January 13, 2015

District of North Saanich
1620 Mills Road
North Saanich BC V8L 5S9

Dear Mayor and Council,

Many thanks for your donation to the regional Crime Reduction and Education (CRED) youth gang prevention program. Your donation helped us to attract funds from other municipalities and grounds for our application to the provincial government for ongoing funding of this program.

Originally funded by the Province of British Columbia this program has been operating for over two years. In this time we have seen a direct reduction of youth engagement in violent or gang-activity as a result of their participation in the program. Program staff has also noted an increase in the well being of youth and their families, friends and communities.

Gang-related violence and risks for youth within and across the 13 municipalities of the CRD region are real and growing. While many Vancouver Island residents are not aware of their presence, multiple gangs – with extensive networks in Seattle and Vancouver and beyond – have made inroads into our communities. In one year alone (January 2013-14), 217 police files were created concerning the activities of the “WCGF” gang in the CRD area. This presence not only puts our youth at risk, it puts our whole community at risk. This is a unique service, with effective networks and advanced intelligence.

With your donation we have been able to continue this program in partnership with the regional Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST) and build our case for ongoing support at a provincial level.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for more details.

Yours sincerely,

Mitzi Dean
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