



# CIVIL FORFEITURE

## INFORMATION BULLETIN



Attorney General and Minister Suzanne Anton presented keys to a car that was forfeited under the civil forfeiture program to Superintendent Tim Head. The car was presented to the Kelowna RCMP to help police teach young people about the dangers involved in a life of crime.



*"BC's Civil Forfeiture Office plays a critical role in enhancing the safety of communities around our province. They are able to support numerous community groups and police agencies, such as the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit of BC, through grants that go towards innovative initiatives."*

**Sergeant Lindsey Houghton,  
Media Relations Officer  
Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – B.C.**

## MESSAGE FROM PHIL TAWTEL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CIVIL FORFEITURE OFFICE

Now in its 10th year, the Civil Forfeiture Office (CFO) continues to work closely with police agencies and its Ministry of Justice partners to take the profit out of crime and then use these forfeited funds in a positive way. Being mindful that the best way to prevent crime is to resolve it at its roots, over \$20 million dollars in crime prevention grants have been distributed to worthy organizations across the Province to help make our BC communities a safer place to live.

We are pleased to share a small selection of success stories demonstrating the commitment these organizations have to improving lives across B.C.



*"One does not have to look any further than CFO's support for the End Gang Life initiative through cash grants for the creation of posters and videos to the unique one-of-a-kind BMW that was once used by a drug trafficker and is now BC's only BMW police car."*

**Sergeant Lindsey Houghton, Media Relations Officer, Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – B.C.**



## CIVIL FORFEITURE PROGRAM

### HOW IT WORKS

Police in B.C. are authorized by different laws, such as the *Criminal Code* and the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, to seize crime-related property. The police may choose to refer their files to the Civil Forfeiture Office (CFO) which operates under the authority of the *Civil Forfeiture Act*.

Files referred to the CFO are assessed using a number of criteria including the strength of the evidence, the public interest, a litigation cost-benefit analysis, the interests of justice, and the administration of justice. Once the file is accepted, the CFO then uses the civil courts and/or administrative forfeiture to seek forfeiture of any property that is either a proceeds of a crime (cash) or the instrument of a crime (the car used to transport illegal drugs).



This vehicle was seized from a drug trafficker.



## CIVIL FORFEITURE PROGRAM

### HOW IT WORKS

Once forfeiture of the property is obtained, the property is sold and the proceeds from the forfeiture are deposited to the CFO account. As the CFO is self-funding, it must cover the costs of operating the program. The remaining funds can then be distributed in the form of crime prevention grants to worthy organizations that are involved in addressing issues such as violence against women, youth crime, human trafficking, and sexual exploitation.

The awarding of these grants is completed through the Civil Forfeiture Grant Program, an application and review process that is managed by the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch. A small portion of the grants are also provided to assist them with specialized training and equipment that might not be otherwise available to them.



## CIVIL FORFEITURE GRANTS

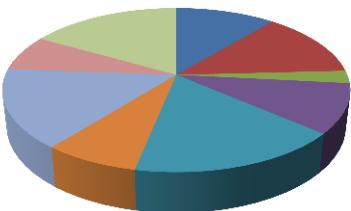
### SPOTLIGHT ON 2015

In 2015, the B.C. government provided over \$5M in civil forfeiture grants to 220 crime prevention projects throughout the province. Nearly 70% of the overall funding, for a total of \$3.4M, was provided to organizations starting the work of the [Violence Free BC \(VFBC\) Strategy](#) with a particular focus on healing and rebuilding, innovative partnerships, school-based prevention, sexual exploitation and human trafficking, and training and education.

Other areas where funding was made available in 2015 focused on community and youth crime prevention, restorative justice, and police education, training and specialized crime prevention equipment for a total of \$1.6M.

For a list of recipients of 2015/15 grants [click here](#).

- Community & Youth Crime Prevention
- Police Training & Equipment
- Restorative Justice
- Healing & Rebuilding
- Innovative Partnerships
- Other VFBC Priorities
- School-based Prevention
- Sexual Exploitation & Human Trafficking
- Training & Education



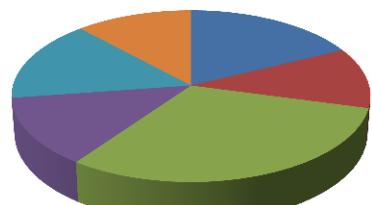


## FEATURED PROJECTS PAST & PRESENT

Since 2005, civil forfeiture grants have helped communities address the root causes of crime and respond to priority crime issues, such as gang violence and violence against women.

The projects featured in this bulletin are some of the hundreds that have benefited from the Civil Forfeiture Grant Program over the past several years which demonstrate the positive impacts the Program has made on individuals and communities across B.C.

- Lower Mainland
- North & Central
- Province-wide
- South Interior
- Van. Island & Region
- Vancouver



2015 CFO Funding by Region



*Jessie makes a powerful statement on the impact of the experience- [click here](#)*

*For a parent's perspective on the trip's impact on her family- [click here](#)*

*The Crime Prevention & Community Safety Branch promotes the 'crime prevention through social development' approach, which involves long-term, integrated actions that deal with the root causes of crime. Its aim is to reduce risk factors that start people, particularly children and youth, on the road to crime, and to build protective factors that may mitigate those risks.*

## STREET2PEAK

### INNER-CITY KIDS CLIMB MT. KILIMANJARO

Led by Streetfront Alternative School and Britannia Secondary, Street2Peak took 15 of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged youth in Canada and placed them on top of Africa's highest mountain, Mt. Kilimanjaro. The initiative challenged at-risk youth world views that are founded on defiance of adult authority figures and who generally have lives filled with inconsistency. The whole endeavor took 30 months of planning, training, and finally a two week trip to Tanzania: the climb took 7 days, followed by a camping safari on the Serengeti Plains. Street2Peak was a life-changing experience for all involved.

Savannah Dawson for example commented in a CBC interview: "**I now know that I can do anything.**"



*Since 2011, the B.C. government has provided \$3,192,867 in civil forfeiture grants to support preventing youth involvement in gangs in B.C. communities.*



*"Ending violence against women and children cannot be accomplished without men's voices and men's healing. The Moose Hide Campaign provides the opportunity for men to find the space to have an open, safe, and un-judgemental space in which to discuss violence against women and children. It is important that men who have committed violence or are currently in the cycle of violence, see and hear from their friends, family, and community members that violence is not an acceptable behaviour."*

**Paul Lacerte,  
Executive Director, BCAAFC**

## MOOSE HIDE CAMPAIGN

### B.C. ASSOCIATION OF ABORIGINAL FRIENDSHIP CENTRES

The 2015 CFO grant provides the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) through the Moose Hide Campaign the opportunity to work with and empower men by uniting them under a common purpose. For many men, this can start by learning and talking with healthy peers and mentors from their community. Listening to other men's stories can be a turning point for many men, and can open a door to compassion and long term change. The Moose Hide Campaign will be able to provide simple tools to communities to hold their own community gatherings, show their commitment by distributing and wearing the Moose Hide pins, and learn how to speak up against violence against Aboriginal women and children in their respective communities.



*BCAAFC's annual awareness event — called Gathering of Men — brings together both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal men to discuss violence against Aboriginal women, why it happens and how to end it.*



*"The Nanaimo RCMP is pleased to be a partner in the new integrated Domestic Violence Unit. This integrated effort will build on some of the excellent inter agency collaboration that already exists in Nanaimo and will move us closer to reducing the instances and impact of domestic violence in our community."*

**Constable J. ROCHETTE,  
Domestic Violence Unit**

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT NANAIMO REGION

In June of 2015, the Nanaimo Haven Society and RCMP formally launched the integrated Domestic Violence Unit for helping victims of domestic violence in the Nanaimo Region.

The Domestic Violence Unit is comprised of a dedicated RCMP officer, a community-based Victim Services Worker, and an MCFD Social Worker. Through a coordinated service delivery model, the new Domestic Violence Unit develops a specialized response to incidents of serious domestic violence cases.



*Minister and Attorney General Suzanne Anton joins the Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) team in the grand opening of the new DVU in Nanaimo, B.C.*

*Since 2013, the B.C. government has provided over \$1.7 M in civil forfeiture funding to support existing and new Domestic Violence Units in the province.*



*"Sophie's Place has given us the ability to investigate incidents of child abuse in the least intrusive and most supportive way possible", says Supt. Trent Rolfe, Surrey RCMP Investigative Services Officer. "As one of the partners in this facility, we are committed to strengthening the bond between the community and the police and ensuring that we obtain the most accurate information in as safe and protective environment as possible for young victims."*

**Supt. Trent Rolfe,  
Surrey RCMP**

## **SOPHIE'S PLACE**

### **WHERE CHILDREN HAVE VOICE**

SOPHIE'S PLACE is a child advocacy centre focused on providing specialized services to physically, mentally or sexually abused children up to age 18 in a child-friendly setting.

SOPHIE'S PLACE is the result of significant collaboration between the Surrey RCMP, Ministry of Children and Family Development, City of Surrey, Ministry of Justice, and The Centre for Child Development. It enables the collaborating agencies to respond to child abuse in a compassionate and highly integrated manner.

In 2014/15, CFO helped SOPHIE'S PLACE to fund improvements in forensic interviewing equipment and organize a province-wide conference for child advocacy centres.





## YOUTH ART ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

### CHILDREN OF THE STREET SOCIETY

#### SUCCESS STORY

During the project, a youth disclosed that she had been engaging in substance use with older males in the community. Before learning about the issue of sexual exploitation during the project, she did not recognize that her activities were putting her at risk of being sexually exploited. The youth shared that she had decided to no longer associate with these older individuals, and to reflect on her substance use, as she realized the risks involved with both of these activities.

The Youth Art Engagement Project involved at-risk youth and adults in a nine-week, curriculum-based project exploring the issues of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Led by the Children of the Street Society, the curriculum covered topics such as recruitment tactics and warning signs, violence and drugs/alcohol, de-glamourizing the sex trade, and online exploitation. Project participants also explored a variety of art mediums through which they expressed their experiences and perspectives on the issue. A total of 55 pieces of artwork including drawings, paintings, collage, photography, sculpture, masks, street art, and spoken word were showcased at an art gallery celebration.



*Since 2011, the B.C. government has provided over \$1.7M in civil forfeiture grants to address issues of human trafficking and sexual exploitation in BC communities.*



## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

### CONTACT US

Thank you to all the community groups that applied for project grants this year. We anticipate issuing further calls for grant applications in 2015-16.

All grant opportunities are posted at:

<http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/crimeprevention/grants>

If you are interested in registering for an email notification when grants are available, please send your contact details to  
[crimeprevention@gov.bc.ca](mailto:crimeprevention@gov.bc.ca)

Civil Forfeiture Office  
Ministry of Justice  
PO Box 9234 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9J1  
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