

Justice and Public Safety Council (JPSC) Regular Meeting

July 29, 2020
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Teleconference only

Attendees:

Richard Fyfe, QC (Chair), Mark Sieben (Vice-Chair), Lisa Anderson, Elenore Arend, Allison Bond, Brenda Butterworth-Carr, Peter Juk, QC

Regrets:

Kurt Sandstrom, Jenny Manton, Taryn Walsh

Secretariat Support:

Mark Fassina, Claire Taggesell, Emilie Zsidi

Meeting Minutes

Agenda and Meeting Minutes:

- The agenda for the July 29, 2020 meeting and the minutes from the April 22, 2020 meeting were adopted by consensus.
- The Secretariat to the Council confirmed a Ministers' Decision Briefing Note was developed following the April 22, 2020 meeting to confirm the delivery approach for the upcoming November 2020 Justice Summit, given ongoing considerations pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The decision was made to proceed with a full-scale virtual Justice Summit with detailed planning to follow throughout the summer.

Confirming Finalization and Publication of the Justice and Public Safety Council (JPSC) 2020-2023 Strategic Plan

- The Secretariat to the Council confirmed the remaining sections of the JPSC 2020-2023 Strategic Plan were completed following the April 22, 2020 meeting.
- All feedback received by the Council was incorporated into the final plan, which was subsequently validated by the Council via email, distributed to the Attorney General and Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, and published to the BC Justice Reform website.

November 2020 Justice Summit Planning Update

- The Secretariat to the Council provided a high-level overview of the virtual engagement approach proposed for the November 2020 Justice Summit. Important features of this newly proposed approach include:
 - Presentations and panel discussions that will be professionally pre-recorded and provided to Justice Summit participants approximately 3-weeks in advance of the official Justice Summit programme occurring on November 20-21, 2020.
 - Companion discussion questions and other written materials that will accompany the asynchronous material.
 - Opportunities for participants to pose questions to presenters and panelists, in writing, prior to the official Justice Summit programme.

- Streamlined, real-time virtual plenary and table discussions taking place on November 20-21, 2020; building from the asynchronous content.
- Offline summarization and thematic analysis of table discussions by the facilitation team.
- Table discussion report-outs and a virtual plenary wrap-up discussion taking place the following week on November 27, 2020.
- The Secretariat to the Council highlighted several engagement and efficacy advantages that are generated through the proposed virtual approach.
- The Council expressed broad support for the proposed approach.
- To promote fulsome due diligence, the Secretariat to the Council will also solicit feedback from the Justice Summit Steering Committee and Working Group via email prior to initiating further detailed planning activities.

Action – The Secretariat to the Council will supply a written information update and revised calendar holds to Justice Summit invitees, reflective of the new virtual schedule.

Public Guardian and Trustee Justice Summit proposal

- The Secretariat to the Council reviewed the Justice Summit topic proposal provided by the Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT) in March 2020 on: *The protection of vulnerable adults from abuse and neglect, protective involuntary detentions and the potential infringement of Section 7 Charter Rights of vulnerable adults.*
- The Secretariat to the Council also noted that numerous additional Justice Summit prospective topics have been identified by previous participants via a survey, which would need to be considered along with the PGT proposal.
- The Council acknowledged the importance of the stated issue and recognized that a discussion on this topic warrants a robust policy discussion, which could extend into matters pertaining to children and youth as well.
- The Council noted that while the PGT proposal contains important legal implications - including applicable regulations under the *Adult Guardianship Act* as well as relevant impacts on policing organizations and the judiciary - when the stated topic is considered holistically, it extends beyond a primarily justice-focused matter that would fall within the mandate of the *Justice Reform and Transparency Act*.
- As such, the Council did not perceive that the Justice Summits, convened under the authority of the *Justice Reform and Transparency Act*, was the ideal forum to host this discussion proposed by the PGT.
- Notwithstanding, the Council expressed support for the overall collaborative methodology of Justice Summits and noted that a smaller-scale, Summit-like gathering could be convened independent from the *Justice Reform and Transparency Act* to meet the intentions of the PGT proposal.
- Further discussions can take place with justice and public safety ministry executives if the PGT is amenable to exploring this approach in greater detail.

Summary of discussion and next steps

- To inform the development of the Ministers' Briefing Note validating the November Justice Summit topic, the Council discussed the current context and considerations pertaining to the impacts of COVID-19 on the sector.
- While it was recognized the impacts of the pandemic should ideally be reflected and integrated within the existing Justice Summit programme (e.g. changes in custody trends, crime rates, etc.), the Council agreed that the topic should remain primarily focused on *Diversion and Alternatives to Short-Term Incarceration*.
- It was also noted that the affects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to unfold and as such, a future Justice Summit reflecting on these impacts throughout the sector may be most impactful when a comprehensive understanding of the situation is attainable.
- The next meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2020.

Action – The Secretariat to the Council will incorporate considerations pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic within the existing Justice Summit programme by way of targeted comments and dialogue that maintains our primary focus on the core topic of *Diversion and Alternatives to Short-Term Incarceration*.