

TEAM POLICY - MAY 1978

COMMUNITY SERVICES
& CIVIC JUSTICE
SUB COMMITTEE

ISSUE I

Across the breadth of Canada there is a deep malaise over our unwilling downward social drift - over the breakdown of the family; over the splintering of society into small, narrow age groups; over the steady decline of ancient, formerly-respected institutions.

With physical affluence there has grown a spiritual poverty: a falling off of the old feeling of belonging, the sense of community that was everywhere forty years ago - whether you grew up in a prairie village or an early urban community like Kerrisdale, Kitsilano, or Marpole.

Today, in Vancouver, we have, compared to the situation of just four years ago, a larger and more methodically-deployed police force - and this for a declining population. Yet we are currently faced with a freshly-rising crime rate: up 14% in the first quarter over that of a year ago.

Many local simplistic calls are being heard for a new "Get Tough" policy with youthful offenders, though in another highly urban province (Ontario) there is a distinct move in the opposite direction - with planned closure of seven of their ten juvenile lockups.

In the face of this pervading country-wide malaise and our standoff with local crime, what can we propose without calling for more government, more regulation, and more bureaucracy?

ISSUE I continued

In short, how can a basically political civic organization come up with solutions for a complex problem which is fundamentally social in nature? How can we devise a broad cluster solution for a broad cluster problem?

OBJECTIVE I.1

How can Vancouver bring about, over the next thirty years, a fundamental shift in attitude towards the old sense of community, the local spirit of social self-help, and the respect for basic social institutions that we have lost in the last generation?

ISSUE II

In the whole tangle of trends that are precipitating our Declining School Enrolment in the City of Vancouver, a salient point stands out - one that is well within our power to do something about - that, of all the children born to Vancouver families, only 72% end up being enrolled in Vancouver's public schools.

OBJECTIVE II.1

To make Vancouver a more livable city for children.

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BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

I.1.(a) The City should make special efforts to give the deserving voluntary non-profit sector of our society proper status and recognition.

(b) The City should encourage its people to develop local solutions to local problems, ever mindful, however, of the impact on surrounding neighbourhoods.

(c) It should be a declared goal of Vancouver to become, over time, a city of caring communities, and that this objective should be enshrined in a revised charter for the city.

(d) The City should regard the problem of early crime prevention as primarily one to be solved in the local community.

(e) The City should give leadership in the setting of short and long term targets for the local reduction of crime.

(f) The City should encourage the formation of neighbourhood-based justice councils, with clearly defined terms of reference, to bring together on a regular basis, concerned families, social agencies and law enforcement authorities in the local community.

(g) The City should have its branch libraries take on the role of neighbourhood information centres covering the whole spectrum of civic services available to local citizens.

(h) The City should encourage the emergence of an officially-recognized umbrella organization in each of Vancouver's neighbourhood communities, and

(i) to that end, should make available at least a minimal support service, such as a roving secretarial service for local community meetings, possibly using existing city staff.
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Policy proposals continued

I.1.(1) Where a local community group is to enjoy an official representative status for a civic function, as in the case of a Neighbourhood ^{Improvement} Program or a Local Area Planning committee, the City should continue to insist on locally-developed but council-approved terms of reference.

II.1.(a) A task force be set up to bring down recommendations to that end.

(b) Reasonable-cost, socially-mixed family housing be provided.

(c) Discrimination in rentals against families with children be removed.

(d) Private enterprise, through space allowances, zoning provisions, or tax considerations, be encouraged to provide recreational facilities in their new developments.

(e) Play streets be provided.

(f) Child-size equipment in appropriate public facilities be provided.

(g) Quality after-school and holiday care for children of working parents be provided.

(h) Quality recreation, hobby, and social programs for teenagers be provided.

(i) Leadership be shown in providing part-time job opportunities for teenagers.

(j) Pride be built into Vancouver's communities.
