

# Event Proposal

**Event Title: \$5.5M from Civil Forfeiture proceeds available for grants  
Representative (Min/MLA): Bond**

<b>Date:</b> Feb. 9, 2012	<b>Media Market:</b> Provincewide
<b>Location:</b> Richmond RCMP Detachment 11411 No. 5 Road Richmond	<b>English Media Spokesperson:</b> Min. Bond
	<b>Multicultural Media Spokesperson:</b>

## THE EVENT

### PROACTIVE EVENT OR INVITATION

- Proactive

### EVENT

- Announcement of \$5.5 million more from civil forfeiture proceeds in 2011/12 to support crime prevention initiatives – specifically, projects that reduce youth involvement in gangs and prevent violence against women and children.

### GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA FUNDING / PARTNER FUNDING (IF APPLICABLE):

- Government of BC funding: \$5.5 million from the Civil Forfeiture Special Account (not general revenue)
- Partner/federal funding: No

### WHO'S ORGANIZING?

- GCPE (PSSG and Events)

### PREMIER'S ATTENDANCE REQUESTED?

- Yes – declined

### STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS and THEME:

- This boost in 2011/12 grant funding is possible due to exceptional growth in current-year proceeds: year to date, civil forfeiture has taken in \$10.8 million – more than double the \$4.8 million in all of 2010/11.
- This success has enabled the Civil Forfeiture Office (CFO) to obtain approval to spend \$5.5 million more during 2011/12. (Two previous open calls for proposals this year saw \$500,000 disbursed through the Crime Remediation and Crime Prevention Grant Program and \$100,000, the Domestic Violence Response Fund.)
- A significant portion of the \$5.5 million will be distributed via open or limited calls for proposals. A public announcement is required to precede those calls as soon as possible, to allow time to process the applications, and because the additional funds need to be paid out by March 31, 2012.
- There are no scheduled events or proclamations in February to tie in with this announcement.
- The event will see the Minister speak to the success of civil forfeiture and the benefits to communities when proceeds are re-invested to prevent crime.
- Richmond RCMP has strong ties to the civil forfeiture program. The CFO recently secured a second Bell drug-trafficking helicopter; it is on the Lower Mainland and will be taken by flatbed to the event location (i.e., the Richmond RCMP detachment). An unusual, high-value item, the helicopter will symbolize the unprecedented successes the CFO has had in 2011/12. As well, the Abbotsford Police Department will provide for display the forfeited Hummer they are using (on loan from the Province) as part of their anti-gang outreach targeting youth.
- Victim Services and Crime Prevention Division again will help with vetting proposals. Staff is currently finalizing the grant application package for web-posting Feb. 10.
- By law, civil forfeiture proceeds go into a special account and can only be spent on administration costs associated with the Civil Forfeiture Office, and on crime prevention and remediation programs.
- The \$6.1 million overall in 2011/12 will bring to more than one-third the total portion of forfeitures since 2006 that have been dedicated to grants. Of about \$23.5 million forfeited to date, \$11 million has gone to run the program and \$3 million to grants and victim compensation (which will rise to \$8.5 million by the end of 2011/12).
- Successful referrals to the CFO enable the Province to distribute funds to support crime prevention and remediation initiatives throughout B.C. Our sharing approach recognizes that small communities suffer (from drugs, youth gangs, sexual exploitation of children and youth) even though the assets from criminal enterprises are located almost exclusively in major urban centres, where a significant portion of police referrals come from, and where organized criminals typically reside and maintain most of their assets.

- Raising the profile of the benefits of civil forfeiture can be expected to bolster public and judicial support for the program, while prompting the B.C. Civil Liberties Association to reiterate its general concerns about the program.

#### **VENUE DESCRIPTION**

- Richmond RCMP detachment, in parking lot adjacent to building, with helicopter as backdrop, Abbotsford PD's anti-gang Hummer in the foreground adjacent to the podium/flags, and "Civil Forfeiture: Building Safer Communities" on a podium sign (design request is with GCPE Graphics as of Feb. 2).

#### **KEY STAKEHOLDERS / PARTICIPANTS (Speaking roles?)**

- Speakers: SG, Richmond RCMP representative, local MLA as emcee (TBC)
- Dignitaries: Other police leaders are a possibility (some are meeting with the SG in Richmond that morning)

#### **LIST OF VALIDATORS FOR POST-EVENT ROLLOUT**

- Media could contact recipients of earlier grants from civil forfeiture proceeds, which were awarded in November 2011. The related news release with names of those recipients will be among links at bottom of news release.

#### **CAUCUS PARTICIPATION**

- Depending on the final allocation of the \$5.5 million in late March or early April 2012, Caucus Communications could be given details and sufficient time to allow for local MLA news releases and/or announcements related to individual, funded programs. This would precede PSSG issuing a provincial NR/BG wrapping up the full funding allocation and program details. This is one option/scenario that will form part of a follow-up communications plan.
- As calls for proposals have not been completed and discussions with stakeholders are just commencing, the Ministry cannot yet confirm which communities will be receiving funding.

#### **MEDIA INVITED?**

- Yes

#### **AUDIENCE SIZE AND DESCRIPTION / TARGET AUDIENCES**

- Number of attendees: 30 (est.)
- Audiences: Any community-driven group in B.C. that may benefit from funding for a local crime prevention or remediation project or program; general public interested in government efforts to combat gangs and violence against women and children.

#### **PREPOSITIONING:**

- Timing and other high-profile announcements the week of Feb. 6 will preclude pre-positioning activity by the SG.

#### **PROMOTING THE EVENT:**

- Media advisory afternoon before event, to majors and all in Vancouver/Burnaby/Richmond

### **VISUAL MESSAGE(S)**

#### **DESIRED PICTURE (STILL)**

- SG with anti-gang Hummer (TBC) and former drug-trafficking helicopter behind, and flanked by police representatives.

#### **DESIRED PICTURE (VIDEO)**

- As above; no grant recipients will be announced at this time, so cheque presentation not applicable.

#### **ACTUAL SPEAKING BACKDROP**

- Backdrop: Hummer (TBC) and helicopter; podium sign text: "Civil Forfeiture: Building Safer Communities"

#### **LENGTH OF SPEECH**

- 4-5 minutes

#### **TO NE**

- Celebratory, highlighting program's success and ability to give back

#### **ATTIRE**

- Semi-formal; some agencies' representatives may be in uniform or more informally dressed

## WRITTEN MESSAGE(S)

### NEWS RELEASE HEADLINE

- Forfeited \$6.1 M to fund anti-crime crusades

### DESIRED MEDIA HEADLINE

- Bad guys' dough fuels \$6M anti-crime push

### DESIRED SOUNDBITE / KEY NEWS RELEASE SOUNDBITE

- "With civil forfeiture, bad guys lose twice. Not only do they see the courts taking away tools and proceeds of unlawful activity, which cuts into their bottom line. They also see us use the proceeds to fight and remediate crime in their communities. And the unprecedented success of the program this year means they're going to see a lot more of those efforts."

### KEY MESSAGES

- Our five-year-old civil forfeiture program has had a record year, and in turn, we're giving back a record amount in grants.
- With civil forfeiture, bad guys lose twice. Not only do they see the courts taking away tools and proceeds of unlawful activity; they also see us use the proceeds to fight and remediate crime.
- Funding will go to projects that reduce youth involvement in gangs, prevent violence against women and children and support community crime prevention.
- Civil forfeiture proceeds vary from year to year, so it's an ideal program for supporting one-time grant requests to address current, real crime issues.
- Civil forfeiture works to deter unlawful activity, removing the profit motive by taking away tools and proceeds of that activity.
- All grants from the civil forfeiture special account are in accordance with its terms, and each grant application is considered on its own merits. B.C. does not give individual police agencies or communities any financial incentives to refer cases for possible civil forfeiture action.

### KEY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### **Q. Why are you targeting some funding and not doing open calls for the entire \$5.5 million?**

Most of the funding will be distributed following calls for proposals. Notably, the Ministry did issue open calls for proposals earlier this year, when we made \$500,000 available.

That said, a limited amount will now be targeted directly to help address priority crime issues in many communities, like gang prevention. This is entirely consistent with the goals of the civil forfeiture special account, which supports crime prevention and remediation efforts.

We do anticipate issuing another call in 2012/13, and are keeping contact information of previous applicants on file so we can give them a heads-up when that call takes place. But for now, we can't predict what civil forfeiture recoveries may be next year.

#### **Q. This brings to just over \$6 million the total you're giving out this year – but that's still just half of what forfeiture took in. Why can't you be more generous?**

The program is self-funding, and it concluded a record number of cases last year, so its costs went up. It's important to remember that the program also has about 250 files that are ongoing right now, so it must keep enough funding on hand to see those cases through to completion.

That said, if proceeds continue to grow, we anticipate returning more to crime prevention and remediation efforts.

#### **Q. Are you providing funding in a way that rewards police agencies and communities equitably for making referrals to civil forfeiture?**

There is no link between the value of referrals from a particular police agency and the funding that goes back to that agency's jurisdiction. Police understand this. The incentive for them in referring criminal case files for consideration is to use civil forfeiture as one more tool to deter crime and make their communities safer. If we linked successful referrals to grants, that could undermine the spirit of our law and the court's support for it. Our law states very clearly that police cannot pursue a case with civil forfeiture as the goal – criminal charges must be the primary concern, and civil forfeiture is a separate, secondary consideration.

**Q. Forfeiture keeps bringing more money in every year. Why not provide programs with stable, multi-year funding from civil forfeiture proceeds?**

Civil forfeiture proceeds have been growing, but many factors in the program's success are beyond the Province's control. The program depends on quality case referrals from police agencies – and all contested cases depend on a forfeiture order by a Supreme Court judge. Since there is no certainty about how much may accumulate in a given year, we cannot commit forfeiture proceeds on a multi-year basis.

**Q. Why are proceeds more than double what they were last year?**

It's really a combination of factors. Over the past five years, police agencies have become familiar with the process and the strength of its success. So, they are referring more cases, and the quality of their referrals – which civil forfeiture cases depend on – keeps improving with our shared experience.

It's also a reflection of how we've respected and responded to the direction of the court, and expanded the scope of our legislation. Notably, in 2008, we expanded the law to allow for the forfeiture of vehicles used in ways that were likely to cause death or serious injury.

More recently, we introduced a streamlined process for low-value, uncontested cases, known as administrative forfeiture. That process has made it financially viable to pursue many more cases – for example, files involving low-value vehicles and small amounts of money seized from street-level drug dealers. This expansion supports the program's core goal of deterring and interrupting unlawful activity by taking away the tools and proceeds of it.

**RESEARCH NEEDS**

- N/A

## ROLLOUT

**COMMUNICATIONS PRODUCTS**

- ☒ Media Advisory
- ☒ Speech
- ☒ New Release
- ☒ Backgrounder(s)
- ☐ Fact Sheet
- ☐ Biographies
- ☐ Talking Points
- ☒ Q&A
- ☐ MLA / Caucus Kit
- ☐ Props (describe)
- ☒ Post-Event Media (Twitter, Facebook)
- ☐ Web Content
- ☐ Photo Release
- ☐ Other (describe)
- ☐ For Information
- ☐ Comment

## MEDIA PLAN

**PLANNING**

- ☒ Live Coverage (check if yes)
- ☐ Photographer booked (to distribute photos to media)
- ☐ Readout/transcript
- ☐ Validators
- ☒ Caucus roll-out (TBC)

**STRATEGY**

- Maximize coverage (provincial at time of calls for proposals; regional/provincial as funded projects are unveiled)

## PROMOTING THE EVENT

### Media Advisory

- Send to all Lower Mainland/Fraser Valley media with call-in option for regional media to hear event

### Contacting Media

- Call-around to major and major ethnic media the morning of the event

## FOLLOW-UP MEDIA (ONE-ON-ONES to be booked)

### English Media Interviews

- Will depend on Solicitor General's availability (travelling outside B.C. immediately following event).

### Multicultural Media Interviews

- As above

### Regional/Weekly Media Interviews

- As above

### Talk Radio Plan

- Reactive and dependent on Minister's availability

### Social Media Plan

- Tweets:
  - Bad guys finish last, again: \$5.5 million in #BC civil forfeiture proceeds going to fight violence, crime: [URL for release]
  - Bad guys dough is helping good programs grow – civil forfeiture funding \$5.5 M in grants! [URL for release]
- Youtube: Video combining clips of Minister and Richmond RCMP representatives and/or representative of other previously funded project (TBC), at announcement
  - Headline: Forfeited millions to fight crime
  - Descriptor paragraph: After a record year for B.C.'s civil forfeiture program, the Province is granting \$6.1 million of the proceeds to support local crime prevention efforts across the province in 2011/12. A total of \$5.5 million in new grant funding announced Feb. 9, 2012, will support projects that reduce youth involvement in gangs and prevent violence against women and children. Read more: [URL for NR]
  - Keywords: "BC Solicitor General" "Shirley Bond" "Public Safety" "Civil Forfeiture" "BC Forfeiture" "Crime Criminals" "Stolen Goods" "Crime Prevention" "Seized Items" "Impounded Vehicles" "Stolen Cars" "Gang Activity" "Youth Justice" "RCMP" "BC RCMP" "BCACP" "BCAMCP" "Police" "BC Police" "Province of BC" "British Columbia" "BC Government" "Canada"

Feb. 8, 2012

Ministry of Justice and Attorney General

MEDIA ADVISORY

RICHMOND – Justice Minister and Attorney General Shirley Bond will announce the availability of significant new grant money – derived from proceeds of unlawful activity – to be targeted for high-priority crime prevention projects across B.C.

Bond will also discuss details of the most successful year in the history of B.C.'s civil forfeiture program.

PHOTO EDITORS: One of the latest and largest vehicles ever forfeited to the Province under the program will be on display.

Event Date: Thursday, Feb. 9, 2012

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location:  
Richmond RCMP Detachment  
11411 No. 5 Rd.  
Richmond

Contact:  
Government Communications and Public Engagement  
Ministry of Justice and Attorney General  
250 356-6961

***Speaking Points for***  
**Linda Reid**  
**MLA, Richmond East**

***Announcement of \$5.5 Million in Grants  
from Civil Forfeiture Proceeds***

*Thursday, Feb. 9, 2012*  
*Richmond RCMP Detachment*  
*11411 No. 5 Rd., Richmond*  
*1:30 p.m.*

*(1:15 briefing meeting for stage party, specific  
location to follow)*

*Check Against Delivery*

- Good afternoon, and thank you  
all for joining us today.
- My name is Linda Reid, and I  
have the honour of serving as  
the MLA for Richmond East.



- I'm joined today by the  
Honourable Shirley Bond,  
Justice Minister and Attorney  
General of the Province of  
British Columbia...
- Supt. Brian Cantera, Acting  
Deputy, Criminal Operations,  
Federal Policing with the  
RCMP...

- Ninu Kang, Director of Family Programs at MOSAIC.
- Ninu oversees the Newcomer Youth or “Nu Yu” Project funded by the Ministry at MOSAIC.
- And Maria Escolan, who is the Coordinator of Nu Yu Popular Theatre Project at MOSAIC.

- You may wonder just what the helicopter and Hummer on display today have in common, and what they have to do with today's announcement.
- Without further ado, I'll ask Minister Bond to fill us in.
- Minister Bond...

*(Minister Bond speaks)*

- Thank you, Minister Bond.
- As the Minister has noted, the support of police agencies and the quality of their referrals to the program have been key to civil forfeiture's success.

- For some perspective on the value of civil forfeiture in furthering the public safety goals of our police, I'll now ask Superintendent Cantera to say a few words.

*(Supt. Cantera speaks)*

- Thank you, Superintendent  
Cantera.
- The grants from civil forfeiture  
proceeds announced today are  
setting a record.
- But they are not the first grants  
of their kind.

- Civil forfeiture already has a history of giving back and helping to build safer communities.
- I'll now ask our two representatives from MOSAIC, Ninu Kang and Maria Escolan, to provide us with a first-hand view of some of that good work.

*(Ninu and Maria speak)*

- Thank you, Ninu and Maria.
- Ladies and gentlemen, that concludes the formal portion of today's event.
- The podium guests will stay on and be available to take your questions.



- Again, thank you for joining us today.

-END-

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Ministry of Justice and Attorney General

Feb. 9, 2012

### **\$5.5 million from crime proceeds funds crime prevention**

RICHMOND – As a drug-trafficking helicopter, houses, cars and cash seizures add up to a record year for B.C.'s civil forfeiture program, government is granting \$5.5 million of the proceeds to support local crime prevention efforts throughout the province in 2011-12.

The new grant funding will support projects that reduce youth involvement in gangs, prevent violence against women and children, and further crime prevention. The new funding is possible due to exceptional growth in the civil forfeiture program's proceeds. Year to date, civil forfeiture has taken in \$10.8 million – more than double the \$4.8 million in all of 2010-11, and more than is needed to sustain the self-funding program.

The new grant money is in addition to funding provided for 35 projects last fall, which means the total amount going to groups in 2011-12 is \$6.1 million. Earlier, the Province announced \$500,000 through the Crime Remediation and Crime Prevention Grant Program and \$100,000 through the Domestic Violence Prevention Response Fund. Examples of projects supported through those grants include:

- The introduction of a violence-prevention curriculum at six Lower Mainland schools.
- Six projects focused on preventing domestic violence and on services for victims of domestic violence.
- A one-day workshop in Campbell River for North Island service providers focused on the issue of sexual exploitation.
- Support for a rediscovery program in Prince Rupert that teaches Haida culture in the context of crime and violence prevention.
- An awareness-raising campaign delivering an anti-gang message in Kelowna.

Active since April 2006, B.C.'s Civil Forfeiture Office (CFO) counters the profit motive that is behind much unlawful activity. The office files civil court actions against property that is alleged to be a tool used to further unlawful activity or a proceed of it.

In its first year, the office saw five cases settled and almost \$800,000 in assets forfeited. Today, the highly successful program has concluded more than 400 cases – most with ties to drug trafficking and organized crime. High-value, notable cases concluded in 2011-12 have involved:

- A number of Victoria homes and cash seized from a kilogram-level drug dealer.
- \$340,000 forfeited by a self-proclaimed "holistic healer" and paid out to five medical fraud victims, including a woman nearly killed by arsenic poisoning and rendered quadriplegic.
- \$400,000 police seized as a result of a money laundering scheme used by a known drug trafficker.
- The CFO and the BC Securities Commission working together to reunite 37 Canadians with \$190,121 they lost to fraud through a Ponzi scheme.
- An unregistered Bell helicopter seized from suspected drug traffickers.

- \$316,000 seized at the Canadian border from an individual possessing 57 kg of cocaine.
- An Abbotsford grow-operation with more than 400 plants and \$191,000 of proceeds.
- A Vancouver grow-operation with more than 500 marijuana plants.

All grant funds will be paid out by March 31. Details of application processes will be available on Feb. 10 at: [www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/crimeprevention/grants/index.htm](http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/crimeprevention/grants/index.htm)

#### **Quotes:**

##### **Minister of Justice and Attorney General Shirley Bond –**

“With civil forfeiture, bad guys lose twice. Not only do they see the courts taking away tools and proceeds of unlawful activity, which cuts into their bottom line; they also see us use the proceeds to fight and remediate crime in communities. Countless organizations do fantastic work to prevent violence, gang activity and crime in general, and I encourage them to apply to share in this new round of grants.”

##### **Supt. Rendall Nasset, Richmond RCMP –**

“Successful criminal investigations are always top of mind for our officers, especially when dealing with gang violence and other serious crime. But civil forfeiture is a great, supplementary tool, because it goes after the profit motive that’s behind most of those crimes. It’s great to see even more of the proceeds going back into communities to help make them safer.”

#### **Quick Facts:**

- Of the more than 850 cases police have referred to the program since its inception in 2006, the CFO has acted on 609. Of those, two-thirds are concluded.
- Today, more than 200 cases are ongoing.
- The Province anticipates issuing another call for grant proposals in 2012-13.

#### **Learn More:**

Read details of grants provided last fall:

[www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2011PSSG0132-001401.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2011PSSG0132-001401.htm)

View news releases containing more details of the Ponzi scheme and medical fraud cases referenced above:

[www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2011PSSG0075-000674.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2011PSSG0075-000674.htm)

[www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2011PSSG0141-001469.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2011PSSG0141-001469.htm)

Read about the forfeited Hummer that Abbotsford Police use to help deliver anti-gang information to local youth:

[www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2009-2013/2011PSSG0020-000157.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2011PSSG0020-000157.htm)

Contact: Government Communications and Public Engagement  
Ministry of Justice and Attorney General  
250 356-6961

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: [www.gov.bc.ca/connect](http://www.gov.bc.ca/connect)

**Ministry of Justice and Attorney General**  
**\$5.5 Million in Grants from Civil Forfeiture Proceeds**  
**Q&As**

**Q: What kinds of programs are eligible?**

The funding will go toward the areas of: anti-gang activity, violence against women and children programs and general crime prevention.

**Q. How do groups apply?**

Details of application processes will be available on Feb. 10 on the Ministry web site ([www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/crimeprevention/grants](http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/crimeprevention/grants))

All of the funding decisions will be made by the end of March (the end of the fiscal year).

**Q. Which groups can apply?**

Community groups, policing organizations, local governments can all apply.

We are focussing on anti-gang initiatives. Additional funding will be available for prevention of violence against women and children projects. As well, a portion will be targeted in line with other crime prevention priorities.

**Q. Can you explain how the additional \$5.5 million will break down between anti-gang and domestic violence programs? Also, will some of it go to existing programs, or are you calling for fresh proposals for all the new grant money?**

Rather than set limits for each category, we're going to assess and evaluate the submissions we receive, consider their values and then allocate dollars accordingly.

We did issue two open calls earlier this year: \$500,000 through the Crime Remediation and Crime Prevention Grant Program and \$100,000 through the Domestic Violence Prevention Response Fund. We anticipate issuing another call in 2012/13.

**Q. You're giving pretty tight timelines to groups that want to pull together a proposal. Is this fair?**

This most recent funding announcement is the result of the incredible success of our program. Due to the nature of civil litigation and the length of time it takes to process a case, anticipating the value of proceeds available for distribution back to communities is challenging. We are streamlining application processes and providing as much time as we can, while still ensuring that funds are distributed by the end of fiscal 2011/12.

**Q. The \$6.1 million in total for grants this year is just over half of what forfeiture has taken in this year. Shouldn't groups be getting more? Where is the rest of the money going?**

The program is self-funding, and it concluded a record number of cases last year, so its costs went up. As well, the program also has about 200 ongoing files right now, so it must keep enough funding on hand to see those cases through to completion. That said, if proceeds keep growing, we do anticipate returning more to crime prevention and remediation efforts.

Notably, projects funded earlier this year though civil forfeiture proceeds include:

- The introduction of violence-prevention curriculum at six Lower Mainland schools.
- Six projects focused on preventing domestic violence and on services for victims of domestic violence.
- A one-day workshop in Campbell River for North Island service providers focused on the issue of sexual exploitation.
- Support for a rediscovery program in Prince Rupert that teaches Haida culture in the context of crime and violence prevention.
- An awareness-raising campaign delivering an anti-gang message in Kelowna.

**Q. How do this year's grants from civil forfeiture stack up against those in 2010/11?**

This year's \$6.1 million in grants is unprecedented. In 2010/11, grants from civil forfeiture proceeds totalled \$478,000.

**Q. You're saying this year's civil forfeiture proceeds are about double what the program took in last year. If that's true, and you're giving back \$6.1 million in grants this year, why didn't you give back around \$3 million last year?**

B.C.'s civil forfeiture program is more than five years old, and its success has depended on a number of factors beyond government's control. This includes the number and quality of files referred by police agencies, and the support of the courts, which approve all forfeiture orders in contested cases.

To ensure the viability of the self-funding program, we have managed the proceeds carefully. Those proceeds have covered the administration of the program to date, and secured its future. This has enabled us to award more grants, in accordance with the terms of the civil forfeiture special account.

**Q. Just how much has forfeiture taken in and given back since 2006?**

Civil forfeiture proceeds overall total about \$23.5 million. By the end of this fiscal year, we'll have awarded \$8.5 million in grants from the civil forfeiture special account.

**Q. Where has all the \$23.5 million gone?**

It's important to keep in mind that most of the proceeds (more than \$15 million) has come in over the past two years. Of about \$23.5 million forfeited to date, \$11 million has gone to run the program – most of that to cover litigation costs. With today's announcement, \$8.5 million has gone or been committed to grants, as well as to victim compensation – for example, direct compensation of fraud victims.

The remainder, about \$3.5 million, is prior-year revenue that has been retained essentially as a rainy day fund – keeping in mind that this account ultimately sustains the self-funding civil forfeiture program.

S13

**Q. What's the story behind this helicopter? What's going to happen to it?**

It was used in alleged drug smuggling, flying low over the border from the Kootenay region. Due to its condition upon inspection, and the lack of log books, we are looking into selling it for parts to a firm that would require them.

**Q. What's the Hummer's story?**

In its previous life, the 2004 Hummer H2 was used to traffic heroin and evade arrest in Victoria. Last year, we loaned it to the Abbotsford Police Department for two years, to use as a rolling billboard and help them discourage youth from gang and criminal activity. After that, the vehicle will be returned to the Province and sold.

**Q. The Premier's platform said: "government will remove the restrictions preventing the Civil Forfeiture Office from making grants to communities, municipalities and police agencies." Have you actually removed those restrictions, or are these large grants a one-time opportunity?**

In fact, police, municipalities and communities are eligible for funding and have received grants in the past.

Today is a positive step in freeing up forfeiture proceeds to fund priority crime prevention efforts in B.C. communities this year. Still, we have more work to do in terms of formally removing restrictions on expenditures from the special account.

S13, S12

**Q. Do you expect to grant even more next year?**

We can't predict what civil forfeiture recoveries may be next year. They depend on factors beyond government's control, including the quality and number of files that police agencies refer, and how the court rules in contested cases.

**Q. Forfeiture keeps bringing more money in every year. Why not provide programs with stable, multi-year funding from civil forfeiture proceeds?**

Civil forfeiture proceeds have been growing, but many factors in the program's success are beyond the Province's control. The program depends on quality case referrals from police agencies – and all contested cases depend on a forfeiture order by a Supreme Court judge. Since there is no certainty about how much may accumulate in a given year, we cannot commit forfeiture proceeds on a multi-year basis.

**Q. Why are funds forfeited from a particular community not reinvested back into that same community (i.e., as Mayor Watts has asked)?**

The idea of having communities receive back what their respective police forces have referred to the CFO creates two significant problems:

- It improperly positions the program as a guaranteed income stream for a municipality, similar to a tax. In turn, this could result in inappropriate pressure on police to focus on civil forfeiture rather than criminal forfeiture. This would be contrary to the Act and Supreme Court rulings.
- It ignores the fact that small communities also suffer – for example, from drugs, youth gangs, and sexual exploitation of children and youth – even though the assets of the related criminal enterprises are located almost exclusively in major urban centres, where organized criminals typically reside.

**Q. Are you providing funding in a way that rewards police agencies and communities equitably for making referrals to civil forfeiture?**

There is no link between the value of referrals from a particular police agency and the funding that goes back to that agency's jurisdiction. Police understand this. The incentive for them in referring criminal case files for consideration is to use civil forfeiture as one more tool to deter crime and make their communities safer.

If we linked successful referrals to grants, that could undermine the spirit of our law and the court's support for it. Our law states very clearly that police cannot pursue a case with civil forfeiture as the goal – criminal charges must be the primary concern, and civil forfeiture is a separate, secondary consideration.

**Q. What's behind the huge growth in the value of forfeitures over the last year?**

It's really a combination of factors. Over the past five years, police agencies have become familiar with the process and the strength of its success. So, they are referring more cases, and the quality of their referrals – which civil forfeiture cases depend on – keeps improving with our shared experience.

It's also a reflection of how we've respected and responded to the direction of the court, improving and expanding the scope of our legislation. Notably, in 2008, we expanded the law to allow for the forfeiture of vehicles used in ways that were likely to cause death or serious injury.

More recently, we introduced a streamlined process for low-value, uncontested cases, known as administrative forfeiture. That process has made it financially viable to pursue, for example, low-value vehicles and small amounts of money seized from street-level drug dealers. This expansion supports the program's core goal of deterring and interrupting unlawful activity by taking away the tools and proceeds of it.

**Q. Is forfeiture growing because police see it working better than the criminal system? Are police simply giving up on the court system, with the lack of charge approval in many cases, and other cases being thrown out by judges due to unconstitutional delays?**

It's important to realize that without criminal investigations, there would be no civil forfeiture program. By law, police cannot pursue an investigation with the sole aim of civil forfeiture. It is a supplementary tool to strengthen public safety – not a substitute for the criminal process.

Only when a criminal investigation has run its course is there a possibility that a police agency will refer a file to the Civil Forfeiture Office. The office – not the police agency – makes the call on whether or not to pursue a particular case. Even then, in any forfeiture case that's disputed, only the BC Supreme Court may grant a forfeiture order.

**Q. Forfeiture proceeds are growing at a phenomenal rate. Is it really fair for the Province to keep taking away major assets from innocent parties?**

The Civil Forfeiture Office has no say in what police investigate or seize. It can only pursue files that police refer to the office after their criminal investigations. In any forfeiture case that's disputed, the full civil forfeiture process applies – and only the BC Supreme Court may grant a forfeiture order. The Province cannot and does not take property through forfeiture without following due process under the law.

**Q. Have you taken steps to evaluate any of the programs that civil forfeiture has funded to date?**

In the past, civil forfeiture grant recipients were asked to provide a final summary of their project.



With this latest round of funding, we will be working with all potential grant recipients to develop an evaluation plan for their project before we provide the funds. The evaluation plans will vary with the nature and length of individual projects.

Speaking Notes  
for the  
Hon. Shirley Bond  
Justice Minister  
and Attorney General  
MLA for Prince George-Valemount

\$5.5 million in grants from civil forfeiture proceeds  
Richmond RCMP Detachment  
11411 No. 5 Rd., Richmond

Thursday, Feb. 9, 2012  
1:30 p.m.

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

### **PEOPLE TO RECOGNIZE:**

- Supt. Brian Cantera, Acting Deputy, Criminal Operations, Federal Policing with the RCMP
- Ninu Kang, Director of Family Programs at MOSAIC
- Maria Escolan, who is the Coordinator of Nu Yu Popular Theatre Project at MOSAIC

### **TRADITIONAL TERRITORY:**

- Acknowledge the traditional territory of the Coast Salish.

### **KEY MESSAGES:**

- Today is a watershed for civil forfeiture.
- We're going beyond its deterrent value and putting the proceeds back into top-priority crime prevention efforts as never before.
- Our priorities for this extra \$5.5 million are projects that reduce youth involvement in gangs and prevent violence against women and children.
- We owe much of our success to the support of police and their referrals to the program.

## INTRODUCTION:

- Thank you all for joining us this afternoon.
- Thanks in particular to our honoured guests.
- Around me are some of the people who've helped us to redefine what it means to “get the goods” on those involved in unlawful activity.
- I'm speaking of course about civil forfeiture.
- It's a tool that has been supporting police in B.C. since 2006...
- A new way to discourage unlawful activity by targeting the profit motive behind it.
- Over the years, it's provided us with a lot of items, with interesting and sometimes frightening stories behind them:
- For example, SUVs like this one.

- Before its crime-fighting life with the Abbotsford Police began...
- This 2004 Hummer was used to traffic heroin in Victoria – and to evade arrest on one occasion, endangering officers who were involved.
- Another example you may recall:
- The Ferrari that went more than three times the speed limit in a park, narrowly missing a young mom and her kids walking by the roadside.
- There have been stucco mansions and rural out-buildings full of hydroponic equipment, dangerous wiring, hydro diverters to steal power, and thousands of marijuana plants.
- There have even been helicopters like the one before you today.

- It was seized in the Kootenays after flying low over the border, allegedly for cross-border cocaine smuggling with an unqualified pilot at the controls.
- Incidentally, the rotor has been taken off for transportation purposes – and the helicopter itself won't be flying again.
- Since the log books weren't kept up, it will be sold for parts.
- With more than 400 cases concluded to date, the list goes on and on.
- But civil forfeiture is about more than taking these varied items off the street and turning them into cash.
- On that note, today is truly a watershed moment in this very successful program:

- We are announcing a record, new investment of \$5.5 million in grants to support high-priority crime prevention efforts.
- This will build on \$600,000 we awarded last fall, bringing our total to \$6.1 million in grants for this year!
- That included \$500,000 through the Crime Remediation and Crime Prevention Grant Program...
- Funding that supported 29 projects in all.
- They included a violence prevention curriculum for six schools here in the Lower Mainland...
- An awareness-raising campaign in Kelowna that's helping to keep young people out of gangs...
- And support for a rediscovery program in Prince Rupert, which teaches Haida culture in the context of crime and violence prevention.

- Last fall's investments also included a further \$100,000 toward six projects focused on preventing domestic violence and providing services to victims of it.
- Today's funding will support projects that reduce youth involvement in gangs and prevent violence against women and children.
- This new funding is unsurpassed, and reflects the fact that most of those proceeds have come in over the past two years.
- In fact, much of our focus up to now has been on building a strong foundation...
- On establishing and fine-tuning our pioneering legislation, to ensure it meets the scrutiny and responds to the direction of the court...
- On ensuring the program's ability to become self-funding, and to sustain itself as it carries an ever-growing caseload...



- On working with police to promote referrals to the program...
- And on getting the word out about how well it's working, to maximize the program's deterrent value.
- And I want to thank again the police agencies, Richmond and Abbotsford among them, that have supported the program and in turn made their communities safer along the way.
- These investments are something we can do prudently, in light of what is already the biggest year for civil forfeiture proceeds in B.C.'s history.
- We'll post information and application process details on my ministry's website tomorrow (February 10<sup>th</sup>).
- I know many communities will appreciate the priorities we've identified for these funds, and will want to be part of this new chapter in the success of civil forfeiture.

- Those who submit proposals can rest assured that we will keep their contact information on file, because we anticipate issuing another call next year.
- So much of what civil forfeiture has taken in has links to gang violence and drug crime.
- It really is satisfying to take so much of what were once ill-gotten gains...
- And to put them back into diverting young people from gangs, and into reducing the violence that affects many B.C. families.
- My heartfelt thanks, again, to all the police officers, community organizations and projects that make civil forfeiture a public safety gift that keeps on giving.
- Thank you very much.

-30-

## Guest List for Forfeiture Grants event Feb. 9, 2012

Name	Last Name	Title	Organization	Email	Phone	Source
Supt Rendall Nasset	Nasset	Supt.	Richmond RCMP	<a href="mailto:Renny.Nasset@rcmp-grc.gc.ca">Renny.Nasset@rcmp-grc.gc.ca</a>	604-278-1212 loc. 917	RCMP
Cpl Dave Poon	Poon	Cpl	RCMP Integrated			RCMP
Cpl Jonn Uzelac	Uzelac	Cpl	Proceeds of Crime	<a href="mailto:Dave.Poon@rcmp-grc.gc.ca">Dave.Poon@rcmp-grc.gc.ca</a>	917	RCMP
Alvin Shum	Shum	Detective/Constable	Surrey RCMP	<a href="mailto:jonn.uzelac@rcmp-grc.gc.ca">jonn.uzelac@rcmp-grc.gc.ca</a>		RCMP
Cst Alex Wood	Wood	Constable	Vancouver Police Dept	<a href="mailto:Alvin.shum@vcpd.ca">Alvin.shum@vcpd.ca</a>	604-717-3497	VPD
Insp Brad Desmarais	Desmarais	Inspector	Abbotsford Police Dept	<a href="mailto:awood@abbypd.ca">awood@abbypd.ca</a>		APD
Sgt Varun NAIDU	Naidu	Sgt	Vancouver Police Dept	<a href="mailto:vnaidu@deltapolice.ca">vnaidu@deltapolice.ca</a>	604-946-4411	RCMP
Insp Barry Baxter	Baxter	Inspector	Delta Police Dept			DPD
Rick PECK	Peck	Manager	RCMP Integrated			
Carlo Melo	MELO	RE Agent @ Sutton	Proceeds of Crime	<a href="mailto:Rick.A.Peck@gov.bc.ca">Rick.A.Peck@gov.bc.ca</a>	604-501-8218	RCMP
		Acting Deputy, Criminal Operations, Federal Policing with the RCMP.	Regional AIR Manager	922	604-254-6356	AIR
Supt. Brian Cantera		Mayor	Sutton			
Mayor Malcolm Brodi	Brodi	Councillor	City of Richmond	<a href="mailto:mayorandcouncillors@richmond.ca">mayorandcouncillors@richmond.ca</a>		
Councillor Chak Au		Councillor	City of Richmond			
Councillor Linda Barnes		Councillor	City of Richmond			
Councillor Derek Dang		Councillor	City of Richmond			
Councillor Evelina Halsey-Brandt		Councillor	City of Richmond			
Councillor Ken Johnston		Councillor	City of Richmond			
Councillor Bill McNulty		Councillor	City of Richmond			
Councillor Linda McPhail		Councillor	City of Richmond			
Councillor Harold Steves		Councillor	City of Richmond			
		Director,				
		Intergovernmental Relations & Protocol Unit & Acting Senior Manager,				
Amarjeet S. Rattan		Enterprise Services Unit	City of Richmond	<a href="mailto:ARattan@richmond.ca">ARattan@richmond.ca</a>	T: 604-247-4686	

**Richmond CAAN:**

Chris Samulak (CAAN Coordinator)

Haroon Bajwa

Touchstone Family Association  
Touchstone Family Association

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604-279-5599

Direct: 604-207-5039

Lary Antrim

**Burnaby:**

Cpl. Neil Roemer

Sue Dorey

**Vancouver CAAN:**

Lisa Pedrini

Richmond School District

Coordinator of Counselling and Social Responsibility, Richmond School District

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Burnaby RCMP

Burnaby School District

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Vancouver School Board

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604.713.5216

**South Asian Community****Coalition Against Youth****Violence:**

Rubina Mudhar

MOSAIC

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ext. 490

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Ninu Kang

Director of Family Programs, overseeing the Newcomer Youth (Nu Yu) Project

MOSAIC

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(604) 254-9626  
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Maria Escolan

Dr. Gira Bhat

Coordinator of Nu Yu Popular Theatre Project

MOSAIC

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604.599.3268

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**Vancouver Aboriginal****Youth/ Vancouver Police****Working Group:**

John Kramer

Vancouver Aboriginal Community Policing Centre Society

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Program Planner (E.A.S.Y.  
project contact), Diversity  
& Aboriginal Policing  
Section  
Executive Director, Circle  
of Eagles Lodge Society

Vancouver Police  
Department

Lori Beckstead

Jerry Adams

**Abbotsford CAAN:**

Alison Gutrath (CAAN  
Coordinator)

Manpreet Grewal

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Abbotsford Community  
Services  
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Sgt. Mike Novakowski  
**Surrey CAAN:**

Rob Rai

Theresa Campbell

Steve Dooley

Abbotsford Police  
Department – Youth Squad

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604-864-4830

Surrey School District  
Surrey School District  
Kwantlen University

[rai\\_r@sd36.bc.ca](mailto:rai_r@sd36.bc.ca)  
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[Steve.Dooley@kwantlen.ca](mailto:Steve.Dooley@kwantlen.ca)

778 772 4192  
(604) 599-7429  
604.599.2457

## Guest List for Forfeiture Grants event Feb. 9, 2012

Name	Title	Organization	Email	Fax	Phone
Supt Randall Nessel	Supt.	Richmond RCMP	<a href="mailto:Renny.Nessel@rcmp-grc.gc.ca">Renny.Nessel@rcmp-grc.gc.ca</a>		604-278-1212 loc
Cpl Dave Poon	Cpl	RCMP Integrated Proceeds of Crime	<a href="mailto:Dave.Poon@rcmp-grc.gc.ca">Dave.Poon@rcmp-grc.gc.ca</a>		s17
Cpl Jonn Uzelac	Cpl	Surrey RCMP	<a href="mailto:jonn.uzelac@rcmp-grc.gc.ca">jonn.uzelac@rcmp-grc.gc.ca</a>		
Alvin Shum	Detective/Constable	Vancouver Police Dept	<a href="mailto:Alvin.shum@vpd.ca">Alvin.shum@vpd.ca</a>		604-717-3497
Supt. Brian Cantera	Acting Deputy, Criminal Operations, Federal Policing with the RCMP.				
Mayor Malcolm	Mayor	City of Richmond	<a href="mailto:mayorandcouncillors@richmond.ca">mayorandcouncillors@richmond.ca</a>		
Councillor Chak Au	Councillor	City of Richmond			
Councillor Linda Barnes	Councillor	City of Richmond			
Councillor Derek Dang	Councillor	City of Richmond			
Councillor Evelina Halsey-Brandt	Councillor	City of Richmond			
Councillor Ken Johnston	Councillor	City of Richmond			
Councillor Bill McNulty	Councillor	City of Richmond			
Councillor Linda McPhail	Councillor	City of Richmond			
Councillor Harold Steves	Councillor	City of Richmond			
Amarjeet S. Rattan	Director, Intergovernmental Relations	City of Richmond	<a href="mailto:ARattan@richmond.ca">ARattan@richmond.ca</a>		T: 604-247-4686
<b><u>Richmond CAAN:</u></b>					
Chris Samulak (CAAN Coordinator)		Touchstone Family Association	<a href="mailto:C.Samulak@touchfam.ca">C.Samulak@touchfam.ca</a>		604-279-5599
Haroon Bajwa		Touchstone Family Association	<a href="mailto:hbajwa@touchfam.ca">hbajwa@touchfam.ca</a>		Direct: 604-207-5
Lary Antrim	Coordinator of Counselling and Social	Richmond School District	<a href="mailto:LAntrim@sd38.bc.ca">LAntrim@sd38.bc.ca</a>		Office: (604) 668-
<b><u>Burnaby:</u></b>					
Cpl. Neil Roemer		Burnaby RCMP	<a href="mailto:neil.roemer@rcmp-grc.gc.ca">neil.roemer@rcmp-grc.gc.ca</a>		604.656.3202
Sue Dorey	Manager Youth Services	Burnaby School District	<a href="mailto:Sue.Dorey@sd41.bc.ca">Sue.Dorey@sd41.bc.ca</a>		604-664-8233
<b><u>Vancouver CAAN:</u></b>					
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<b><u>South Asian Community Coalition Against Youth Violence:</u></b>					
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Ninu Kang	Director of Family Programs, oversee	MOSAIC	<a href="mailto:nkang@mosaicbc.com">nkang@mosaicbc.com</a>		(604) 254-9626 (t
Maria Escolan	Coordinator of Nu Yu Popular Theatre	MOSAIC	<a href="mailto:mescolan@mosaicbc.com">mescolan@mosaicbc.com</a>		
Dr. Gira Bhat		Kwantlen University	<a href="mailto:gira.bhatt@kwantlen.ca">gira.bhatt@kwantlen.ca</a>		604.599.3268
<b><u>Vancouver Aboriginal Youth/ Vancouver Police Working Group:</u></b>					
John Kramer		Vancouver Aboriginal Community P	<a href="mailto:coordinator@vacpc.org">coordinator@vacpc.org</a>		(604) 678-3790
Lori Beckstead	Program Planner (E.A.S.Y. project co)	Vancouver Police Department	<a href="mailto:lori.beckstead@vpd.ca">lori.beckstead@vpd.ca</a>		Tel: (604) 717-29

Jerry Adams	Executive Director, Circle of Eagles Lodge Society	jadams@circleofeagles.com	Phone: (604) 874
<b><u>Abbotsford CAAN:</u></b>			
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Manpreet Grewal	Abbotsford Community Services	<a href="mailto:Manpreet.Grewal@abbotsfordcomm">Manpreet.Grewal@abbotsfordcomm</a>	Telephone: (604)
Sgt. Mike Novakowski	Abbotsford Police Department –You	<a href="mailto:mnovakowski@abbypd.ca">mnovakowski@abbypd.ca</a>	604-864-4830
<b><u>Surrey CAAN:</u></b>			
Rob Rai	Surrey School District	<a href="mailto:rai_r@sd36.bc.ca">rai_r@sd36.bc.ca</a>	778 772 4192
Theresa Campbell	Surrey School District	<a href="mailto:campbell_t@sd36.bc.ca">campbell_t@sd36.bc.ca</a>	(604) 599-7429
Steve Dooley	Kwantlen University	<a href="mailto:Steve.Dooley@kwantlen.ca">Steve.Dooley@kwantlen.ca</a>	604.599.2457

### **Children of the Street Society**

Source

RCMP  
RCMP  
RCMP  
VPD

039  
-6184

626 ext. 49  
ext.240)



-9610

859-7681 (  
859-7681





**The Honourable Shirley Bond,  
Justice Minister and Attorney General**

*invites you to attend an announcement regarding significant new  
support for high-priority crime prevention projects across B.C.*

1:30 p.m.  
Thursday, February 9, 2012

Richmond RCMP Detachment\*  
11411 No. 5 Road  
Richmond, B.C.

Please RSVP to Tara Zwaan  
Email: [Tara.Zwaan@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tara.Zwaan@gov.bc.ca)

*\*Please note this event will take place outdoors, rain or shine. We encourage  
you to dress appropriately for the weather that day.*

## Civil Forfeiture proceeds Available for Grants

Address: Richmond RCMP Detachment  
11411 No. 5 Road  
Richmond, BC

**Event Summary:** Announcement of \$5.5 million more from civil forfeiture proceeds in 2011/12 to support crime prevention initiatives – specifically, projects that reduce youth involvement in gangs and prevent violence against women and children.

**Key Message:** Our five-year-old civil forfeiture program has had a record year, and in turn, we're giving back a record amount in grants.

**Action/Visual:** SG with former drug-trafficking helicopter and anti-gang Hummer, flanked by police representatives.

**Venue Audience:** Community Assessment Action Networks (CAANS), Policing Representatives, Local Government Representatives,

**Larger Audience:** Any community-driven group in B.C. that may benefit from funding for a local crime prevention or remediation project or program; general public interested in government efforts to combat gangs and violence against women and children.

**Dress: Business**

**Date: February 9, 2012**

**Time: 1:30 pm**

Time	Event Itinerary
1:15pm	Minister Bond arrives and is greeted by Event Coordinator, Tara Zwaan, who escorts her to the pre-brief room
1:20pm	Prebrief with platform party is led by Tara Zwaan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister Shirley Bond, Justice Minister and Attorney General</li> <li>MC Linda Reid, MLA for Richmond East</li> <li>Supt. Brian Cantera, Acting Deputy, Criminal Operations, Federal Policing with the RCMP</li> <li>Ninu Kang, Director of Family Programs, MOSAIC</li> <li>Maria Escolan, Coordinator of Nu Yu Popular Theatre Project at MOSAIC</li> </ul>
1:27pm	Platform party moves to the tented event space featuring forfeited helicopter on a flatbed truck as well as the Hummer with anti-gang messaging
1:30pm	MC Linda Reid welcomes guests and introduces Minister Bond
1:32pm	Minister Bond gives remarks
1:37pm	MC Reid thanks Minister Bond and introduces Superintendent Brian Cantera
1:38pm	Supt. Cantera gives remarks
1:41pm	MC Reid thanks Supt Cantera and introduces Ninu Kang and Maria Escolan from MOSAIC
1:42pm	Ninu Kang and Maria Escolan give joint remarks
1:45pm	MC Reid thanks guests for attending and invites the platform party to take a group photo
1:48pm	Media availability.
1:53pm	Mix & mingle with guests.
2:00pm	Event concludes. Minister Bond Departs

### MLAs Attending:

Linda Reid, MLA for Richmond East; Rob Howard, MLA for Richmond Centre

### Contacts:

Eric Hall, Richmond RCMP

Materials	Required	Received	Additional Notes
Speaking Notes	Yes		
Q&A	Yes		
Backgrounder	Yes		

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Justice

Date: March 14, 2012

Minister Responsible: Hon. Shirley Bond

## Grant Denials - \$5.5 M Year-End Availability

### SUGGESTED RESPONSES:

- My ministry received an incredible response to our well-publicized call for applications in February.
- In fact, we received nearly 350 applications worth a total of \$14 million – which is two and a half times the amount we had available for grants (\$5.5 million).
- Ministry staff assessed all of the proposals using established grant criteria, just as they have with previous rounds of applications.
- Those criteria included whether the project responded to an identified crime prevention issue, whether the budget was reasonable, the involvement of other justice partners, and how the project's success could be evaluated down the road.
- Once the review team had scored the applications against the criteria, an oversight team reviewed the successful proposals to ensure the process was accountable and consistent.

### IF NEEDED:

- To be clear, ministry staff set the criteria for the grants and handled all scoring and oversight in the approval process.
- I believe the process followed to assess and approve applications will result in quality, community-led work to further public safety – just as that process has in the past.

## **BACKGROUND:**

By March 31, 2012, the Province will announce more than 100 year-end grants from civil forfeiture proceeds, with a total value of \$5.5 million. Following a call for applications on Feb. 9, the ministry received 348 applications worth a total of \$14 million.

Program staff believes all groups receiving grants – including those receiving less than they may have originally sought – will be grateful for the funding. (In many cases, program staff was in contact with groups during the process of reviewing applications, so those receiving less than they originally requested will not be surprised by the amounts of their grants.) However, some proponents behind unsuccessful applications may question the process that led to their denial of funding.

A consolidated list of unsuccessful applicants is pending from program staff.

**Proactive Communications Plan  
Ministry of Justice  
2011/12 Grants from Civil Forfeiture Proceeds**

**Purpose:**

- To communicate that the provincial government is funding key programs relating to supporting crime prevention, preventing violence against women and children and reducing youth involvement in gangs through funds garnered from civil forfeiture (proceeds of crime).
- This is part of government's commitment to safe communities, and healthy strong families.

**Background**

- On Feb. 9, the Minister announced a further \$5.5 million of civil forfeiture proceeds would be available by the end of fiscal 2011/12 to support projects that reduce youth involvement in gangs and prevent violence against women and children. This is atop \$400,000 disbursed last fall.
- This year's funding is by far a record amount since the program's inception in April 2006.
- The grant application was posted on Feb. 10, with a Feb. 24 application deadline. This followed a successful media event which garnered significant attention around the province.

**Strategy**

- The Provincial Government will take on a multi-pronged communications strategy to announce the funding decisions for groups receiving the \$5.5 million.

**MLA's**

- MLA's will go out first with news releases and events in their local communities (during the latter half of Spring Break – Week of May 19)
- MLA's will engage local media, do media interviews, use social media to get the news out
- Validators (those who are receiving the funding) will talk to media about what the funding will mean for the community.
- Note: Minister Bond as MLA will make funding announcement in Prince George (Other northern MLA's will do announcements in their ridings)

**Minister Bond**

- One event announcement will be held back for Minister Bond for Monday March 26 (TBC).
- The event will feature a strong visual, and will draw major media attention to one of the key areas of funding.
- Video of the announcement will be put on "Send-to-News" for regional media pick-up
- Pictures will be tweeted out and sent through other Social media, pictures and clips from the event will be sent to ethnic media.

- The event will be quickly followed by media outreach by Minister Bond, who will do 'talk-radio' and other media interviews to promote the civil forfeiture funds.
- The News release will have a link to a web site that will contain the full list of funding announcements.

#### **Other communications tools**

- The strategy will incorporate social media, video and photographs (to be sent via social media and to traditional media outlets), and outreach to traditional media by the Premier, Minister and MLA's.
- The groups receiving funding (some of whom have received it in previous years) will be key validators, who will communicate real-life stories to show the way in which funding helps build safer communities and supports healthy families. We will be working with them to get them out into the media, and to help them tell their stories.
- The focus will be particularly on regional media, which is often more open to telling these personal stories.
- We will attract both major media and regional media attention with strong visuals for announcement events.

#### **Strategic Approach**

##### **Pre-launch - The Set-up**

- Event in February announced the new funding, and invited groups to apply.
- This received strong media coverage.
- MLAs will call groups to notify they are receiving funding, and will ask them to not say anything to media until an announcement/event date is set (for late Spring Break – week of Mar 19)

##### **Launch – Sell the Benefit(s)**

- MLA's to go out first with events to their regional media during Spring Break week.
- Minister will do one milestone event (Mar 26 TBC). This event will contain strong visuals, and will be combined with strong video, photographs and social media.
- Options for Minister Event:

#### **1. Street Smarts Project (Richmond) – Mentorship/outreach to youth at risk of gang involvement**

**Visual:** Dialogue with Minister, youth and the high-profile ex-gang member who has led sessions for years telling young people the truths of gang life.

A total of \$210,000 in funding to Touchstone Family Association will give high-risk youth one-on-one service, focusing on those at the highest risk of criminal involvement, and continue the Street Smarts Leadership Group. This initiative is in Rob Howard's riding.



## **2. Abbotsford RCMP - \$25,000 for Operation X (Ecstasy awareness among youth)**

**Visual:** Will discuss with Abbotsford RCMP – would involve kids, and some examples of the great work Abbotsford RCMP has already done in this area. Once they are told of the funding – we will work with them to secure a strong visual.

### **Post-launch – Sustain the Momentum**

- In the weeks and months after the grants have gone out, JAG-GCPE will pitch regional media on organizations and individuals using and benefiting from the grants. Communications staff will also liaise with program staff to identify when recipients of major grants are planning key events (e.g., grand openings of facilities).
- With this latest round of funding, the Civil Forfeiture Office will be working with all potential grant recipients to develop an evaluation plan for their project before they receive their cheque. The evaluation plans will vary with the nature and length of individual projects. The results of those evaluations may present an opportunity to highlight the ultimate value of the grants, in terms of furthering public safety. Depending on the timing of those evaluations, they may also present an opportunity to foreshadow the disbursement of further civil forfeiture proceeds in 2012/13.
- Regarding the resources needed to fulfil this plan, JAG-GCPE will need the involvement of Caucus Communications to deliver all communications support at the caucus MLA level, the support of GCPE Events staff to complete a single or multiple grant announcements by the Premier and/or Minister, and program-area support in identifying and co-ordinating the participation of the best validators.

### **COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES / MATERIALS :**

- Events as outlined above, with stakeholders, to maximize provincewide coverage of the grants.
- News releases, backgrounders, media advisories, Q&As, speaking points.
- Details from program staff of individual grants to aid Caucus Communications in preparing local releases and/or events for caucus MLAs.
- Post-event talk radio and/or television appearances by Minister and/or stakeholders to discuss the grants and their importance to public safety in the communities the media serve.
- Tweets for the Minister and content in advance for the GCPE videographer to use in preparing posting(s) related to video clips of the event(s).
- Video and photographs for social media.
- Recorded comments from the Minister for posting and tweeting.

## Event Proposal

**Event Title: Year-end grants from civil forfeiture proceeds**

**Representative (Min/MLA): Bond**

<b>Date:</b> March 26, 2012	<b>Media Market:</b> Provincewide
<b>Location:</b> Options below (Surrey, PG, Richmond)	<b>English Media Spokesperson:</b> Bond
	<b>Multicultural Media Spokesperson:</b>

### THE EVENT

#### PROACTIVE EVENT OR INVITATION

- Proactive

#### EVENT

- Event to announce the full distribution of \$5.5 million in grants from civil forfeiture proceeds, to support projects that reduce youth involvement in gangs, prevent violence against women and children, and general crime prevention.
- This provincial event will follow regional opportunities for caucus MLAs to showcase local grant awards.
- **Three options** for this event are proposed, anticipating strong visuals and opportunities for strong video, photographs and social media.

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### **3. Street Smarts Project (Richmond) – Mentorship/outreach to youth at risk of gang involvement**

**Visual:** Dialogue with Minister, youth and the high-profile ex-gang member who has led sessions for years telling young people the truths of gang life.

A total of \$210,000 in funding will give high-risk youth one-on-one service, focusing on those at the highest risk of criminal involvement, and continue the Street Smarts Leadership Group. This initiative is in Rob Howard's riding.

#### **GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA FUNDING / PARTNER FUNDING (IF APPLICABLE):**

- Government of BC funding: \$5.5 million
- No partner/federal funding

#### **WHO'S ORGANIZING?**

- GCPE – JAG and Events

#### **PREMIER'S ATTENDANCE REQUESTED?**

- Yes

#### **STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS and THEME:**

- Aligns with Families theme: Half the \$5.5 million is going to gang prevention programs, while most of the rest will specifically aid violence prevention among children, youth, women, women in relationships and vulnerable women on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.
- Grants must be distributed by fiscal year-end (March 31), so related announcements should occur around that date.

#### **VENUE DESCRIPTION**

- Three options below.

#### **KEY STAKEHOLDERS / PARTICIPANTS (Speaking roles?)**

- Speakers: Premier and/or Minister Bond (TBC), grant recipients (per options below)

#### **LIST OF VALIDATORS FOR POST-EVENT ROLLOUT**

- Validators from many of the 150-plus grant recipients will be engaged in local grant announcements with caucus MLAs before the provincial announcement of the overall funding distribution.
- The groups receiving funding (some of whom have received it in previous years) will be key validators, who will communicate real-life stories to show the way in which funding helps build safer communities and supports healthy families. GCPE will be working with them to get them out in the media and help them tell their stories.

#### **CAUCUS PARTICIPATION**

- Caucus MLAs will have a window (length to be set at the Minister's discretion) to announce grants to organizations in their constituencies.

**MEDIA INVITED?**

- Yes

**AUDIENCE SIZE AND DESCRIPTION / TARGET AUDIENCES**

- Each of the event options noted below affords an opportunity to engage a number of local stakeholder organizations involved with the funded project, so an audience of dozens (excluding media) is anticipated.
- In each case, the audience could include police representatives in uniform and an array of other partners' representatives.

**PREPOSITIONING:**

- The availability of the \$5.5 million in grants was well-publicized, with a media event Feb. 9.
- Local grant announcements by caucus MLAs will foreshadow the broader announcement.

**PROMOTING THE EVENT:**

- All major media plus those in the relevant community (depending on which option is chosen) will be contacted to maximize attendance.

**VISUAL MESSAGE(S)****DESIRED PICTURE (STILL)**

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**DESIRED PICTURE (VIDEO)**

- As above; more specific visual opportunities may be determined with the individual grant recipients once they've been told of their grants and GCPE is able to discuss event possibilities directly with them.

**ACTUAL SPEAKING BACKDROP**

- Will depend on option chosen and then discussion with the individual grant recipient.

**LENGTH OF SPEECH**

- 4-5 minutes

**TO NE**

- Celebratory

**ATTIRE**

- Semi-formal, with any attending police representatives in uniform

**WRITTEN MESSAGE(S)****NEWS RELEASE HEADLINE**

- Forfeited \$5.5M fuels safer families, communities

**DESIRED MEDIA HEADLINE**

- \$5.5M goes from grow-ops to gang-stoppers

**DESIRED SOUNDBITE / KEY NEWS RELEASE SOUNDBITE**

- 

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**KEY MESSAGES**

- The Province is providing \$5.5 million in fiscal year-end grants to support projects that reduce youth involvement in gangs, prevent violence against women and children, and further crime prevention.
- The new funding is possible due to exceptional growth in the B.C. civil forfeiture program's proceeds this year.

## KEY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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### **Q. Why are some communities getting so much more than others?**

We were very proactive in ensuring that groups across B.C. that were eligible for this round of grants were aware of the application process and deadline. In fact, we received nearly 350 applications in this round, for a total that far exceeded the \$5.5 million available. The targeted nature of the grant categories – for example, keeping youth out of gangs – naturally meant that we were more likely to see more applications from certain communities with strong, community-led groups that are active in that area.

### **Q: What kinds of programs were eligible?**

We focused this funding availability on three priorities: anti-gang activity, violence against women and children programs and general crime prevention.

### **Q. Which groups could apply to share in the proceeds available?**

Community groups, policing organizations and local governments could apply. The application process details and deadline were available on the ministry's website following the Feb. 9 announcement of the available funding.

### **Q. How many applications did you receive? What was their total value?**

The Ministry received 348 applications totalling approximately \$14 million.

### **Q. How many were approved? What is their total value?**

Nearly 200 groups will be receiving grants worth a total of \$5.5 million. The full list will be announced in the coming weeks.

### **Q. Why wasn't it a priority to make grants available for broader justice reform priorities, such as funding more sheriffs or legal aid?**

We are limited by law in what we can fund from civil forfeiture proceeds. Under the terms of the special account, the self-funding program can provide surplus proceeds to support crime prevention and remediation efforts. This approach recognizes the role communities and their police agencies play in the success of the program, giving back to further public safety at the community level.

Matters that require ongoing funding, such as structural aspects of the justice system, receive appropriate consideration and funding through the annual provincial budget process.

### **Q. Civil forfeiture keeps bringing more money in every year. Why not provide programs with stable, multi-year funding from civil forfeiture proceeds?**

Civil forfeiture proceeds have been growing, but many factors in the program's success are beyond the Province's control. The program depends on quality case referrals from police agencies – and all contested cases depend on a forfeiture order by a Supreme Court judge.

Since there is no certainty about how much may accumulate in a given year, we cannot commit forfeiture proceeds on a multi-year basis.

## **RESEARCH NEEDS**

- Program staff will prepare for web-posting, in concert with the news release, a full list of organizations, grant amounts and summaries of what the grants are for.

## **ROLLOUT**

### **COMMUNICATIONS PRODUCTS**

- ☒ Media Advisory
- ☒ Speech
- ☒ New Release
- ☐ Backgrounder(s)

- ☐ Fact Sheet
- ☐ Biographies
- ☐ Talking Points
- ☒ Q&A
- ☒ MLA / Caucus Kit (in advance, in association with Caucus Communications)
- ☐ Props (describe)
- ☒ Post-Event Media (Twitter, Facebook)
- ☐ Web Content
- ☐ Photo Release
- ☐ Other (describe)
- ☐ For Information
- ☐ Comment

## MEDIA PLAN

### PLANNING

- ☐ Live Coverage (check if yes)
- ☐ Photographer booked (to distribute photos to media)
- ☐ Readout/transcript
- ☐ Validators
- ☒ Caucus roll-out (N.B. – to occur in advance of the provincial announcement)

### STRATEGY

- Maximize coverage (provincial and regional)

### PROMOTING THE EVENT

#### Media Advisory

- Major BC media including ethnic outlets, plus all media in the community where the chosen grant recipient event occurs

#### Contacting Media

- As above; call-around morning of event

### FOLLOW-UP MEDIA (ONE-ON-ONES to be booked)

#### English / Multicultural / Regional/Weekly Media Interviews

- Defer to local MLAs

#### Talk Radio Plan

- At the Minister's discretion, she may want to speak about the overall grants and success of civil forfeiture; however, details of the program's success in 2011-12 were publicized when the availability of the grants was announced Feb. 9.

#### Social Media Plan

- Tweets:
  - From grow-ops to gang and violence prevention – #BC civil forfeiture proceeds make good: [URL for release]
  - \$5.5M in civil forfeiture grants are doing good across #BC – here's one example: [URL for video shot at provincial event]

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- Headline: Forfeitures fund safer B.C. communities!
- Descriptor paragraph: TBD from news release. Read more: [URL for news release]
- Keywords: "Shirley Bond" "Justice Minister" "Public Safety" "civil forfeiture" "Crime Criminals" "Gang Activity" "Justice" "Province of BC" "British Columbia" "BC Government" "Canada Surrey" "Dianne Watts" "Surrey RCMP"

## **MLA Rollout – Civil Forfeiture Grants**

### **(Supplementary to the related communications plan)**

#### **Week of March 12**

- Minister Bond is briefed on funding decisions
- Event Proposal – will outline main announcement options for Premier/Minister main event/announcement (must have excellent visuals)
- News Release and communications materials will be updated based on the funding information, and decision on main event.

#### **Week of March 19**

- JAG GCPE will send template News release to caucus communications, along with a chart that shows which groups are getting funding in regions (by riding)
- Caucus communications will touch base with MLA's for
  - event set-up
  - News releases – on groups receiving funding in their area
  - Videos
  - Tweets/social media set-up

#### **Friday March 23 (or earlier)**

- Full package sent to caucus communications with – Provincial NR, Qs and As, Key Messages, Template regional MLA releases, Template speaking notes for MLA's, Tweets

#### **March 28**

- Main event will take place with Premier Minister (location TBD)
- Province-wide NR will announce funding for the main announcement, part of \$5.5 million dollars going out to groups and organizations
- Media follow-up for Min and Premier
- Social Media, Video

#### **March 28 (after main event) – April 8 (or length of time Caucus Comms feel they need)**

- MLA's do news releases, events, media interviews, videos, tweets on funding announcements for their areas

#### **April 9 – Full list of all groups being funded posted on the Web site (made available to media)**

## Event Outline

### Announcement of Civil Forfeiture Proceeds Grant to Touchstone Family Association (and total grants announced)

**Location:** Touchstone Family Association – Richmond Office, 120-6411 Buswell St., Richmond

**Date:** April 4, 2012

**Time:** 1:30 p.m.

**Provincial Government representative:** Minister Bond

**Other government representatives:** Richmond MLAs Howard and Reid

#### Event Participants:

- Speaking:
  - Minister Bond;
  - Judy Valsonis Touchstone's Director of Operations;
  - Rick Dubras, Executive Director, Richmond Addiction Services;\*
  - Emcee MLA Rob Howard (TBC Monday).

*\*Rick Dubras is a program partner, familiar with Street Smarts and a "great speaker." Touchstone has booked Rick to ensure his availability. School board and other partners were approached by Touchstone but unavailable.*

- Dialogue session:
  - Youth dialogue to be facilitated by Touchstone program director Chris Samulak (details below).
  - 3-4 youth who have been involved in 12-week Street Smarts sessions in the past. Chris Samulak is working to secure these youth and will advise on his progress on Monday.

#### Audience:

- Supportive stakeholders in audience: to include staff of Touchstone and its partner agencies, Victim Services and Civil Forfeiture staff.

#### Visual (Action)

- Ten-minute dialogue between Minister, attending MLAs, Street Smarts' Chris Samulak and 3-4 articulate, local youth about why they went through the 12-week Street Smarts program and what they got out of it.

#### Visual (backdrop)

- Podium sign: "Civil Forfeiture: Building Safer Communities"
- Existing youth-oriented program backdrop on site (TBC – subject to GCPE/MO review of the backdrop imagery)

#### Logistical details:

- Touchstone's youth day program room is the most "youth-friendly" and Deb Brendeland has confirmed its size and layout is suitable for the announcement in regard to the grant for the youth-oriented Safe Streets program. (Touchstone has supplied a photo of this room and the youth-developed backdrop panels that run down one wall of the room.) This room recently accommodated a larger session with 15-20 youth. A Mediaco podium with podium sign will be used for the speaking portion, while an on-site board table will be used during the dialogue portion.

#### Roll-out:

**April 3, Advisory released to Lower Mainland media (majors and all Richmond)**

**April 4, Day of Event:**

- Morning call-around to media to promote event, confirm attendance
- Event Pre-Brief at 1:15 p.m. for Minister (GCPE Event Planner Deb Brendeland to lead, Communications staff to walk Minister through potential Media Issues – Details on exact room at Touchstone's Richmond office to follow)



- Event – speakers (in order):
  - Emcee – MLA Rob Howard
  - Minister Bond
  - Judy Valsonis, Director of Operations, Touchstone Family Association
  - Rick Dubras, Executive Director, Richmond Addiction Services
- Discussion session with Street Smarts program director Chris Samulak, Minister, attending MLAs and 3-4 youth
- Media availability (Minister)
- Event concludes

**Communications Material:**

- News Release (with link to full list of recipients online)
- Tweets (for Minister)
- Q&As
- Speaking Notes for Minister
- Emcee Notes
- Issues Note for Minister re. how applications were vetted, scored and funded or declined
- Key Messages (one page of top messages, as supplied earlier for MLAs' use)
- Videographer (confirmed)
- Photographs to be taken by GCPE staff and M.A. – both video and photos on web site, video on send-to-news
- Audio tape to be sent to Karen Murry at GCPE, who will share with ethnic media

April 3, 2012

Ministry of Justice

MEDIA ADVISORY

RICHMOND – Justice Minister and Attorney General Shirley Bond will announce which groups and organizations are getting funding from a record \$5.5 million in civil forfeiture grants, with proceeds of crime being used to prevent gang involvement, violence against women and children, and other crime affecting B.C. communities.

ATTENTION PHOTO EDITORS: Bond will be joined by staff of a local gang-prevention program and a group of local youth to talk about gang influences and pressures facing young people.

Event Date: Wednesday, April 4, 2012

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location:

Touchstone Family Association – Richmond Office  
#120 - 6411 Buswell St.  
Richmond

Contact:

Government Communications and Public Engagement  
Ministry of Justice  
250 356-6961

***Speaking Points for***  
**Rob Howard**  
**MLA, Richmond Centre**

***Announcement of Civil Forfeiture Proceeds***  
***Grant to Touchstone Family Association***

*Wednesday, April 4, 2012*  
*Touchstone Family Assn. – Richmond Office*  
*#120-6411 Buswell St., Richmond*  
*1:30 p.m.*  
*(1:15 briefing meeting for stage party)*

*Check Against Delivery*

- Good afternoon, and thank you  
all for joining us today.
- My name is Rob Howard, and I  
have the honour of serving as  
the local MLA here in  
Richmond Centre.

- I'm joined today by the  
  
Honourable Shirley Bond,  
  
Justice Minister and Attorney  
  
General...
- Judy Valsonis, who is Director  
  
of Operations here at  
  
Touchstone Family  
  
Association...

- And Rick Dubras, Executive Director, Richmond Addiction Services.

- Ladies and gentlemen, B.C.'s civil forfeiture program has enjoyed growing success over the past six years.

- And today, that success is turning into support for important work in our community.
- Without further ado, I'll ask Minister Bond to outline today's good news.

*(Minister Bond speaks)*

- Thank you, Minister Bond.

- Civil forfeiture's success has brought us to today...
- And now, it's time to hear what this grant will mean to Touchstone's success.
- For that perspective, I'll ask Judy to say a few words.

*(Judy Valsonis speaks)*

- Thank you, Judy.



- Among the things the Province was looking for in awarding these grants was strong community partnerships.
- Among Touchstone's many key partners is Richmond Addiction Services.

- Now, I'll call on Rick Dubras to  
give us some insights into their  
partnership with Touchstone.

*(Rick Dubras speaks)*

- Thank you, Rick.

- Touchstone and the young people with us today have kindly agreed to give us a sense of the session work that Street Smarts entails.

- For this portion, I'll turn the proceedings over to Chris Samulak, who is a program director with Touchstone.

*(Chris Samulak leads a 10-minute discussion with assembled youth and Minister Bond.)*

- Ladies and gentlemen, that concludes the formal portion of today's event.
- The podium guests will stay on and be available to take your questions.

- Again, thank you for joining us today.

-END-

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2012JAG0038-000412  
April 4, 2012

Ministry of Justice

### **\$5.5 million helps local safety efforts go like gangbusters**

RICHMOND – A total of 185 community groups, local governments and policing agencies are sharing \$5.5 million to help reduce youth involvement in gangs, prevent violence against women and children, and further crime prevention, thanks to a record year of civil forfeiture proceeds.

Justice Minister and Attorney General Shirley Bond made the announcement at Touchstone Family Association in Richmond, which received \$210,000 to continue its prevention work with young people who may be at risk of joining a gang.

In addition to anti-gang programs, the projects receiving funds will:

- Raise awareness of the dangers of the drug Ecstasy.
- Prevent violence against women and children, including those in abusive relationships and vulnerable women.
- Build awareness about domestic violence among school-aged children.
- Counter human trafficking and sexual exploitation.
- Support restorative justice training throughout B.C.
- Fund police training and equipment that will aid local crime prevention efforts.

Touchstone's Street Smarts Project serves youth referred by probation officers, school counsellors, and past participants who themselves are now session leaders. Twelve-week group sessions and one-on-one mentorship focus on life skills, personal goals and barriers youth face in seeking jobs, academic success, and peers and friends who are not criminally involved.

Street Smarts has operated on a session-by-session basis, as funding has permitted, over the past two years. Lacking funding to develop and plan future sessions in advance and develop posters and other outreach materials has limited facilitators' ability to recruit and help local youth. Touchstone believes its grant from civil forfeiture proceeds will sustain the project for up to three years, allowing staff to focus their energies on serving up to 60 youth this year and offering summer programming for the first time.

The Province is funding a wide range of groups that include school districts, non-profit societies and community and police agencies.

Some examples:

- Half a dozen Vancouver organizations are sharing more than \$300,000 to provide personal safety training, violence outreach support, education about sexual predators, self-defence classes and other supports to vulnerable women on the Downtown Eastside.
- Operation X is an Abbotsford Police Department and School District 34 education program aimed at preventing Ecstasy use by local youth. This project – which will target grades 9 through 12 with classroom presentations, a youth helpline, posters and a compelling video featuring interviews with affected local families – received \$24,500.
- Blueberry River Against Gangs, in Buick Creek north of Fort St. John, received \$100,000 to provide Aboriginal youth at high risk of gang activity with individual and family counselling, recreational and arts activities, gang prevention presentations and cultural programming.
- The Step In/Step Up program, receiving nearly \$175,000, will see Prince George RCMP work closely with School District 57 and other partners. Together, they will deliver a dynamic gang prevention program engaging youth through social media, a video contest, a youth-led planning council and a summit, building awareness about gang violence, and a forum focused more narrowly on youth involved in, or at high risk of, gang activity.
- The Okanagan Boys and Girls Club in Kelowna received \$206,100 to empower youth by building their pre-employment, job and life skills, and by delivering training and support.
- Kootenay Boundary Community Services Cooperative, which received \$25,000, will break new ground by developing and testing a regional child advocacy centre, engaging multiple, local partners to address the unique needs of child victims of physical and sexual abuse in a rural setting.

This is the largest grant program that has been offered and was possible due to exceptional growth in the proceeds generated through B.C.'s six-year-old civil forfeiture program during 2011-12. The grant process began with a call for applications in February.

Ministry staff assessed all proposals using established grant criteria, including whether the project responded to an identified crime prevention issue, whether the budget was reasonable, the involvement of other justice partners, and how the project's success could be evaluated. An independent oversight team reviewed the successful proposals to ensure the process was accountable and consistent.

The full list of grant recipients is at: [www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/crimeprevention/grants/index.htm](http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/crimeprevention/grants/index.htm)

## Quotes:

### Minister of Justice and Attorney General Shirley Bond –

"The Touchstone Family Association is a good example of how this grant program supports community partners that are tackling key issues like anti-gang strategies and preventing domestic violence and sexual exploitation.

“Our successful civil forfeiture program ensures that crime doesn’t pay in British Columbia. The record proceeds have allowed almost 200 organizations and communities to benefit and use innovative public safety initiatives to focus on prevention, education and action. It is very encouraging to see the dedication and hard work being done right across the province.”

**Judy Valsonis, director of operations, Touchstone Family Association –**

“This funding will bring new stability and energy to our work. It means being able to plan ahead, let youth know in advance that we’ll be running sessions throughout the year, and we can strengthen the program and materials we use. More importantly, it will assist in building a healthy community for everyone.”

“With a grant of this size, we can also turn our attention to the project and away from filling in every grant application. It now will allow us to realize our primary focus of reaching more youth.”

**Richmond Centre MLA Rob Howard –**

“Most of what civil forfeiture takes away has links to drugs and gang and organized crime. So it’s very fitting that this large grant to Touchstone – and others like it – are helping families and communities to reach out to their young people, get involved in their lives in meaningful ways and help to steer and support them toward positive goals and outcomes in their lives.

**Quick Facts:**

- B.C.’s Civil Forfeiture Office (CFO) has just finished its most successful year to date, with \$10.8 million in proceeds forfeited.
- Beyond funding the CFO itself, the Province was able to dedicate \$6.1 million of the proceeds to support local crime prevention efforts throughout B.C. during 2011-12. This total includes \$600,000 distributed last fall and \$5.5 million just allocated at the end of the year.
- All civil forfeiture grant funds for the year have been paid out.
- The Province anticipates issuing further calls for grant applications in 2012-13, depending on the value of forfeitures amassed this year.
- Active since April 2006, the CFO counters the profit motive that is behind much unlawful activity. The office files civil court actions against property that is alleged to be a tool used to further unlawful activity or a proceed of it.

Contact: Government Communications and Public Engagement  
Ministry of Justice  
250 356-6961



Connect with the Province of B.C. at: [www.gov.bc.ca/connect](http://www.gov.bc.ca/connect)

**Ministry of Justice and Attorney General**  
**Civil Forfeiture Grant to Touchstone Family Assn's Street Smarts Project, Richmond**  
**Q&As – March 4 - FINAL**

**Q. What are you announcing today?**

- Today's announcement flows from the record proceeds of our civil forfeiture program in 2011-12.
- That success has allowed us to distribute \$5.5 million in one-time grants to 112 organizations that will further public safety in three key areas –
  - preventing youth involvement in gangs,
  - stopping violence against an array of vulnerable women and children, and
  - furthering other crime prevention priorities in our communities
- Among the major year-end grants is \$210,000 to Touchstone Family Association for its Street Smarts project follows a qualifying application in the category of preventing youth gang involvement and activity.

**Q. Why is your focus on fighting gang involvement and violence against women and children?**

- B.C.'s crime rate is at its lowest level in decades – but some significant crime issues continue to require strong, local partnerships and counter-measures.
- The dangers are clear for youth facing gang pressures and influences, as well as for women and children – whether it's violence in the home, or the risks posed to women on the Downtown Eastside.
- We believe we've prioritized this grant funding well. The volume and quality of applications we received suggest communities across B.C. see the need for this kind of targeted funding.

**Q. How many applications did you receive? What was their total value?**

- The Ministry received 348 applications totalling approximately \$14 million.

**Q. How many were approved? What is their total value?**

- In all, 112 community agencies will be receiving grants. Adding in 73 police agencies receiving grants for training and equipment, we are delivering 185 grants adding up to \$5.5 million.

**Q. What criteria were used to decide funding?**

- The process began with a well-publicized call for applications in February. That led to nearly 350 applications worth a total of \$14 million – which is two and a half times the amount we had available for grants (\$5.5 million).
- Ministry staff assessed all of the proposals using established grant criteria, just as they have with previous rounds of applications. Those criteria included:
  - whether the project responded to an identified crime prevention issue,
  - whether the budget was reasonable,
  - the involvement of other justice partners, and
  - how the project's success could be evaluated down the road.
- Once the review team had scored the applications against the criteria, an oversight team reviewed the successful proposals to ensure the process was accountable and consistent.
- To be clear, ministry staff set the criteria for the grants and handled all scoring and oversight in the approval process.
- I believe the process followed to assess and approve applications will result in quality, community-led work to further public safety – just as that process has in the past.

**Q. How does the funding break down according to regions?**

The regional breakdown is as follows:

- **North - \$208,485** (Communities: Buick Creek, Massett, Kitimat, Fort St. John, Terrace, Queen Charlotte, Prince Rupert, Dawson Creek; Projects: Blueberry River Against Gangs (BRAG); Dakdakdiyaa Child Advocacy Centre; Kitimat making a difference for children; VIP in 7 communities; 4 police training and equipment projects)
- **Central Interior - \$1,050,998 (Note: Prince George is \$543,889 out of \$5.5 million)** (Communities: Prince George, Williams Lake, McBride, Bella Coola, 100 Mile House, Burns Lake, Fort St. James, Fort St. John, MacKenzie, Vanderhoof; Projects: Walk Tall Burns Lake, Step In/Step Up; Focus on Our Future; Creating Connections and Sense of Belonging; Awareness of Human Trafficking in Prince George; Human Trafficking Training; Highway of Tears- Prevention and Awareness; Human Trafficking- Aboriginal Teacher Training; Highest Risk DV; VIP; Prince George Victim Service Program Training; 10 police training and equipment projects)
- **Southern Interior - \$532,498** (Communities: Kelowna, Kamloops, Penticton, Vernon, Nelson, Salmon Arm, Canal Flats, Sparwood, Invermere, Castlegar, Salmo, Creston, Cranbrook, Golden, Kelowna, Keremeos, Kimberley, Oliver, Osoyoos, Princeton, Slocan; Projects: Street Wolf Gang Prevention, Ecstasy: Nothings Free, North Okanagan

Child Abuse Response Services, Development of a Rural CAC, Violence is Preventable, Highest Risk DV; 15 police and training equipment projects)

- **Vancouver Island and Islands - \$465,200** (Communities: Victoria, Duncan, Courtney/Comox & surrounding, Nanaimo, Ladysmith, Cowichan region, Salt Spring Island, Parksville, Greater Victoria, Southern Vancouver Islands, Shawnigan Lake, Saanich; Projects: Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs, Youth Gang Intervention and Mentorship Initiative (YGIMI); Safe Youth Advocacy and Support Project; Stopping the Cycle; ORCA Children's Advocacy Centre; VIP in 5 communities; She has a Name- a Human Trafficking Play; 9 police training and equipment projects)
- **Vancouver - \$1,020,899** (Projects: Career Path; Engaging Youth for Safer Communities (EYSC); A Youth Gang Prevention Initiative; Redirecting Youth Through Empowerment (RYTE); TALKing Safety Seriously; Human Trafficking Foreign Workers; Education and Awareness- Stopping the Demand; Human Trafficking Outreach; Violence Outreach Project (VOP) at YWCA Crabtree Corner; P.O.P. - PACE Outreach Project; Community Mapping for Women, Women's Safety and Violence Against Women Forum; Sister Watch; Downtown Eastside Vancouver Community-based Women Assault/Sexual Assault Program; SAFE-HER: Skills and Safety for Women in the Downtown Eastside; 3 police training and equipment projects)
- **Rest of Lower Mainland - \$1,554,476** (Communities: Surrey, Richmond, Abbotsford, Burnaby, Maple Ridge, New West, Hope/Agassiz, Langley, Aldergrove, North Vancouver, West Vancouver, White Rock, Delta, Mission, Chilliwack, New Westminster, Coquitlam; Projects: Diverse Youth Gang Prevention and Intervention Continuum Program; Street Smarts Project; South Asian Resources Office; Reaching Out to Gang Involved Youth; E-Rased-Ecstasy and its Impact on Youth; BE REEL; Ridge Meadows Child Advocacy Centre Pilot Project; Burnaby Child Interview Room; Sophie's Place Children's Advocacy Centre; Working Together for Child and Youth Safety; 12 police training and equipment projects)

**There were also a number of provincewide projects that received a total of \$667,444** (Projects: Odd Squad; BCSTH – VIP; Restorative Justice Training; Children of the Street Society; Human Trafficking Computer Game; 7 police training and equipment projects – incl. con air, JIBC).

**Q. Why did northern communities get so much, while the Okanagan received less?**

- Some regions submitted a greater number of qualifying applications than others.
- Ministry staff assessed all of the proposals using established grant criteria, just as they have with previous rounds of applications.
- Those criteria included whether the project responded to an identified crime prevention issue, whether the budget was reasonable, the involvement of other justice partners, and how the project's success could be evaluated down the road.

S13

**Q. What about police? Are they in the same category as the others – judged by same criteria?**

- Police agencies seeking funding for training or equipment had to apply, just like other groups.
- Applications were scored on the strength of their crime prevention elements and the impact they would have on the greater community.

- More than 150 proposals worth in excess of \$3 million were received from detachments and departments across the province – more than four times the amount of available funding for their category of grants.
- But let's be clear: police agencies cannot be and are not rewarded for making referrals to civil forfeiture. Whether or not a police agency has made referrals to the civil forfeiture program has no bearing on how their application is scored.

**Q. What about the nearly \$750,000 going into 73 training and equipment grants for police? How does that meet the intent of this funding?**

- Police agencies play a leading role in crime prevention, which is a specific goal of the civil forfeiture special account. Police agencies have always been among the groups eligible to apply for civil forfeiture grants, along with community groups and local governments.
- This is not the first time police agencies have received funding from civil forfeiture proceeds. It is, however, an unprecedented opportunity for them – as well as for groups sharing the other \$4.75 million.

**Q. Did groups in government ridings get more money than groups in opposition ridings?**

- Ministry staff set the criteria for the grants and handled all scoring and oversight in the approval process. Applications were not scored or tracked on a constituency basis.
- Grants did go to groups in constituencies across British Columbia, and in many cases, a single grant is benefiting residents in both government and opposition constituencies.
- As well, more than \$660,000 in grants to provincial groups will have benefits across B.C.

**Q. By-elections were just announced in Chilliwack and Port Moody - did that influence decision-making in favour of grants in those constituencies?**

- Ministry staff set the criteria for the grants and handled all scoring and oversight in the approval process. Applications were not scored or tracked on the basis of constituency.
- A total of \$5,000 went to one group in Chilliwack, and \$5,000 went to one Tri-Cities organization.

**Q. Why wasn't it a priority to make grants available for broader justice reform priorities, such as funding more sheriffs or legal aid?**

- We are limited by law in what we can fund from civil forfeiture proceeds. Under the terms of the special account, the self-funding program can provide surplus proceeds to support crime prevention and remediation efforts.
- This approach recognizes the role communities and their police agencies play in the success of the program, giving back to further public safety at the community level.

- Matters that require ongoing funding, such as structural aspects of the justice system, receive appropriate consideration and funding through the annual provincial budget process.

**Q. Civil forfeiture keeps bringing more money in every year. Why not provide programs with stable, multi-year funding from civil forfeiture proceeds?**

- Civil forfeiture proceeds have been growing, but many factors in the program's success are beyond the Province's control. The program depends on quality case referrals from police agencies – and all contested cases depend on a forfeiture order by a Supreme Court judge.
- Since there is no certainty about how much may accumulate in a given year, we cannot commit forfeiture proceeds on a multi-year basis.

**Q. What's behind the huge growth in the value of forfeitures over the last year?**

- It's really a combination of factors. Over the past six years, police agencies have become familiar with the process and the strength of its success. So, they are referring more cases, and the quality of their referrals – which civil forfeiture cases depend on – keeps improving with our shared experience.
- It's also a reflection of how we've respected and responded to the direction of the court, improving and expanding the scope of our legislation. Notably, in 2008, we expanded the law to allow for the forfeiture of vehicles used in ways that were likely to cause death or serious injury.
- More recently, we introduced a streamlined process for low-value, uncontested cases, known as administrative forfeiture. That process has made it financially viable to pursue, for example, low-value vehicles and small amounts of money seized from street-level drug dealers. This expansion supports the program's core goal of deterring and interrupting unlawful activity by taking away the tools and proceeds of it.

**Q. Is forfeiture growing because police see it working better than the criminal system? Are police simply giving up on the court system, with the lack of charge approval in many cases, and other cases being thrown out by judges due to unconstitutional delays?**

- It's important to realize that without criminal investigations, there would be no civil forfeiture program. By law, police cannot pursue an investigation with the sole aim of civil forfeiture. It is a supplementary tool to strengthen public safety – not a substitute for the criminal process.
- Only when a criminal investigation has run its course is there a possibility that a police agency will refer a file to the Civil Forfeiture Office. The office – not the police agency – makes the call on whether or not to pursue a particular case. Even then, in any forfeiture case that's disputed, only the BC Supreme Court may grant a forfeiture order.

**Q. Just how much has forfeiture taken in and given back since 2006?**

- Civil forfeiture proceeds overall total about \$23.5 million. By the end of this fiscal year, we'll have awarded \$8.5 million in grants from the civil forfeiture special account.

**Q. Where has all the \$23.5 million gone?**

- It's important to keep in mind that most of the proceeds (more than \$15 million) has come in over the past two years. Of about \$23.5 million forfeited to date, \$11 million has gone to run the program – most of that to cover litigation costs. When you include the \$5.5 million in year-end grants, a total of \$8.5 million since the program's inception has gone to grants, as well as to victim compensation – for example, direct compensation of fraud victims.
- The remainder, about \$3.5 million, is prior-year revenue that has been retained essentially as a rainy day fund – keeping in mind that this account ultimately sustains the self-funding civil forfeiture program.

S13, S12

**Q. The \$6.1 million in total for grants was just over half of what forfeiture took in during 2011-12. Shouldn't groups be getting more? Where is the rest of the money going?**

- The program is self-funding, and it concluded a record number of cases last year, so its costs went up. As well, the program also has about 200 ongoing files right now, so it must keep enough funding on hand to see those cases through to completion. That said, if proceeds keep growing, we do anticipate returning more to crime prevention and remediation efforts.

Notably, projects funded earlier in 2011-12 though civil forfeiture proceeds included:

- The introduction of violence-prevention curriculum at six Lower Mainland schools.
- Six projects focused on preventing domestic violence and on services for victims of domestic violence.
- A one-day workshop in Campbell River for North Island service providers focused on the issue of sexual exploitation.
- Support for a rediscovery program in Prince Rupert that teaches Haida culture in the context of crime and violence prevention.
- An awareness-raising campaign delivering an anti-gang message in Kelowna.

**Q. Forfeiture proceeds are growing at a phenomenal rate. How does the government decide what will be sold for civil forfeiture?**

- The Civil Forfeiture Office has no say in what police investigate or seize. It can only pursue files that police refer to the office after their criminal investigations. In any



forfeiture case that's disputed, the full civil forfeiture process applies – and only the BC Supreme Court may grant a forfeiture order.

- The Province cannot and does not take property through forfeiture without following due process under the law.

### **Grant Process**

#### **Q: What kinds of programs were eligible?**

- We focused this funding availability on three priorities: anti-gang activity, violence against women and children programs and general crime prevention.

#### **Q. Which groups could apply to share in the proceeds available?**

- Community groups, policing organizations and local governments could apply. The application process details and deadline were available on the ministry's website following the Feb. 9 announcement of the available funding.

#### **Q. Do these grants flow from a call for proposals?**

- In fact, these grants follow three open calls during fiscal 2011-12, related to civil forfeiture proceeds. In addition to the February call, we issued two calls earlier, for \$500,000 through the Crime Remediation and Crime Prevention Grant Program and \$100,000 through the Domestic Violence Prevention Response Fund. We anticipate issuing another call in 2012-13.

#### **Q. How do 2011-12 grants from civil forfeiture stack up against those in 2010-11?**

- The \$6.1 million in grants paid out during 2011-12 is unprecedented. In 2010-11, grants from civil forfeiture proceeds totalled \$478,000.

#### **Q. You're saying civil forfeiture proceeds doubled year over year. If you gave back \$6.1 million in 2011-12, why didn't you give back around \$3 million the year before?**

- B.C.'s civil forfeiture program is more than five years old, and its success has depended on a number of factors beyond government's control. This includes the number and quality of files referred by police agencies, and the support of the courts, which approve all forfeiture orders in contested cases.
- To ensure the viability of the self-funding program, we have managed the proceeds carefully. Those proceeds have covered the administration of the program to date, and secured its future. This has enabled us to award more grants, in accordance with the terms of the civil forfeiture special account.

**Q. The Premier's platform said: "government will remove the restrictions preventing the Civil Forfeiture Office from making grants to communities, municipalities and police agencies." Have you removed them, or were these large grants a one-time opportunity?**

- In fact, police, municipalities and communities are eligible for funding, have received grants in the past and are among those considered for the grants we will announce in the coming weeks.
- In 2011-12, we freed up unprecedented forfeiture proceeds to fund priority crime prevention efforts in B.C. communities. Still, we have more work to do in terms of formally removing restrictions on expenditures from the special account.

**Q. Do you expect to grant even more in 2012-13?**

We can't predict what civil forfeiture recoveries may be going forward. They depend on factors beyond government's control, including the quality and number of files that police agencies refer, and how the court rules in contested cases.

**Q. Why are funds forfeited from a particular community not reinvested back into that same community (i.e., as Mayor Watts has asked previously)?**

The idea of having communities receive back what their respective police forces have referred to the CFO creates two significant problems:

- It improperly positions the program as a guaranteed income stream for a municipality, similar to a tax. In turn, this could result in inappropriate pressure on police to focus on civil forfeiture rather than criminal forfeiture. This would be contrary to the Act and Supreme Court rulings.
- It ignores the fact that small communities also suffer – for example, from drugs, youth gangs, and sexual exploitation of children and youth – even though the assets of the related criminal enterprises are located almost exclusively in major urban centres, where organized criminals typically reside.

**Q. Are you providing funding in a way that rewards police agencies and communities equitably for making referrals to civil forfeiture?**

There is no link between the value of referrals from a particular police agency and the funding that goes back to that agency's jurisdiction. Police understand this. The incentive for them in referring criminal case files for consideration is to use civil forfeiture as one more tool to deter crime and make their communities safer.

If we linked successful referrals to grants, that could undermine the spirit of our law and the court's support for it. Our law states very clearly that police cannot pursue a case with civil forfeiture as the goal – criminal charges must be the primary concern, and civil forfeiture is a separate, secondary consideration.

**Q. Have you taken steps to evaluate any programs civil forfeiture has funded to date?**

In the past, civil forfeiture grant recipients were asked to provide a final summary of their project. With this latest round of funding, we have asked all grant recipients to provide an evaluation plan, and we will be following up to ensure that it is completed. The evaluation plans will vary with the nature and length of individual projects.

## Event Information / Speaking Note – Draft

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**Event:** Announcement of \$210,000 grant from civil forfeiture proceeds to Touchstone Family Association, Richmond

**When:** Wednesday, April 4, 2012 – 1:30 p.m.

**Where:** Touchstone Family Assn. – Richmond Office  
#120-6411 Buswell St.  
Richmond

**Contact:** **Deb Brendeland**  
**GCPE Events**  
**Cell. 250 213-3272**

**Length:** 4-5 minutes

**Key Participants:**

- Minister Bond
- Richmond Centre MLA Rob Howard (Emcee)
- Judy Valsonis, Director of Operations, Touchstone Family Assn.
- Chris Samulak, Program Director, Touchstone Family Assn.
- Rick Dubras, Executive Director, Richmond Addiction Services
- Up to 6 local youth (participating in discussion session portion of event)

**Other Attendees:** TBC – Touchstone staff and partners, ministry staff.

**Audience Size:** 20-25 (including media)

**Audience – what do they want to hear:** How this grant came about, what it and other grants will do across B.C., and thanks to the various community partners who are adding value to the \$5.5 million by using their knowledge, connections and ideas to make the most of it, in terms of furthering public safety.

[itinerary table to be inserted]

Speaking Notes  
for the  
Hon. Shirley Bond  
Justice Minister  
and Attorney General  
MLA for Prince George-Valemount

Grant to Touchstone Family Assn.  
from civil forfeiture proceeds  
Touchstone Family Association – Richmond Office  
#120-6411 Buswell St., Richmond

Wednesday, April 4, 2012  
1:30 p.m.

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

### **PEOPLE TO RECOGNIZE:**

- Judy Valsonis, Director of Operations, Touchstone Family Association
- Chris Samulak, Program Director, Touchstone Family Association (and Street Smarts)
- Rick Dubras, Executive Director, Richmond Addiction Services

### **TRADITIONAL TERRITORY:**

- Acknowledge the traditional territory of the Coast Salish.

### **KEY MESSAGES:**

- Civil forfeiture is a crime-fighting tool that keeps on giving.
- Beyond its deterrent value, it provides proceeds we can put back into top-priority crime prevention efforts.
- Today's announcement is a small part of \$5.5 million in year-end grants now working to reduce youth involvement in gangs, prevent violence against women and children, and prevent crime in general.
- We owe much of our success to the support of police and their referrals to the program.

## INTRODUCTION

- Thank you all for joining us this morning.
- Thanks in particular to our guests, and to Touchstone for hosting us.
- Today is about a modern twist on the familiar tale of Robin Hood.
- It's a story that's been playing out for six years in British Columbia, since our civil forfeiture program began.

## HOW CIVIL FORFEITURE WORKS

- With referrals from police, court action by government lawyers, and orders from the courts...
- We've been depriving gangsters, organized criminals, fraudsters and others of the motive they value most:
- Profit!

- We've been doing it through civil court actions, with more than 400 concluded to date.
- And we target the profit motive in two important ways.
- First, we pursue instruments used to further unlawful activity.
- It may be a house with a large grow-op in a hidden crawl-space bunker.
- It may be a run-down crack shack, where police have had to attend once a day for months or even years...
- A blight that has the whole neighbourhood fearing for their safety.
- It may be a gangster's life-size Hot Wheels car...
- One in which police have found a hidden compartment concealing a loaded handgun or a large quantity of street drugs.



- Secondly, we pursue the fruits of criminal labour.
- Often, it's a large quantity of cash associated with a grow home or a drug bust.
- Sometimes, it's a mortgage paid by defrauding investors.
- But robbing gangsters, organized criminals, fraudsters and others of their profit motive has always been just part of the story.

## **PUTTING PROCEEDS TO WORK**

- When we first set up our civil forfeiture program, we said it would be self-funding.
- But we also made it very clear, in our law, that when the program was on solid ground, surplus proceeds would flow back into communities, to make them even safer.

- Specifically, our law supports local crime prevention and remediation efforts.
- And the program's unprecedented success this year has allowed us to do so dramatically.
- **Today, I'm very pleased to announce that Touchstone Family Association is receiving the maximum grant available to a local organization –**
- **\$210,000 to further its important work here in Richmond.**
- In many ways, Touchstone's Street Smarts Project exemplifies what we looked for in deciding where grants should go.
- It will address a clear need...
- Integrating and building on existing programs serving at-risk youth, but with a focus on those with criminal involvement and at greatest risk.
- It represents a partnership.

- It will bring together Touchstone, Richmond RCMP and Richmond School District, to deliver an integrated, wraparound approach.
- And the Street Smarts Project will succeed in part because of its individualized approach.
- It will include mentorship and outreach support on an intensive, one-to-one basis.
- I'll defer to Judy to explain further what this grant means to Touchstone and the vulnerable youth that Street Smarts will serve.

## **PARTNERS IN SUCCESS**

- But I want to take a moment now to thank Touchstone – and the dozens upon dozens of community groups, police agencies and local governments that are receiving grants.
- All are working to address important public safety priorities in their communities...

- Whether it's keeping young people out of gangs or away from deadly ecstasy...
- Ensuring the safety of vulnerable women and children...
- Or other clear and present crime-prevention needs.
- The insights and ideas of these groups, and their community connections and partnerships, will add so much value to the \$5.5 million that we're providing from civil forfeiture proceeds.
- And I want to thank, as well, the many organizations who shared ideas that we could not fund in this round of grants.
- The fact is, we received applications worth two and a half times what we had available – nearly 350 applications in all.

## CONCLUSION

- That speaks to incredible community commitment.
- It speaks to vigilance, even as British Columbians enjoy the lowest crime rate our province has seen in decades.
- It's in that environment that engaging local organizations and partners becomes even more important – to target and tackle the remaining “hot spots” in our criminal landscape.
- So, thank you to our police agencies for making the most of civil forfeiture as a public safety tool...
- And thanks as well to Touchstone and many, many others helping us make civil forfeiture proceeds go further.
- Working together, I believe the best is yet to come for the safety of our communities and families, in every corner of British Columbia.

- Thank you very much.

-30-

## Guest List Template for

First Name	Last Name	Title	Organization	Email	Fax
Chris	Samulak	Project Direct	Touchstone Family As	<a href="mailto:Csamulak@touchstonefamily.org">Csamulak@touchstonefamily.org</a>	604.222.0228
Judy	Valsonis	Director of OJ	Touchstone Family As	<a href="mailto:Jvalsonis@touchstonefamily.org">Jvalsonis@touchstonefamily.org</a>	604.222.0228
Rick	Dubras	Executive Dir	Richmond Addiction Services		
			Civil Forfeiture Office		
	S15, S19		Civil Forfeiture Office		S15, S19

Phone	Source
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604.279.5595	JAG Victim Services
604.207-5040	JAG Victim Services Touchstone

S15, S19



## CIVIL FORFEITURE EVENT

Location: Touchstone Family Association  
120 – 6411 Buswell Street  
Richmond, B.C.

**Date: Wednesday, April 4, 2012**

**Time: 1:30 p.m.**

Time	Event Itinerary
1:15 am Pre-brief	Pre-brief with stage guests & Deb Brendeland Location: Meeting room on 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister Shirley Bond</li> <li>Rob Howard, MLA (Emcee)</li> <li>Judy Valsonis, Director of Operations, Touchstone Family Assn</li> <li>Rick Dubras, Executive Director, Richmond Addition Services</li> </ul>
1:30 pm	MC Howard welcomes guests and introduces Minister Bond
1:32 pm	Minister Bond gives remarks
1:37 pm	MC Howard thanks Minister Bond and introduces Judy Valsonis.
1:38 pm	Judy Valsonis gives remarks
1:41 pm	MC Howard thanks Judy Valsonis and introduces Rick Dubras
1:42 pm	Rick Dubras gives remarks
1:45 pm	MC Howard thanks Rick Dubras and invites Minister Bond to join youth at table for conversation. PHOTO-OP
1:55 pm	Media availability.
2:10 pm	Event concludes

MLAs in attendance:  
Linda Reid  
TBC John Yap

**EVENT COORDINATOR – DEB BRENDELAND**  
**CELL: 250-213-3272**

**Ministry of Justice**  
**Civil Forfeiture Proceeds (\$1 Million) - Grant Recipients**  
**Key Messages**

- Our civil forfeiture program has had great success in taking the profit motive out of unlawful activity – and this latest, \$1-million share of the proceeds continues the legacy of giving back in ways that make our communities and families safer and stronger.
- In a province that's enjoying its lowest crime rate in decades, it's vital that we engage communities in addressing outstanding public safety issues – and our civil forfeiture grants are really responsive in that way, providing new support to combat bullying.
- We want to commend the schools and community groups and leaders who've risen to the offer we made last November of new grants specifically to support local responses to bullying. The number and quality of applications we received was unprecedented, and we believe the funded projects will make a real difference for young people in communities throughout B.C.

Feb. 26, 2012

Office of the Premier  
Ministry of Justice

#### MEDIA ADVISORY

VANCOUVER – Premier Christy Clark will mark Bullying Awareness Day, also known as Pink Shirt Day, by announcing significant funding for a number of anti-bullying programs in communities across British Columbia.

ATTENTION PHOTO EDITORS: Premier Clark and Point Grey High School students will be wearing pink shirts and highlighting the school's efforts to eliminate bullying and build an inclusive community.

Event Date: Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2012

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location:  
Point Grey Secondary School - Gymnasium  
5350 E. Boulevard  
Vancouver

Contact:

Mike Morton  
Press Secretary  
Office of the Premier  
250 588-8380

Government Communications and Public Engagement  
Ministry of Justice  
250 356-6961

**CIVIL FORFEITURE GRANTS AND ERASE BULLYING PSA**  
**MLA KEY MESSAGES**  
**February 27, 2013**

**Civil Forfeiture and Grants**

- A total of 81 projects are benefiting from the latest round of grants from civil forfeiture proceeds, worth nearly \$1 million.
- The projects are related to combating bullying, youth crime, violence against women and family violence, human trafficking and sexual exploitation, and community crime, as well as for police training and equipment.
- Notably, in this round, government included a new funding stream for projects addressing bullying. In the previous round of grants, at the end of fiscal 2011/12, government provided one-time grants for projects promoting awareness of the dangers of the drug Ecstasy.
- On Feb. 27, Premier Christy Clark marked Bullying Awareness Day – also known as Pink Shirt Day – by announcing grants to school-led anti-bullying efforts across B.C.
- This is the first time grants from civil forfeiture proceeds have gone to support anti-bullying efforts. In all, 16 school-led anti-bullying efforts are sharing about \$200,000 of the \$1 million in grants government is providing at this time.
- The balance of the grants will be announced in the weeks ahead.
- In November 2012, government announced that up to \$1 million would be available from civil forfeiture proceeds for projects geared to building community safety, and invited applications from schools, community groups and policing agencies.
- B.C.'s civil forfeiture program has had great success in taking the profit motive out of unlawful activity – and this latest, \$1-million share of the proceeds continues the legacy of giving back in ways that make communities and families safer and stronger.
- In addition to civil forfeiture grants, government provides more than \$375,000 in direct funding for crime prevention programs each year.
- In a province that's enjoying its lowest crime rate in decades, it's vital to engage communities in addressing outstanding public safety issues – and our civil forfeiture grants are really responsive in that way.
- The number and quality of applications received in response to the latest call for them, issued in November 2012, was unprecedented.
- Active since April 2006, B.C.'s Civil Forfeiture Office counters the profit motive behind much unlawful activity. The office files civil court actions against property alleged to be a tool used to further unlawful activity or a proceed of it.
- B.C.'s civil forfeiture program is Canada's second-oldest among eight programs that are now active.
- B.C.'s program has returned more than \$9 million from successful forfeiture actions to crime prevention programs and to victims of fraud and phony investment schemes.

## **ERASE Bullying Strategy**

- Student safety is a top priority for this government. Every child at school deserves to feel safe and respected.
- Bullying has no place in our schools and parents deserve to know their children are safe in school. We are all aware there is a strong connection between feelings of safety and belonging and student learning.
- In June 2012, Premier Christy Clark launched the ERASE Bullying Strategy – the most comprehensive province-wide anti-bullying and threat-assessment school strategy in Canada.
- Our ten-point strategy will help ensure every child feels safe, accepted and respected, regardless of their gender, race, culture, religion, or sexual orientation.
- There are now safe school coordinators in place in all 60 school districts, and B.C. is developing provincial threat assessment guidelines that will apply to all school districts.
- The guidelines are backed by most comprehensive training program in Canada, aimed at 15,000 school district staff, teachers, police and community partners over a five-year period.
- By the end of the 2012-13 school year, all school districts will have had training in fostering safe/caring school communities and violence threat risk assessment. Next year, the training will continue by offering the opposite level training for elementary and secondary schools than they received this year.
- The Ministry of Education has started discussions with post-secondary institutions about integrating anti-bullying and threat assessment training into their programs for teachers-in-training, but there is much more work to do on this component of our strategy and one we will be focusing on next year.
- Each school district is required to develop formal community protocols to guide and co-ordinate their work with community partners such as Ministry of Children and Family Development child-care workers, police, and mental-health professionals.
- According to national threat assessment expert Kevin Cameron, B.C. is a leader in Canada in implementing threat assessment guidelines and best practices.

**CIVIL FORFEITURE GRANTS AND ERASE BULLYING PSA  
MLA QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
February 27, 2013**

**Q. What are you announcing today?**

Today's announcement follows up on a commitment last November to provide up to \$1 million in support of a number of crime prevention activities, in the latest round of grants from civil forfeiture proceeds. In all, 81 grants are being provided, in support of:

- combating bullying,
- preventing youth involvement in crime,
- combating human trafficking and sexual exploitation,
- preventing family violence and violence against women,
- community crime prevention, and
- police training and equipment.

**Q. When will the rest of the nearly \$1 million in grants be announced?**

All recipients will be notified in the weeks ahead.

**Q. Why focus on bullying – don't these grants usually focus on preventing crime?**

Bullying can cause serious physical and emotional harm to young people. It's an issue our government is taking very seriously. Preventing bullying is only the latest high-profile community safety goal to receive timely support from civil forfeiture proceeds.

Last year, government responded to a spike in deaths linked to the use of Ecstasy, supporting five police- and community-led projects to help raise awareness among youth about the drug's dangers.

**Q. Why focus on fighting youth crime and violence against women and children?**

B.C.'s crime rate is at its lowest level in nearly four decades – but some significant crime issues continue to require strong, local partnerships and counter-measures. The categories were established through consideration of government's current strategic initiatives in crime prevention and crime remediation, data on the prevalence of various crime types, and consultations with stakeholders. It's clear from the volume of applications that there is a need for funding for these streams of projects.

**Q. Last year (2011-12), government gave out more than \$6 million in grants from civil forfeiture proceeds. Why so little this year?**

B.C.'s civil forfeiture program is self-funding. That means we have to manage the proceeds prudently, ensuring there's always enough funding to cover the legal and administrative costs of the program from year to year.

Certainly, the program has allowed us to award varying levels of grants – including an exceptional number last year. It's worth noting, though, that grants this year will be greater than or equivalent to those made in most of the program's nearly seven years of operation to date.

**Q. What criteria were used to decide which grants would get funding?**

The process began with a well-publicized call for applications in November. That led to 588 applications.

Ministry staff assessed all these proposals using established grant criteria, as they have in the past. Notably, though, ministry staff engaged program experts from other ministries to aid in the assessment process – for example, Ministry of Education staff with regard to anti-bullying applications. Once the review team had scored the applications against the criteria, an oversight team reviewed the successful proposals to ensure the process was accountable and consistent.

**Q. How much has civil forfeiture taken in and given back since 2006?**

Civil forfeiture is a self-funding program; proceeds overall total more than \$30 million. By the end of this fiscal year, we'll have awarded more than \$9 million in grants.

**Q. Can you sum up where government is at with the ERASE Bullying Strategy today?**

In June 2012 Premier Christy Clark announced ERASE Bullying, a comprehensive 10-point strategy that makes B.C. a leader in addressing and preventing bullying. Since then:

- Safe School Co-ordinators are in place in all 60 school districts.
- School boards must ensure one professional development day (Pro-D day) is focused on preventing bullying and cultivating safe and caring school communities.
- The ERASE Bullying Reporting Tool for youth to anonymously report bullying is now available in both English and French.
- Erasebullying.ca, a new website with tips and resources for parents and youth, is also up and running.
- Take U out of Bullying, an online forum for students to discuss bullying, is in development.
- Within the next few months, all 60 B.C. school districts will have completed the first year of the five-year, multi-level training for 15,000 educators and community partners to proactively identify and address threats.
- The Provincial Advisory Committee on Bullying and Violence Prevention (PACBVP) - with representatives from police, school and social agency partners – will be developing provincial threat assessment and formal information-sharing protocols.

**BRIEFING NOTE**

Announcement of Grant Recipients: Civil Forfeiture Proceeds (\$1 Million)

**BACKGROUND**

- This event has two purposes: to mark Bullying Awareness Day (Pink Shirt Day) Feb. 27, and to announce anti-bullying grants as part of almost \$1 million in the latest round of civil forfeiture grants.
- This event will highlight the new anti-bullying stream of forfeiture grants – a group of 16 organizations throughout B.C. will receive a total of approximately \$200,000 in forfeiture proceeds to combat bullying in their school environments.
- This event aligns with government's theme of Families First – in particular, Safe Communities, Strong Families – as it demonstrates how government is investing in and promoting safer schools and communities.
- Point Grey Secondary is one of those groups – they are receiving a \$15,000 grant for their Point Grey Cares project. Through it, school youth leaders will reach out to students at the fringe of their school community in a range of innovative and creative ways. By nurturing a culture of caring and inclusivity at Point Grey, this project will respond to, prevent and reduce the incidence of bullying within the student population.
- Point Grey Secondary School is a shining example of how government is taking the profit out of crime to create safer communities. Another \$1 million has been taken away from gangs, organized criminals and others who pursue unlawful activity in B.C. – and is being given back to 81 community groups.
- In all, more than \$998,000 will be dispersed to community groups throughout B.C. for a variety of projects targeting not only bullying, but also youth involvement in crime, human trafficking and sexual exploitation, family violence and violence against women, and community crime prevention.
- Pink Shirt Day activities at Point Grey Secondary are already planned and will neatly dovetail with this grant announcement: The school is holding an assembly with up to 500 students wearing pink shirts; students will then march in the local neighbourhood and come together on the school football field in a heart shape, as a sign of school unity, and have their photo taken.
- Enthusiastic and upbeat in tone, this event provides an opportunity to celebrate Bullying Awareness Day and encourage young people to take action in their schools to create a culture of caring so that no student suffers the horrendous effects of bullying.



## **DRAFT STRATEGIC AND CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO CABINET**

- The Feb. 27 announcement will only reveal details of the Point Grey Secondary grant and certain other anti-bullying grants to groups in Opposition ridings. This will allow caucus the opportunity to announce most of the balance of the 81 grants in their constituencies, through mid-March (TBC), before the Ministry of Justice releases the full list, in conjunction with a provincewide news release and a ministerial event in Prince George (details TBC).

### **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

#### **Q. What are you announcing today?**

Today's announcement follows up on our commitment last November to provide up to \$1 million in support of a number of crime prevention activities, in the latest round of grants from civil forfeiture proceeds.

In all, we are funding 81 grants in support of:

- combating bullying,
- preventing youth involvement in crime,
- combating human trafficking and sexual exploitation,
- preventing family violence and violence against women,
- community crime prevention, and
- police training and equipment.

#### **Q. Why focus on bullying – don't these grants usually focus on preventing crime?**

Bullying can cause serious physical and emotional harm to young people. It's an issue our government is taking very seriously. Preventing bullying is only the latest high-profile community safety goal to receive timely support from civil forfeiture proceeds. Last year, government responded to a spike in deaths linked to the use of Ecstasy, supporting five police- and community-led projects to help raise awareness among youth about the drug's dangers.

#### **Q. How many applications were received? What was their total value?**

The Ministry received 588 grant applications seeking a total of \$11.8 million. This is up significantly from the last round, when the Ministry received 348 applications totalling approximately \$14 million.

#### **Q. How many applications were approved? What is their total value?**

In all, 81 community agencies will be receiving grants with a total value of almost \$1 million.

**Q. Last year (2011-12), government gave out more than \$6 million in grants from civil forfeiture proceeds. Why so little this year?**

B.C.'s civil forfeiture program is self-funding. That means we have to manage the proceeds prudently, ensuring there's always enough funding to cover the legal and administrative costs of the program from year to year.

Certainly, the program has allowed us to award varying levels of grants – including an exceptional number last year. It's worth noting, though, that grants this year will be greater than or equivalent to those made in most of the program's nearly seven years of operation to date.

**Q. What criteria were used to decide which grants would get funding?**

The process began with a well-publicized call for applications in November. That led to 588 applications.

Ministry staff assessed all these proposals using established grant criteria, as they have in the past. Notably, though, ministry staff engaged program experts from other ministries to aid in the assessment process – for example, Ministry of Education staff with regard to anti-bullying applications.

Once the review team had scored the applications against the criteria, an oversight team reviewed the successful proposals to ensure the process was accountable and consistent.

**Q. Can you sum up where you're at with the ERASE Bullying Strategy today?**

In June 2012 Premier Christy Clark announced ERASE Bullying, a comprehensive 10-point strategy that makes B.C. a leader in addressing and preventing bullying. Since then:

- Safe School Co-ordinators are in place in all 60 school districts.
- School boards must ensure one professional development day (Pro-D day) is focused on preventing bullying and cultivating safe and caring school communities.
- The ERASE Bullying Reporting Tool for youth to anonymously report bullying is now available in both English and French.
- Erasebullying.ca, a new website with tips and resources for parents and youth, is also up and running.
- Take U out of Bullying, an online forum for students to discuss bullying, is in development.
- Within the next few months, all 60 B.C. school districts will have completed the first year of the five-year, multi-level training for 15,000 educators and community partners to proactively identify and address threats.

## **DRAFT STRATEGIC AND CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO CABINET**

- The Provincial Advisory Committee on Bullying and Violence Prevention (PACBVP) - with representatives from police, school and social agency partners – will be developing provincial threat assessment and formal information-sharing protocols.

### **Contact:**

*Jeff Groot*  
*Communications Director, JAG (Public Safety)*  
250 356-1196  
Cell. 250 920-9203

## Event Proposal

### MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

#### Event Title: Civil Forfeiture Proceeds - \$1 Million in Grants

<b>Date:</b> Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013 <b>Time:</b> 2:00 p.m.	<b>Media Market:</b> Provincewide
<b>Location:</b> Point Grey High School 5350 East Boulevard Vancouver, B.C.	<b>English Media Spokesperson:</b> Premier Christy Clark
	<b>Multicultural Media Spokesperson:</b> Premier Christy Clark
<b>Author/Ministry:</b> JAG (Public Safety)	

## THE EVENT

### PROACTIVE EVENT OR INVITATION

- GCPE-led proactive event

### EVENT

- Announcement of grants from civil forfeiture proceeds to school-led anti-bullying efforts.
- Other grants, details of which will be disclosed later, are going to community groups throughout B.C. to target youth crime, human trafficking and sexual exploitation, family violence and violence against women, and community crime prevention.
- This is part of government's commitment to safe communities and healthy, strong families.
- This event is a chance to highlight the new anti-bullying grant stream on 'Bullying Awareness Day' – a group of 16 organizations throughout B.C. will receive a total of approximately \$200,000 in forfeiture proceeds (out of a total of nearly \$1 million for all the grant streams) to combat bullying in their school environment.

- **Chosen option/venue:** Point Grey Secondary School, one of the grant recipients for their 'Point Grey Cares' project:

**Point Grey Cares:** Point Grey Secondary School will use a range of positive youth engagement approaches to help nurture a safe and positive school environment. The project will involve a group of Leader Youth outreaching to students who are at the fringe of school community in a range of innovative and creative ways. Components of the project include student trained and led workshops for other students, as well as positive school culture events that will take place over the course of the school year. By nurturing a culture of caring and inclusivity at Point Grey, this project will respond to, prevent, and reduce the incidence of bullying within the student population. The project will receive \$15,000.

### GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA FUNDING / PARTNER FUNDING (IF APPLICABLE):

- Government of B.C. funding: almost \$1 million of crime proceeds gathered by the Civil Forfeiture Office.

### WHO'S ORGANIZING?

- GCPE (Events and JAG)

### STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS

- The civil forfeiture grants program supports the Families First Agenda pillar, Safe Communities, Strong Families.
- Holding the announcement on Bullying Awareness Day, officially proclaimed in B.C. on Feb. 27, provides a strong link to the new stream of funding for anti-bullying programs.
- B.C.'s self-funding Civil Forfeiture Office (CFO) has taken in more than \$30 million since 2006, including more than \$10.8 million last year (2011/12).
- The office counters the profit motive behind much unlawful activity, filing civil court actions against property that is alleged to be a tool used to further unlawful activity or a proceed of it.
- In fiscal 2011/2012, an unprecedented total of \$6.2 million was distributed in community grants; with this latest grant of \$1 million, total grants will be in excess of \$9 million to date.
- The amount of proceeds in any given year will fluctuate because of the timing of seizures and factors that are outside of government control - such as case referrals from police and decisions by the courts.
- Civil liberties groups have expressed concerns about the Civil Forfeiture process and the rights of people whose property is forfeited. These concerns may be raised following an announcement of the recipients of the grant funds.
- Point Grey Secondary already had plans for an event on Bullying Awareness Day – a school assembly at 2:19 p.m. followed by a march in the local area with up to 500 students in pink shirts, and finally the students coming together on the school football field in a heart shape, as a sign of school unity, where they would have their photo taken.

#### **VENUE DESCRIPTION**

- Event to begin in Point Grey Secondary School's gymnasium with hundreds of students and staff in attendance. Students are already planning an event on this day involving the entire student population in pink shirts with hand-made posters with anti-bullying messages. Students are planning a march on the streets of Vancouver as part of their Bullying Awareness Day event.

#### **EVENT PARTICIPANTS (SPEAKERS)**

- Premier Christy Clark
- Irfan Sheikh, Principal, Point Grey Secondary school
- Student Leader, 'Point Grey Cares' program
- Others TBC

#### **KEY VALIDATORS & STAKEHOLDERS**

- Students and staff, Point Grey Secondary school
- Crime prevention leaders, law enforcement from local area (TBD)
- School district representatives (TBD)

#### **TARGET AUDIENCE**

- Media and public (particularly in the Lower Mainland).

### **VISUAL MESSAGE(S)**

#### **DESIRED PICTURE (STILL)**

- Premier Christy Clark congratulating student leader – surrounded by enthusiastic students in pink shirts holding hand-made anti-bullying signs in school gymnasium.

#### **DESIRED PICTURE (VIDEO)**

- Premier Christy Clark speaking with students in school gym – surrounded by students in pink shirts holding hand-made anti-bullying signs in school gymnasium.

#### **ACTUAL SPEAKING BACKDROP**

- Backdrop will include:
  - Hundreds of students from Point Grey Secondary in pink shirts, holding sign with anti-bullying messages.
  - Podium sign: 'Safe communities, strong families'.
- Other visuals: TBD

### **WRITTEN MESSAGE(S)**

#### **DESIRED SOUNDBITE / KEY NEWS RELEASE SOUNDBITE**

"It's really inspiring to see so many schools, community groups and individuals engaging to help end bullying – and with our ERASE Bullying strategy now in full swing, it's great to be able to go further and help support them with these grants. Point Grey Secondary students are helping to set a new example of the positive results we can achieve when we take away proceeds of unlawful activity through civil forfeiture. The funds will be used to foster a culture of caring and a sense of community, where hopefully no student feels like an outsider."

#### **KEY MESSAGES**

- Today, we're marking Pink Shirt Day by announcing grants to school-led anti-bullying efforts across B.C.
- In a province that's enjoying its lowest crime rate in decades, it's vital that we engage communities in addressing outstanding public safety issues – and our civil forfeiture grants are really responsive in that way, providing new support to combat bullying.
- We want to commend the schools and community groups and leaders who've risen to the offer we made last November of new grants specifically to support local responses to bullying. The number and quality of applications we received was unprecedented, and we believe the funded projects will make a real difference for young people in communities throughout B.C.

**Ministry of Justice and Attorney General**  
**Civil Forfeiture Grants – Spring 2013**  
**Q&As – Draft 6, Feb. 25, 2013**

**Q. What are you announcing today?**

Today's announcement follows up on our commitment last November to provide up to \$1 million in support of a number of crime prevention activities, in the latest round of grants from civil forfeiture proceeds.

In all, we are funding 81 grants in support of:

- combating bullying,
- preventing youth involvement in crime,
- combating human trafficking and sexual exploitation,
- preventing family violence and violence against women,
- community crime prevention, and
- police training and equipment.

**Q. Why focus on bullying – don't these grants usually focus on preventing crime?**

Bullying can cause serious physical and emotional harm to young people. It's an issue our government is taking very seriously.

Preventing bullying is only the latest high-profile community safety goal to receive timely support from civil forfeiture proceeds. Last year, government responded to a spike in deaths linked to the use of Ecstasy, supporting five police- and community-led projects to help raise awareness among youth about the drug's dangers.

**Q. Why focus on fighting youth crime and violence against women and children?**

B.C.'s crime rate is at its lowest level in nearly four decades – but some significant crime issues continue to require strong, local partnerships and counter-measures. The categories were established through consideration of government's current strategic initiatives in crime prevention and crime remediation, data on the prevalence of various crime types, and consultations with stakeholders. It's clear from the volume of applications that there is a need for funding for these streams of projects.

**Q. How many applications did you receive? What was their total value?**

The Ministry received 588 grant applications seeking a total of \$11.8 million. This is up significantly from the last round, when the Ministry received 348 applications totalling approximately \$14 million.

**Q. How many applications were approved this time? What is their total value?**

In all, 81 community agencies will be receiving grants with a total value of almost \$1 million.

**Q. When will you announce the rest of the \$1 million in grants?**

The balance of these grants will be announced in the weeks ahead, once all recipients have been notified.

**Q. Last year (2011-12), government gave out more than \$6 million in grants from civil forfeiture proceeds. Why so little this year?**

B.C.'s civil forfeiture program is self-funding. That means we have to manage the proceeds prudently, ensuring there's always enough funding to cover the legal and administrative costs of the program from year to year.

Certainly, the program has allowed us to award varying levels of grants – including an exceptional number last year. It's worth noting, though, that grants this year will be greater than or equivalent to those made in most of the program's nearly seven years of operation to date.

**Q. Did groups in government ridings get more money than groups in opposition ridings?**

Ministry staff set the criteria for the grants and handled all scoring and oversight in the approval process. Applications were not scored or tracked on a constituency basis. Grants did go to groups in constituencies across British Columbia, and in many cases, a single grant is benefiting residents in both government and opposition constituencies. As well, more than \$163,000 in grants to provincial groups will have benefits across B.C.

**Q. What criteria were used to decide which grants would get funding?**

The process began with a well-publicized call for applications in November. That led to 588 applications.

Ministry staff assessed all these proposals using established grant criteria, as they have in the past. Notably, though, ministry staff engaged program experts from other ministries to aid in the assessment process – for example, Ministry of Education staff with regard to anti-bullying applications. Once the review team had scored the applications against the criteria, an oversight team reviewed the successful proposals to ensure the process was accountable and consistent.

**Q. Why wasn't it a priority to make grants available for broader justice reform priorities, such as funding more sheriffs or legal aid?**

We are limited by law in what we can fund from civil forfeiture proceeds. Under the terms of the special account, the self-funding program can provide surplus proceeds to support crime prevention and remediation efforts. This approach recognizes the role communities and their police agencies play in the success of the program, giving back to further public safety at the community level. Matters that require ongoing funding, such as structural aspects of the justice system, receive appropriate consideration and funding through the annual budget process.

**Q. Civil forfeiture keeps bringing more money in every year. Why not provide programs with stable, multi-year funding from civil forfeiture proceeds?**

Civil forfeiture proceeds have been growing, but many factors in the program's success are beyond the Province's control. The program depends on quality case referrals from police agencies – and all contested cases depend on a forfeiture order by a Supreme Court judge.

Since there is no certainty about how much may accumulate in a given year, we cannot commit forfeiture proceeds on a multi-year basis.

**Q. How much has civil forfeiture taken in and given back since 2006?**

Civil forfeiture proceeds overall total more than \$30 million. By the end of this fiscal year, we'll have awarded more than \$9 million in grants from the civil forfeiture special account.

**Q. Why are funds forfeited from a particular community not reinvested back into that same community?**

The idea of having communities receive back what their respective police forces have referred to the CFO creates two significant problems:

It improperly positions the program as a guaranteed income stream for a municipality, similar to a tax. In turn, this could result in inappropriate pressure on police to focus on civil forfeiture rather than criminal forfeiture. This would be contrary to the Act and Supreme Court rulings.

It ignores the fact that small communities also suffer – for example, from drugs, youth gangs, and sexual exploitation of children and youth – even though the assets of the related criminal enterprises are located almost exclusively in major urban centres, where organized criminals typically reside.

**Q. Are you providing funding in a way that rewards police agencies and communities equitably for making referrals to civil forfeiture?**

There is no link between the value of referrals from a particular police agency and the funding that goes back to that agency's jurisdiction. Police understand this. The incentive for them in referring criminal case files for consideration is to use civil forfeiture as one more tool to deter crime and make their communities safer.

If we linked successful referrals to grants, that could undermine the spirit of our law and the court's support for it. Our law states very clearly that police cannot pursue a case with civil forfeiture as the goal – criminal charges must be the primary concern, and civil forfeiture is a separate, secondary consideration.



**Q. Any comment on the “secrecy” with which the Civil Forfeiture Office operates, as detailed recently by the Times Colonist?**

My understanding is that the CFO has conducted ongoing consultations with corporate security experts since the office’s inception. While these did not always result in a formal audit, I understand they’ve addressed the overall security of the CFO and its personnel as well as concerns regarding individual cases.

There is an ongoing process whereby CFO staff consults regularly with the ministry’s executive director of corporate security to identify and mitigate risks to its employees. The experts’ advice continues to be that the CFO and its employees should maintain a low profile to avoid being targeted.

**ERASE Bullying - Public Service Announcement**

**Q. You already have an ERASE website. Why do you need a PSA? Why is the government spending more of taxpayers’ money on advertising?**

Experts have told us over and over again that when people witness bullying they have the power to stop it. These people are called “helpful bystanders”. We want to get this important message out and to let parents, youth or anybody who witnesses bullying know they can take actions to make a difference and be a helpful bystander.

We also wanted to create awareness of the ERASE Bullying site, which is chock full of resources and information on bullying. It’s a place for parents to learn about bullying and how to talk to their children. It also has a special section on cyberbullying and how to be a helpful bystander.

The PSA’s are also part of the ERASE Bullying strategy, which was launched last June. There was a lot of interest in this project and much of it was created through donations. We would like to thank partners like Global B.C. and DDB Canada. Because of this, we were able to keep costs to an absolute minimum.

**Q. Who created the PSA? How was the ad agency chosen? How much did the PSA cost to produce?**

DDB Canada is one of government’s agencies of record, and we approached them to produce the PSA. All agency, talent time and creative services have been donated for this production because DDB wanted to support this important message.

There are some costs associated with the spot, like equipment rentals. This is just under \$29,000.

**Q. When and for how long will the PSA run? Airtimes for PSAs are normally donated. Is that the case here?**

After March 31, the airtime for the PSA is donated, meaning stations will run it on a “space available” basis.

From February 27 to March 31, we are paying for airtime totaling around \$250,000. Paying for airtime ensures that this important message reaches families during the times they are actually watching TV.

**Q. Where will the PSA’s be broadcast?**

Provincewide on all major television stations like Global, CTV, City TV.

**ERASE Bullying Strategy**

**Q. Can you sum up where you’re at with the ERASE Bullying Strategy today?**

In June 2012 Premier Christy Clark announced ERASE Bullying, a comprehensive 10-point strategy that makes B.C. a leader in addressing and preventing bullying. Since then:

- Safe School Co-ordinators are in place in all 60 school districts.
- School boards must ensure one professional development day (Pro-D day) is focused on preventing bullying and cultivating safe and caring school communities.
- The ERASE Bullying Reporting Tool for youth to anonymously report bullying is now available in both English and French.
- Erasebullying.ca, a new website with tips and resources for parents and youth, is also up and running.
- Take U out of Bullying, an online forum for students to discuss bullying, is in development.
- Within the next few months, all 60 B.C. school districts will have completed the first year of the five-year, multi-level training for 15,000 educators and community partners to proactively identify and address threats.
- The Provincial Advisory Committee on Bullying and Violence Prevention (PACBVP) - with representatives from police, school and social agency partners – will be developing provincial threat assessment and formal information-sharing protocols.

**Q. How does the ERASE strategy specifically address gay, lesbian and transgendered students?**

We believe all students should feel safe and not be singled out for bullying, for any reason.

The stronger codes of conduct to be introduced by school districts will explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex or sexual orientation, among other factors such as age, race or gender.

The codes of conduct must now make specific reference to “the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of an individual’s or a group’s race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation, or age.”

There are also solid examples of school districts that have active student-led Gay-Straight Alliance groups, and we encourage all school districts to follow these leads. For example, Prince George has a gay-straight alliance that meets each Wednesday at Prince George secondary school. The group is led by an openly gay teacher and a second supportive teacher at the school.

All secondary schools in the Prince George area advertise the Gay-Straight Alliance both with posters and also electronically (where available) on hallway monitors. The group’s purpose is to provide support and information to those students who are gay, lesbian, transgender, questioning.

Lansdowne Middle School is another example of a school committed to a positive climate based on mutual respect. The week before Pink Shirt Day Week they are bringing in a Justice Theatre to address homophobia, discrimination and bullying. They also have a gay-straight alliance group, which are usually only seen in secondary school.

**Q. What is the strategy specifically doing for special needs students?**

We believe all students should feel safe and not be singled out, for any reason.

The stronger codes of conduct to be introduced by school districts will explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of an individual’s or a group’s race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation, or age.

A section of the anti-bullying training is dedicated to diversity and includes special needs students, systemic racism, and LGBTQ students.

**Q. How are independent schools included in the strategy?**

We encourage and welcome independent school participation in the ERASE strategy, and we’re currently providing threat assessment training to them, where possible.

We are currently working with the Federation of Independent School Association to have dedicated training sessions, and add their schools to the reporting tool.

**Q. This is the first year in the five-year strategy. What’s next for ERASE?**

There are now safe school coordinators in place in all 60 school districts, and we are developing provincial threat assessment guidelines aimed at 15,000 school district staff, teachers, police and community partners over a five-year period.

To date (Feb. 2013) more than 3,300 people have been trained across 45 school districts - all 60 school districts will receive training by the end of May 2013. By the end of year five, more than 15,000 educators, school district teams and community partners will have received the comprehensive training program developed by student safety and threat assessment experts hired by the ministry.

The Ministry of Education has started discussions with post-secondary institutions about integrating anti-bullying and threat assessment training into their programs for teachers-in-training. There is much more work to do on this component of our strategy and one we will be focusing on next year.

### **ERASE Reporting Tool & Erasebullying.ca**

#### **Q. How many reports have been filed through the online Reporting Tool? Why won't the ministry release the number of reports?**

We are working to not only gather the numbers but to determine how the numbers should be interpreted. The numbers alone do not tell the whole story.

For example, a high number of reports may not mean a district has a higher rate of bullying. A higher number of reports could actually reflect a district that has done a really good job of creating a culture of openness and safety. Or perhaps a district has worked hard to promote and encourage use of the Reporting Tool. The numbers need to be examined and put into context.

What's also important is the story behind the numbers. What were the actions taken when a report was filed? Were they effective? How can we improve?

The information from the Reporting Tool is extremely helpful for informing district practice and our training so that we can identify trends and monitor "hotspots." This helps to focus prevention strategies where they are needed most.

#### **Q. Can you say if the Reporting Tool has actually helped anyone?**

If a student requires immediate help, they are encouraged to talk to an adult or call 911 if it's an emergency. The Reporting Tool is not a substitute for direct, person to person communication.

If a student does request help on the Reporting Tool and they list their contact information, they will absolutely receive help. But all reports, anonymous or not are extremely helpful and can be used in a variety of ways

The Safe School Coordinators can reach out to police or other community partners as needed to address the specific incident. And the information is also used for informing our practice, our training and so that we can identify trends and monitor "hotspots," which helps to focus prevention strategies where they are needed most.

**Q. What happens if the child is threatening suicide?**

The first thing that students see when they go to the Reporting Tool is a reminder that if this is an emergency they are to call 9-1-1. If a child needs immediate help they are encouraged to seek out a trusted adult or contact the Children's Help Line.

**Q. What kind of traffic is erasebullying.ca getting?**

Since its launch in November 2012, the website has received well over 40,000 visits. The corresponding Twitter feed (@ERASEbullyingBC) ranked third for follower growth in December, compared to all other Twitter accounts in the BC Government. As of Feb. 2013, the feed had over 1,075 followers and continues to grow.

**Bullying Awareness Day**

**Q. What are you proclaiming today?**

To promote kind, caring communities, government has proclaimed Feb. 27, 2013, as Bullying Awareness Day.

## Event Proposal

### MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

#### Event Title: Civil Forfeiture Grant Recipients Announcement – Prince George

<b>Date:</b> Friday, March 8, 2013 <b>Time:</b> 1:30 p.m.	<b>Media Market:</b> Provincewide
<b>Location:</b> Prince George Community Policing Centre 575 Brunswick St. Prince George	<b>English Media Spokesperson:</b> Minister Shirley Bond
	<b>Multicultural Media Spokesperson:</b> Minister Shirley Bond
<b>Author/Ministry:</b> JAG (Public Safety)	

## THE EVENT

### PROACTIVE EVENT OR INVITATION

- GCPE-led proactive event

### EVENT

- This event will build on two previous developments in the announcement of the latest, nearly \$1-million round of grants from civil forfeiture proceeds: Premier Christy Clark's Feb. 27 "Pink Shirt Day" announcement in Vancouver of some of the grants in the new funding stream for combating bullying, and subsequent, local announcements by government caucus members.
- The March 8 event, in Prince George, will coincide with the online release of the full list of 81 grants to agencies throughout the province. The event itself provides an opportunity to highlight specific projects and organizations that are working to create safer communities in Prince George and north-central B.C.
- A news release for provincewide distribution will lead off with information about the full array of grants to projects throughout B.C. It will also summarize a number of grants benefiting northern and central B.C. communities.
- Consistent with past practice, the online list will not include specific details of grants in the "police training and equipment" category.
- Grants are going to community groups throughout B.C. to combat bullying, youth crime, human trafficking and sexual exploitation, family violence and violence against women, and community crime – as well as to police agencies for training and equipment.
- This grant process aligns with government's commitment to safe communities and healthy, strong families.
- The event will take place with Prince George Community Policing, which is receiving \$9,550. This grant will fund annual, city-wide crime prevention workshops in each of the next three years. PG Community Policing will partner with the RCMP and the City of Prince George to organize these workshops. This year's topics include property crime, home security, frauds and scams, personal safety, Internet safety, combating bullying and gang violence. The grant also includes \$3,000 to cover half the cost of installing updated signs for the local Block Watch program (a local sponsor is covering the other half). This year's workshop will also promote participation in the Block Watch program.

### GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA FUNDING / PARTNER FUNDING (IF APPLICABLE):

- Government of B.C. funding: \$1 million of proceeds from civil forfeiture.

### WHO'S ORGANIZING?

- GCPE (Events and JAG)

### STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS

- The civil forfeiture grants program supports the Families First Agenda pillar, Safe Communities, Strong Families.
- B.C.'s self-funding Civil Forfeiture Office (CFO) has taken in more than \$30 million since program inception in April 2006, including more than \$10.8 million last year (2011/12).
- The office counters the profit motive behind much unlawful activity, filing civil court actions against property that is alleged to be a tool used to further unlawful activity or a proceed of it.
- In fiscal 2011/2012, an unprecedented total of \$6.1 million was distributed in community grants; with this latest grant of \$1 million, total grants will be in excess of \$9 million to date.
- The amount of proceeds in any given year will fluctuate because of the timing of seizures and factors that are outside of government control – such as case referrals from police and decisions by the courts. The program provides one-time-only grants.
- Civil liberties groups have expressed concerns about the Civil Forfeiture process and the rights of people whose property is forfeited. These concerns may be raised following an announcement of the recipients of grant funds.
- The timing was selected to ensure that all of the grants can be distributed by March 31 (fiscal year-end).

### VENUE DESCRIPTION

- Event to take place at the Prince George Community Policing Centre

### EVENT PARTICIPANTS (SPEAKERS)

- Minister Shirley Bond

- Emcee: Prince George Mayor Shari Green
- Prince George RCMP representative A/Cpl. Ashley Hope (note: Linda Parker, PG Community Policing, is on holidays)

#### **KEY VALIDATORS & STAKEHOLDERS**

- Prince George RCMP
- Representatives of other Prince George organizations receiving grants. Those invited to the event include Barb Burkitt, Prince George Native Friendship Centre, and Jan Wilson, Prince George New Hope Society

#### **TARGET AUDIENCE**

- Provincewide, with emphasis for this event and news release on Prince George and northern/central B.C.

### **VISUAL MESSAGE(S)**

#### **DESIRED PICTURE (STILL)**

- Minister Shirley Bond standing in front of one of the new, grant-funded Block Watch signs, receiving a Block Watch package from an RCMP representative.

#### **DESIRED PICTURE (VIDEO)**

- As above.

#### **ACTUAL SPEAKING BACKDROP**

- Backdrop will include:
  - Block Watch signs, law enforcement members in uniform, community policing representatives.
  - Podium sign: 'Safe communities, strong families'.

### **WRITTEN MESSAGE(S)**

#### **DESIRED SOUNDBITE / KEY NEWS RELEASE SOUNDBITE**

"When it comes to building community and family safety, our regions, communities and even neighbourhoods may vary in what they consider priorities. Our civil forfeiture grant process respects that, and the grant to Prince George Community Policing is a great example - funding annual crime prevention workshops that focus on such diverse, local public safety issues as combating gang violence, Internet and personal safety, scams, property crime, home security and Block Watch."

#### **KEY MESSAGES**

- Our civil forfeiture program has had great success in taking the profit motive out of unlawful activity – and this latest, nearly \$1-million share of the proceeds continues the legacy of giving back in ways that make our communities and families safer and stronger.
- In a province that's enjoying its lowest crime rate in decades, it's vital that we engage communities in addressing outstanding public safety issues – and our civil forfeiture grants are really responsive in that way, providing new support to combat bullying, as well as to target youth crime, human trafficking and sexual exploitation, family violence and violence against women, and community crime prevention.
- I want to commend the schools, community groups and leaders, and police agencies who've risen to the offer we made last November. The number and quality of applications we received was unprecedented, and we believe the funded projects will make a real difference to public safety for youth, families and vulnerable people here in the North, and in communities throughout B.C.
- A great example is Prince George Community Policing, which I'm pleased to announce is receiving a \$9,550 grant toward annual crime prevention workshops. This year's topics include combating gang violence, Internet and personal safety, scams, property crime, home security and Block Watch.

**Ministry of Justice**  
**Prince George Announcement – Civil Forfeiture Grants 2013**  
**Key Messages**

- Our civil forfeiture program has had great success in taking the profit motive out of unlawful activity – and this latest, nearly \$1-million share of the proceeds continues the legacy of giving back in ways that make our communities and families safer and stronger.
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March 7, 2013

Ministry of Justice

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

PRINCE GEORGE – Justice Minister and Attorney General Shirley Bond will be joined by Prince George Mayor Shari Green to announce grants from civil forfeiture proceeds that will enhance public safety for youth, families and vulnerable residents of north and central British Columbia.

Event Date: Friday, March 8, 2013

Time: 1:30 p.m.

**Location:**

Prince George Community Policing Centre  
575 Brunswick St.  
Prince George

**Contact:**

Government Communications and Public Engagement  
Ministry of Justice  
250 356-6961

***Speaking Points for***  
**Shari Green**  
**Mayor of Prince George**

***Announcement of Civil Forfeiture Proceeds***  
***Grants to Prince George Organizations***

*Friday, March 8, 2013*  
*Prince George Community Policing*  
*575 Brunswick St., Prince George*  
*1:30 p.m.*  
*(1:15 briefing meeting for stage party)*

*Check Against Delivery*

- Good afternoon, and thank you  
all for joining us today.
- My name is Shari Green, and I  
have the honour of serving as  
Mayor of Prince George.

- I'm joined today by the  
Honourable Shirley Bond,  
Justice Minister and Attorney  
General...
- And Acting Corporal Ashley  
Hope of Prince George RCMP,  
who is also here on behalf of  
Prince George Community  
Policing.

- Seven years ago, B.C. embarked on what was a pioneering effort in Canada...
- One focused on deterring grow-ops, gangs and unlawful activity.
- It's called civil forfeiture – and today, its public safety dividends continue to grow.

- On that note, I'll ask Minister Bond to outline today's good news for our community and others in our region.

*(Minister Bond speaks)*

- Thank you, Minister Bond.
- Obviously, there is good news for many organizations today...

- But now, I'm eager to hear just what the grant to Prince George Community Policing will mean.
- And I know Prince George RCMP, as a partner, will play a role in making the most of that grant.

- So without further ado, I'll ask  
Acting Corporal Hope to say a  
few words.

*(Acting Corporal Hope speaks)*

- Thank you, Ashley.
- Ladies and gentlemen, that  
concludes the formal portion of  
today's event.



- The podium guests will stay on  
and be available to take your  
questions.

- Again, thank you for joining us  
today.

-END-

**Ministry of Justice and Attorney General**  
**Civil Forfeiture Grants – Spring 2013**  
**Q&As – March 8, 2013**

**Q. What are you announcing today?**

Today's announcement follows up on our commitment last November to provide up to \$1 million in support of a number of crime prevention activities, in the latest round of grants from civil forfeiture proceeds. It also follows the announcement of some of those grants on Feb. 27 – Bullying Awareness Day – that are specifically for projects combating bullying.

In all, we are funding 81 grants in support of:

- combating bullying,
- preventing youth involvement in crime,
- combating human trafficking and sexual exploitation,
- preventing family violence and violence against women,
- community crime prevention, and
- police training and equipment.

**Q. Why focus on bullying – don't these grants usually focus on preventing crime?**

Bullying can cause serious physical and emotional harm to young people. It's an issue our government is taking very seriously.

Preventing bullying is only the latest high-profile community safety goal to receive timely support from civil forfeiture proceeds. Last year, government responded to a spike in deaths linked to the use of Ecstasy, supporting five police- and community-led projects to help raise awareness among youth about the drug's dangers.

**Q. Why focus on fighting youth crime and violence against women and children?**

B.C.'s crime rate is at its lowest level in nearly four decades – but some significant crime issues continue to require strong, local partnerships and counter-measures. The categories were established through consideration of government's current strategic initiatives in crime prevention and crime remediation, data on the prevalence of various crime types, and consultations with stakeholders. It's clear from the volume of applications that there is a need for funding for these streams of projects.

**Q. What is this grant to PG community policing for?**

Prince George Community Policing is receiving a \$9,550 grant toward annual crime prevention workshops. This year's topics include combating gang violence, Internet and personal safety, scams, property crime, home security and Block Watch.

**Q. How many applications did you receive? What was their total value?**

The Ministry received 588 grant applications seeking a total of \$11.8 million. This is up significantly from 348 applications in the last round (totalling approximately \$14 million).

**Q. How many applications were approved this time? What is their total value?**

In all, 81 community agencies are receiving grants with a total value of almost \$1 million.

**Q. Why didn't you announce all the grants back on Feb. 27?**

We needed time to notify all the recipients. This process is now complete.

**Q. Last year (2011-12), government gave out more than \$6 million in grants from civil forfeiture proceeds. Why so little this year?**

B.C.'s civil forfeiture program is self-funding. That means we have to manage the proceeds prudently, ensuring there's always enough funding to cover the legal and administrative costs of the program from year to year.

Certainly, the program has allowed us to award varying levels of grants – including an exceptional number last year. It's worth noting, though, that grants this year will be greater than or equivalent to those made in most of the program's nearly seven years of operation to date.

**Q. Did groups in government ridings get more money than groups in opposition ridings?**

Ministry staff set the criteria for the grants and handled all scoring and oversight in the approval process. Applications were not scored or tracked on a constituency basis. Grants did go to groups in constituencies across British Columbia, and in many cases, a single grant is benefiting residents in both government and opposition constituencies. As well, more than \$163,000 in grants to provincial groups will have benefits across B.C.

**Q. What criteria were used to decide which grants would get funding?**

The process began with a well-publicized call for applications in November. That led to 588 applications.

Ministry staff assessed all these proposals using established grant criteria, as they have in the past. Notably, though, ministry staff engaged program experts from other ministries to aid in the assessment process – for example, Ministry of Education staff with regard to anti-bullying applications. Once the review team had scored the applications against the criteria, an oversight team reviewed the successful proposals to ensure the process was accountable and consistent.

**Q. Why wasn't it a priority to make grants available for broader justice reform priorities, such as funding more sheriffs or legal aid?**

We are limited by law in what we can fund from civil forfeiture proceeds. Under the terms of the special account, the self-funding program can provide surplus proceeds to support crime prevention and remediation efforts. This approach recognizes the role communities and their police agencies play in the success of the program, giving back to further public safety at the community level. Matters that require ongoing funding, such as structural aspects of the justice system, receive appropriate consideration and funding through the annual budget process.

**Q. Civil forfeiture keeps bringing more money in every year. Why not provide programs with stable, multi-year funding from civil forfeiture proceeds?**

Civil forfeiture proceeds have been growing, but many factors in the program's success are beyond the Province's control. The program depends on quality case referrals from police agencies – and all contested cases depend on a forfeiture order by a Supreme Court judge.

Since there is no certainty about how much may accumulate in a given year, we cannot commit forfeiture proceeds on a multi-year basis.

**Q. How much has civil forfeiture taken in and given back since 2006?**

Civil forfeiture proceeds overall total more than \$30 million. By the end of this fiscal year, we'll have awarded more than \$9 million in grants from the civil forfeiture special account.

**Q. Why are funds forfeited from a particular community not reinvested back into that same community?**

The idea of having communities receive back what their respective police forces have referred to the CFO creates two significant problems:

- It improperly positions the program as a guaranteed income stream for a municipality, similar to a tax. In turn, this could result in inappropriate pressure on police to focus on civil forfeiture rather than criminal forfeiture. This would be contrary to the Act and Supreme Court rulings.
- It ignores the fact that small communities also suffer – for example, from drugs, youth gangs, and sexual exploitation of children and youth – even though the assets of the related criminal enterprises are located almost exclusively in major urban centres, where organized criminals typically reside.

**Q. Are you providing funding in a way that rewards police agencies and communities equitably for making referrals to civil forfeiture?**

There is no link between the value of referrals from a particular police agency and the funding that goes back to that agency's jurisdiction. Police understand this. The incentive for them in referring criminal case files for consideration is to use civil forfeiture as one more tool to deter crime and make their communities safer.

If we linked successful referrals to grants, that could undermine the spirit of our law and the court's support for it. Our law states very clearly that police cannot pursue a case with civil forfeiture as the goal – criminal charges must be the primary concern, and civil forfeiture is a separate, secondary consideration.

## Event Information / Speaking Note – Draft

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**Event:** Civil Forfeiture Grants: Prince George Event

**When:** Friday, March 8, 2013 – 1:30 p.m.

**Where:** Prince George Community Policing Centre  
575 Brunswick St.  
Prince George

**Contact:** **Louise Denis**  
**GCPE Events**  
**Cell. 250-893-1723**

**Length:** 4 minutes

**Key Participants:**

- Minister Shirley Bond
- Prince George Mayor Shari Green (emcee)
- A/Cpl. Ashley Hope, Prince George RCMP

**Other Attendees:** Representatives of other organizations receiving grants (invited, attendance TBC) are Barb Burkitt, Prince George Native Friendship Centre, and Jan Wilson, Prince George New Hope Society

**Audience Size:** 20 (including media)

**Audience – what do they want to hear:** How this grant came about, what it and other grants will do across B.C., and thanks to the community partners who are adding value to the grants by using their knowledge, connections and ideas to maximize the public safety benefits.

Speaking Notes  
for the  
Hon. Shirley Bond  
Justice Minister and Attorney General  
MLA for Prince George-Valemount

Grant to Prince George Community Policing  
from civil forfeiture proceeds  
Prince George Community Policing Centre  
575 Brunswick St., Prince George

Friday, March 8, 2013  
1:30 p.m.

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

### **PEOPLE TO RECOGNIZE:**

- Mayor Shari Green
- Acting Corporal Ashley Hope, Prince George RCMP

### **TRADITIONAL TERRITORY:**

- Acknowledge the traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh (*clayt-clay den-ay*).

### **KEY MESSAGES:**

- Civil forfeiture is a crime-fighting tool that keeps on giving.
- These grants are going to school- and community-led projects and police agencies, responding to and helping to meet crime prevention and public safety needs that the community has identified.
- The number and quality of applications we received was unprecedented, and we believe the funded projects will make a real difference to public safety for youth, families and vulnerable people here in the North, and in communities throughout B.C.



## INTRODUCTION

- Thank you all for joining us.
- Thanks in particular to Prince George Community Policing for hosting us, and to their partners in proactive crime-fighting...
- In particular, our local RCMP and the City of Prince George, who will play a role in making the most of what we're announcing today.
- Civil forfeiture can really be summed up in two phrases: "taking away" and "giving back."
- It's the second aspect that brings us together today.
- We've had civil forfeiture in B.C. for seven years now.
- Its growing success has allowed us to support hundreds of crime-prevention efforts, in communities throughout our province.

## COMMUNITY-LED SUCCESS

- Invariably, these are efforts driven by people like those around us here today.
- Community groups, policing agencies, schools and family associations...
- All have put forward great ideas, where a relatively small amount of seed money gets nurtured...
- With the vision and efforts of volunteers and community leaders...
- And the benefits of their connections and roots in their local communities.
- You are what make these grants worthwhile.
- At the local level, there are always public safety questions that remain outstanding...
- Questions that start off: “But what about...?”

- From our government's perspective, grants from civil forfeiture proceeds are a very important part of the answer.
- These grants focus specifically on significant crime issues – ones that require strong, local partnerships and counter-measures.
- The grant categories we use aren't just about our government's current crime prevention and remediation strategies...
- They also reflect current data about the prevalence of various crime types, and our consultations with stakeholders like you.
- And it remains clear, from the volume of applications we get, that there is a real appetite for the grant streams we've set out.

## **PG COMMUNITY POLICING**

- That brings us to today's event.

- **It gives me great pleasure to announce a grant of \$9,550 in support of local crime prevention workshops and our Block Watch program.**
- I'll let Acting Corporal Hope fill you in on the details of how this grant will further crime prevention proactively in our city.
- But before she does, I want to highlight something about this round of grants.
- In fact, Prince George Community Policing is among about a dozen funded projects based in, and focused specifically on, the needs of northern and central British Columbia.
- And this being International Women's Day, I'd like to highlight some of the projects geared to improving the safety of vulnerable women.

- One is Nurturing Our Spirit, which will engage groups of northern Aboriginal women who have been impacted by relationship violence.
- Working with a counsellor and a victim service worker...
- They'll explore the impacts of trauma, learn about healthy relationships, and participate in cultural learning and spiritual development, to strengthen their self-esteem and relationship skills.
- Another project, called Speaking Out, will focus on human trafficking here in the North.
- It will run the gamut, from needs assessment to an action plan and media campaign, helping to build awareness and address human trafficking and sexual exploitation.
- All of these efforts are a testament to the sense of community and looking out for each other that we enjoy, here in the heart of our province.

## CONCLUSION

- It could be said that civil forfeiture is actually working against itself...
- That is, supporting crime prevention efforts, and thereby reducing its future take from those who pursue unlawful activity.
- I sure hope that's the case.
- It's certainly the point of both "taking away" and "giving back."
- I want to thank Prince George Community Policing, and all of our local and northern grant recipients, for helping to make the most of that vision.
- Thank you very much.

-END-

## Guest List Te

First Name	Last Name	Title
Barb	Burkitt	
Jan	Wilson	
Carl	Johnston	Corporal
Rob	Rail	
Karen	Blackman	
Bally	Bassi	Victim Service Manager
Kathi	Heim	Executive Director, Victim Services
Krista	Levar	Victim Service Manager - RCMP
Chris	Bone	
Catherine	Kendall	
Joan	Brett	
Gwen	Budskin	
George	Harding	

## Template for Prince George Event, March 8

Organization	Email	Fax	Phone
Prince George Native Friendship Centre	<a href="mailto:jharrington@pgnfc.com">jharrington@pgnfc.com</a>		250-564-3568
Prince George New Hope Society	S22		(250) 562-861
RCMP	<a href="mailto:Carl.JOHNSTON@rcmp-grc.gc.ca">Carl.JOHNSTON@rcmp-grc.gc.ca</a>		S17
BC Government	<a href="mailto:Rob.Rail@gov.bc.ca">Rob.Rail@gov.bc.ca</a>		
BC Government	<a href="mailto:Karen.Blackman@gov.bc.ca">Karen.Blackman@gov.bc.ca</a>		
Elizabeth Fry Society	<a href="mailto:bally@pgefry.bc.ca">bally@pgefry.bc.ca</a>		
Elizabeth Fry Society	<a href="mailto:kathi@pgefry.bc.ca">kathi@pgefry.bc.ca</a>		
RCMP Victim Services	<a href="mailto:Krista.levar@rcmp-grc.gc.ca">Krista.levar@rcmp-grc.gc.ca</a>		
City of Prince George	<a href="mailto:cbone@city.pg.bc.ca">cbone@city.pg.bc.ca</a>		
	S22		
Justice Education	<a href="mailto:Joan.Brett@JusticeEducation.ca">Joan.Brett@JusticeEducation.ca</a>		
Prince George Native Friendship Centre	<a href="mailto:gbudskin@pgnfc.com">gbudskin@pgnfc.com</a>		
Northern John Howard Society of BC	S22		



## Source

Recipient of 2012.13 grant in violence against women category

Recipient of 2012.13 grant in human trafficking category

Main CFO contact in PG

MCFD North

MCFD - North

Crime prevention contact

Crime prevention contact

Crime prevention contact

Crime prevention contact

Crime prevention contact



**The Honourable Shirley Bond  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General**

cordially invites you to join her  
for an important announcement regarding  
civil forfeiture grants

**Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
1:30 p.m.**

**Location:  
Prince George Community Policing Centre  
575 Brunswick Street  
Prince George**

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Please RSVP to Louise Denis  
Email: [Louise.Denis@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Louise.Denis@gov.bc.ca)

## MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

### Civil Forfeiture Grant Announcement

Location: Prince George Community Policing Centre  
575 Brunswick Street  
Prince George

Date: Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Time	Event Itinerary
1:15 p.m. Pre-brief	Pre-brief with stage guests led by Louise Denis Location: <b>TBD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minister of Justice and Attorney General Shirley Bond</li><li>• EMCEE Mayor Shari Green</li><li>• Ashley Hope, Acting Corporal, Prince George RCMP</li></ul>
1:29 p.m.	Speakers and stage guests move to podium area
1:30 p.m.	<b>MC Green</b> welcomes everyone, introduces stage guests and invites Minister Bond to say a few words
1:31 p.m.	<b>Minister Bond</b> gives her remarks
1:36 p.m.	<b>MC Green</b> thanks Minister Bond and invites Ashley Hope to the podium for her remarks
1:37 p.m.	<b>Ashley Hope</b> gives her remarks
1:40 p.m.	<b>MC Green</b> thanks Ashley for her remarks and brings the event to a close
1:42 p.m.	<b>Media availability</b>
1:52p.m.	<b>Event concludes</b>

EVENT COORDINATOR –  
LOUISE DENIS - CELL: 250-893-1723



**FAMILIES  
FIRST**



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2013PREM0026-000360  
Feb. 27, 2013

Office of the Premier  
Ministry of Justice

### **School-led anti-bullying efforts share in \$1 million**

VANCOUVER – Premier Christy Clark marked Bullying Awareness Day – also known as Pink Shirt Day – by announcing grants to school-led anti-bullying efforts across B.C., including a \$15,000 grant to Point Grey Secondary School.

“By standing up against bullying, we send a powerful message – bullying has to stop, period,” said Premier Clark. “We can make this happen if we act together. With our ERASE Bullying strategy in full swing, these grants will help schools like Point Grey Secondary go further by supporting efforts already underway.”

The grants to school-led anti-bullying are part of a total of 81 projects that are benefiting from \$1 million from civil forfeiture proceeds. The projects are related to combating bullying, youth crime, violence against women and family violence, human trafficking and sexual exploitation, and community crime, as well as for police training and equipment. The balance of these grants will be announced in the weeks ahead, once all recipients have been notified.

“Point Grey Secondary students are helping to set a good example of the positive results we can achieve when we take away proceeds of unlawful activity through civil forfeiture,” said Shirley Bond, Minister of Justice and Attorney General. “The funds will be used to foster a culture of caring and a sense of community, where hopefully no student feels like an outsider.”

The school will use its \$15,000 grant from civil forfeiture proceeds toward various approaches to engage students and nurture a safe, inclusive school environment. Through the Point Grey Cares project, youth leaders will reach out to students on the fringes of the school community in innovative ways – for example, through youth culture events over the school year.

Other anti-bullying projects receiving grants include:

- **Beyond the Hurt.** The Canadian Red Cross Society (CRCS) and Victoria High School will use their grants to train student leaders and help sustain this intensive, peer-led bullying prevention program from year to year, in schools in Bella Bella, Kitkatla, Port Simpson and Victoria. The program trains students to understand the dynamics of bullying and harassment, and how youth can work together to initiate change. The CRCS is receiving nearly \$15,000 for its northern project; Victoria High is receiving \$6,600.

- **Tools of Change.** This project in Powell River is receiving \$15,000 to bring up to 60 youth who have been affected by bullying together with skilled workshop facilitators, musicians, artists and outdoor educators. A transformative, two-day summit will culminate in a community event showcasing the anti-bullying work completed by summit participants.
- **Empathy and Community Spirit: Building a Community of Caring.** Sunset Elementary School in Port McNeill will use its \$15,000 grant toward monthly assemblies focused on caring, noon-hour activities that foster empathy and support, a concert for its entire school community, a peer support program, and a knowledge-sharing project involving grandparents and First Nations elders.
- **Preventing Bullying & Building Community Through Circles.** The Halfmoon Bay Community School Association will use its \$15,000 grant to prevent bullying and address the “under-the-radar” bullying in Sunshine Coast schools, by creating safe spaces for students to meet and resolve conflicts, and to connect with each other, staff and parents.
- **Working Together Against Bullying.** This project at Quesnel’s Kersley Elementary School is school-focused but will be shared with the entire community. With its \$1,000 grant, this project will create awareness and teach strategies for preventing and responding to bullying behaviour, including through a community event.

Today, government also released an ERASE Bullying public service announcement. The PSA helps to create awareness that sharing hurtful comments online is bullying. The PSA also draws people to the [Erasebullying.ca](http://Erasebullying.ca) website for more information and tips on how to fight bullying, including cyberbullying.

“When someone witnesses bullying, they have the power to stop it,” said Education Minister Don McRae. “By being a helpful bystander, whether that’s online or at school, they can defend the person getting bullied and rally their friends to do the same.”

#### **Quick Facts:**

- In November 2012, government announced that up to \$1 million would be available from civil forfeiture proceeds for projects geared to building community safety, and invited applications from schools, community groups and policing agencies.
- In addition to civil forfeiture grants, government provides more than \$375,000 in direct funding for crime prevention programs each year.
- Active since April 2006, B.C.’s Civil Forfeiture Office counters the profit motive behind much unlawful activity. The office files civil court actions against property alleged to be a tool used to further unlawful activity or a proceed of it.

## Learn More:

The new ERASE Bullying public service announcement is available at:

<http://youtu.be/c1WBzMLgixM>

- Pink Shirt Day: [www.pinkshirtday.ca/](http://www.pinkshirtday.ca/)
- ERASE Bullying tips and resources for parents and youth: [www.erasebullying.ca/](http://www.erasebullying.ca/)
- ERASE Bullying Student Online Reporting Tool: [www.reportbullyingbc.ca](http://www.reportbullyingbc.ca)

Contact:

Mike Morton

Press Secretary

Office of the Premier

250 588-8380

Government Communications and Public Engagement

Ministry of Justice

250 356-6961

Connect with the Province of B.C. at [www.gov.bc.ca/connect](http://www.gov.bc.ca/connect)



**FAMILIES  
FIRST**



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2013JAG0076-000453  
March 8, 2013

Ministry of Justice

### **Grants aid safety of youth, families, most vulnerable**

PRINCE GEORGE – Fighting human trafficking, relationship violence, bullying and gang influences are among the goals of projects funded by B.C.'s latest civil forfeiture grants.

In all, 81 grants worth almost \$1 million will help projects throughout the province to counter local crime issues, youth crime, violence against women and family violence, and human trafficking and sexual exploitation. The full list of funded initiatives is detailed at:

[www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/crimeprevention/grants/index.htm](http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/crimeprevention/grants/index.htm)

In releasing the full list of grants, Justice Minister and Attorney General Shirley Bond joined partners who will be working with Prince George Community Policing – an agency receiving a \$9,550 grant – to deliver annual crime prevention workshops in the Northern Capital. This year's workshop will focus on various crime prevention issues, including combating gang violence, Internet and personal safety, scams, property crime, home security and Block Watch.

Another nine grants will benefit community-led projects specifically in northern and central B.C. They include:

- **Nurturing Our Spirit: A Woman's Right**  
Groups of northern Aboriginal women impacted by relationship violence will participate in three 12-week intensive programs funded by a \$20,000 grant to the Prince George Native Friendship Centre. Working with a counsellor and a victim service worker, the groups will explore the impacts of trauma, learn about healthy relationships, and participate in cultural learning and spiritual development toward improved self-esteem and relationship skills.
- **Speaking Out: Assessing and Educating Communities About Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation in Northern B.C.**  
A \$19,384 grant will fund a needs assessment, safety audit, action plan and media campaign focused on human trafficking and sexual exploitation. The first phase of this project will involve assessing communities north, west and east of Prince George, toward bringing together as many Northern B.C. organizations as possible.
- **Stewart Youth Say NO**  
This year-long project is receiving \$15,500 toward youth programs, including a crime and violence education program and an organization that will connect Stewart youth with peers, increase their confidence and focus on their futures.

## **Quotes:**

### **Shirley Bond, Minister of Justice and Attorney General –**

“When it comes to building public safety, our regions, communities and even neighbourhoods have differing priorities. Our civil forfeiture grant process responds to that diversity, inviting applications in grant categories that continue to draw strong interest. That responsiveness is apparent in this year’s funding for projects to combat bullying, as well as those working to prevent youth crime, family violence and violence against women, and other priorities.”

“Prince George Community Policing offers just one great example of how a relatively small grant can go a long way to address local crime prevention needs. The variety of topics that it intends to cover at its annual workshops is impressive, and it’s certain to enhance personal and neighbourhood safety in our city in profound ways.”

### **Pat Bell, MLA for Prince George-Mackenzie –**

“So often, community-led efforts have the knowledge needed to zero in on a crime issue, and the creativity and local connections to build an innovative, effective response. It’s great to be able to nurture that commitment on many fronts through these grants and help further the safety of everyone from young students to vulnerable women to seniors here in Prince George.”

### **Prince George Mayor Shari Green –**

“Part of what draws families and businesses to Prince George is a strong spirit of community and caring – a spirit that’s reflected in the workshops and projects that are receiving grants. Working together to build a safer Prince George for everyone is critical to maintaining an inclusive, attractive, growing and successful community.”

### **Acting Cpl. Ashley Hope, Prince George RCMP –**

“This funding will showcase opportunities for people in Prince George to enhance the safety of themselves and their neighbours in many important aspects of their daily lives. As well, by contributing to the installation of new signs, the grant will help us to revitalize our Block Watch program, which we’ll be strongly encouraging this year’s workshop participants to join.”

## **Quick Facts:**

- Since B.C.’s self-funding civil forfeiture program became active nearly seven years ago, it has returned more than \$9 million from successful forfeiture actions to crime prevention programs and to victims of fraud and phony investment schemes.



- Beyond one-time grants from civil forfeiture proceeds, government provides more than \$375,000 in direct funding for crime prevention programs each year.
- In the first nine months of fiscal 2012-13, the Civil Forfeiture Office initiated nearly 350 new administrative and civil forfeiture actions – up from 313 in all of 2011-12.
- B.C.'s is the second-oldest of eight active provincial civil forfeiture programs across Canada.

#### **Learn More:**

- To see a full list of the 81 grants awarded, visit: [www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/crimeprevention/grants/index.htm](http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/crimeprevention/grants/index.htm)
- B.C.'s Civil Forfeiture Office: [www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/civilforfeiture/](http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/civilforfeiture/)
- Pink Shirt Day news release summarizing some anti-bullying grants: [www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/2013/02/school-led-anti-bullying-efforts-share-in-1-million.html](http://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/2013/02/school-led-anti-bullying-efforts-share-in-1-million.html)
- ERASE Bullying tips and resources for parents and youth: [www.erasebullying.ca/](http://www.erasebullying.ca/)

Contact:       Government Communications and Public Engagement  
                       Ministry of Justice  
                       250 356-6961

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