



THE BRITISH COLUMBIA CIVIL LIBERTIES ASSOCIATION

A Member Of The Canadian Federation Of Civil Liberties And Human Right Associations

COMMUNITY INFORMATION PROJECT

REPORT TO THE BOARD

DECEMBER, 1974

FUNDING: Applications have been made to local Resource Boards by all groups. Three have had their budgets approved locally and we await word on the remainder. However, all Resource Board budgets must receive approval from Victoria. Each group has applied for funds to cover operating expenses, 2 workers and a part-time secretary. Recent statistics indicate these are modest requests.

POWELL RIVER - Terry Barker

- 71 complaints reported.

Landlord and tenant, consumer and matrimonial problems comprise the majority of the complaints handled. Terry is writing a bi-weekly column for the Powell River News. Column topics have included the Landlord and Tenant Act, Legal Aid and Divorce Laws. The column has caused a considerable increase in the number of complaints coming into the office. Terry has been elected to the Community Resource Board and is serving on the Justice Development Commission Steering Committee.

Terry was approached by the Mayor about civic funding and an application for operating expenses for 1975 has been made. He also was interested in the possibility of integrating services. The Board expressed a willingness to participate in such a scheme but declined to be the motivators of the project. They felt that this was a function of the Community Resource Board.

The Board of the Powell River Civil Liberties Association has grown to 12 members. A membership drive is planned for January of 1975.

KAMLOOPS - Lynn Atkins

- 108 complaints reported.

Nearly half of the complaints involved Landlord/tenant problems. The remainder concerned Due Process, Social Assistance, Labour and Workmen's Compensation Board problems. Lynn has been particularly concerned with the problem of discrimination against welfare recipients by dentists.

PENTICTON - Pat Dobbs

- 60 complaints reported.

The number of cases handled in the Penticton office has dropped slightly. Pat is concentrating on organizing the Penticton office for greater efficiency and on re-vamping the South Okanagan Civil Liberties Association. Once again the major problem areas are landlord and tenant, due process and consumer affairs.

Pat also processes Legal Aid applications. She has had five speaking engagements in local schools. "48 Forbes St." which provides umbrella services, including South Okanagan Civil Liberties Association, has been approached by the Department of National Health & Welfare about special funding. However, progress seems to be slow and I have not had a recent report on this.

QUESNEL - Myrna Guilbault

- 120 complaints reported.

Myrna assisted 77 people with Due Process problems during November. Other problem areas included Social Assistance, Labour, Matrimonial and U.I.C. Myrna reports that the Roscoe Rosenau case has finally concluded. Roscoe was found not guilty and the case against Rosenau has been stayed.

PRINCE GEORGE - Sharon Hirt

- 100 complaints reported.

Over half of Sharon's complaints involve Landlord/Tenant problems. The rest are comprised of Due Process, Social Assistance, labour and juvenile problems. Sharon had initial difficulties in her attempts to set up a local group. A recent meeting, attended by Reg Robson, attracted a small but fairly enthusiastic number of people. Further suggestions have been made with regard to organization.

COMOX-COURTENAY

- 64 complaints reported.

Nearly a third of the complaints are from landlords and tenants. Others include matrimonial, Social Assistance, labour and debt counselling. The Comox-Strathcona Civil Liberties Association is also concerned with the denial of services to welfare recipients and have been picketing local dentists offices.

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December 17, 1974.