

Gold River Restorative Justice Society
Box 979
Gold River, B. C.
V0P 1G0

March 19, 2025

Mayor and Council
Village of Gold River
Box 610
Gold River, B. C.
V0P 1G0

Dear Mayor and Council:

Thank you for your support of our society by approving us for Grants-in-Aid for discounted rent of our office in the Jack Christensen Centre for 2024.

Attached is our application for a Grant-in-Aid for free use/discounted rental of space in the Jack Christensen Centre for 2025. Please contact us if you require any additional information (250-283-7367).

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A. Fehr', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Arlaine Fehr
President

March 19, 2025

Re: Jack Christensen Centre – Free Use/Discounted Rental of Space

Gold River Restorative Justice Society

The goal of our society is to provide an alternative to the criminal justice system for first time offenders, usually young people. All our referrals come from the RCMP.

If the offender shows remorse, and both victim and offender agree to participate in the program, the Restorative Justice process is set in motion. Interviews are conducted and a forum is set up, where the victim and offender meet in a structured circle setting, each accompanied by family members or other support. During the forum, the facilitator, following a set script, draws out the circumstances of the incident, encouraging everyone to participate. The victim is able to suggest what he/she would like to see as reparation. All parties must agree to these recommendations, and an agreement is drawn up and signed by the offender. When the contract has been fulfilled, the RCMP is notified of the completion of the case.

The advantages of the program are many. Most importantly, the victim is given a voice. The offender has an opportunity to repair the harm that has been done. The offender also benefits by having a clean record after what may have been a single, unthinking act. The community benefits because court time is freed up, and a Restorative Justice Forum can be set up within a matter of weeks after an offence has been committed. Statistics show that the incidence of recidivism is extremely low compared with offenders who go through the court system. If the Restorative Justice process were not available, many of these cases might not even proceed to court, so there would be no resolution for either victim or offender, and no benefit to the community.

The number of cases we receive each year depends entirely on the local RCMP detachment. Our members are constantly upgrading their training, and we remain ready to accept any cases that the RCMP refer to us. Our members believe that we provide a valuable service to the community.

GOLD RIVER RESTORATIVE JUSTICE SOCIETY

Financial Statement
January 1 – December 31, 2024

BALANCE at January 1, 2023 \$5 811.60

DEPOSITS:

CAP grant	\$2 500.00	
Total Income		2 500.00

EXPENSES:

Bank charges	\$ 45.00	
Utility costs (JCC)	283.50	
Miscellaneous *	<u>561.75</u>	
Total Expenses		<u>890.25</u>

BALANCE December 31, 2024

\$7 421.35

* Miscellaneous:

- Vancouver Island Regional Restorative Justice Association membership
- Branch 270 Remembrance Day wreath
- Volunteer appreciation
- Society annual registration

Training expense for 2024 will be approximately \$3 500.00

Arlaine Fehr
Interim Treasurer