Victoria Youth Custody Centre

Dear Colleagues,

The Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services is currently assessing options for the Victoria Youth Custody Centre (VYCC). We are repurposing the VYCC building and are looking within government first for uses for this facility.

Yvonne Deibert, Manager, Real Estate and First Nation Engagement, will be your contact for this project and will be able to provide you with access to our SharePoint site for detailed information about the VYCC and arrange for a tour of the facility. She can be reached at 250 387-4368 or [Yvonne.Deibert@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Yvonne.Deibert@gov.bc.ca).

Yours truly,

Michael Blaschuk  
Assistant Deputy Minister

pc David Greer, Executive Director, Release of Assets for Economic Generation



## Bordua, Karine JAG:EX

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**From:** Macpherson, Stephanie JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 1, 2014 11:12 AM  
**To:** McGrath, Shane J.M JAG:EX; Coulson, Peter JAG:EX; Davis, Gordon E JAG:EX; Dicastri, Steve JAG:EX; DuTemple, Teri JAG:EX; Hawboldt, Debbie J JAG:EX; Hawkins, Joanne JAG:EX; Macpherson, Stephanie JAG:EX; Morgan, Shauna M JAG:EX; Phillips, Steve JAG:EX; Tadla, Dana JAG:EX; Vike, Evan JAG:EX  
**Cc:** Porter, Tony JAG:EX; McKean, Tamalyn J JAG:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Youth Custody Services and Victoria Youth Custody Services Centre  
**Attachments:** 216974 - Ministry of Justice Corrections Branch - Merchant.pdf  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential

Here is the formal memo from Lenora Angel, Provincial Director Youth Justice to Brent notifying him of the closure. This is fyi and not intended for broader circulation, though.

While Brent, Tony and I met this morning with PSA reps regarding the closure of the Victoria centre and the NR it was a very preliminary discussion. We still don't know any of the details but historically the numbers of Youth staff interested in coming to ACD has been extremely small, e.g., <10. We did say that our hiring needs are now and we may not have the same needs in the fall.

I will continue to keep you posted.

Thanks.

**Stephanie Macpherson**  
DEPUTY PROVINCIAL DIRECTOR  
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE | BC CORRECTIONS  
ADULT CUSTODY DIVISION

 OFFICE s. 17 |  CELL s. 17

TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK!

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**From:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2014 5:03 PM  
**To:** Currie, Sylvia JAG:EX; Balicki, Stan JAG:EX; Clark, Elenore JAG:EX; Green, Dina I JAG:EX; Hendricks, Susan JAG:EX; Howard, Tedd JAG:EX; Macpherson, Stephanie JAG:EX; Merchant, Brent JAG:EX; Rose, Cindy JAG:EX; Small, Bill R JAG:EX; Tadla, Dana JAG:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Youth Custody Services and Victoria Youth Custody Services Centre

FYI

*Brent Merchant*  
*Assistant Deputy Minister*  
*BC Corrections Branch*

[Brent.Merchant@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brent.Merchant@gov.bc.ca)  
*Office: 250-387-5363*  
*Cell:* s. 17

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**From:** MCF Youth Justice MCF:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2014 2:15 PM  
**To:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX  
**Subject:** Youth Custody Services and Victoria Youth Custody Services Centre

Dear Brent Merchant,

Please find attached priority correspondence forwarded on behalf of Lenora Angel, Executive Director Youth Justice & Forensic Services, Ministry of Children and Family Development.

**Youth Justice & Forensic Services**

**Ministry of Children and Family Development**

PO Box 9717 Stn Prov Gov

Victoria BC V8W 9S1

Phone: 250-387-0978