

Statistical Information

Key Court Process Facts

The following statistical information for the Downtown Community Court (DCC) represents the period of **September 10, 2008 to July 31, 2009**.

| | <i>Total Sept. 08 to July 09</i> |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Number of new individuals who appeared in the DCC | 1,786 |
| Number of court cases resolved in the DCC | 1,970 |
| Number of individuals who resolved one or more court cases in the DCC | 1,076 |

Accused persons who had a hearing in the DCC but did not conclude their court cases there, were either scheduled to appear in the DCC again later and work towards resolution in the community court, or they elected to proceed to a trial at another court location.

Key Offender Management Facts

| | <i>Total Sept. 08 to July 09</i> |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Number of individuals who attended social, health and mental health programming at DCC | 568 |
| Number of individuals who received shelter and housing | 209 |
| Number of individuals who applied for and received income assistance | 35 |
| Number of hours of community service contributed by DCC clients | 6,055 |

- Social, health and mental health programming at the DCC includes the following.

The health information treatment readiness sessions are provided by Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH), with each session facilitated by a VCH staff person with expertise in the topic. The health sessions are offered frequently. Clients benefit by receiving timely, appropriate and accessible information on a variety of health-related topics. The sessions act as a catalyst to receiving health services. Health information session topics vary and are an introduction to addiction and mental health issues, and provide an overview of the available resources. For those clients who attend sessions, DCC will be able to facilitate a referral to a VCH program as needed for continued support.

The Forensic Liaison Nurse receives referrals from the Crown and Defence counsel for persons before the court who may be experiencing mental health problems. After completing a brief intake assessment the nurse may refer the person to appropriate community and residential resources. When required, a forensic psychiatrist is available to complete court ordered assessments, which may include certification under the *Mental Health Act*.

Complementary programming includes an Aboriginal Wellness Program, which delivers culturally safe mental wellness and addictions programs for Aboriginal people. Elizabeth Fry Society offers a Crime and Consequences seminar for those charged with a criminal offence and provides information and education about the criminal justice system. Family

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Services of Greater Vancouver provide a Financial Literacy Program which is designed to help participants increase their knowledge and confidence in the tasks of daily money management.

- DCC clients requiring housing have been placed in secure shelter beds, which is a significant step for many. Shelter housing is the starting point and staff then work with clients to take the next step towards permanent housing.
- Eligible individuals may apply for income assistance with an income assistance worker located in the community court. Their applications are prepared on site in the community court, their financial circumstances are confirmed and their application is approved in the course of one meeting (the majority of clients are already receiving income assistance).
- Through its community service programs the community court contributed approximately 6,055 hours of work to the community. At \$8 per hour, this would be a value of approximately \$48,440.

Examples of community service work completed include:

- perform a variety of tasks in a kitchen environment including serving meals;
- general building maintenance and cleaning tasks;
- reception, greeting and answering telephones;
- mail sorting, bulk mail outs;
- cleaning up and maintaining roadways, sidewalks, alley ways - keeping our streets and neighborhoods clean;
- laundry;
- general warehousing - stocking shelves, sorting goods, loading/unloading trucks;
- library - sorting/processing library materials;
- gardening, maintaining hanging baskets;
- graffiti removal.

Community partners for the community service projects include, among others:

- RainCity Housing
- Lookout Emergency Aid Society
- Portland Hotel Society
- Gallery Gachet
- Gathering Place
- First United Church
- Union Gospel Mission
- Coast Mental Health
- City of Vancouver
- Salvation Army, Harbour Light
- Salvation Army, Belkin House

Interest in the court has been far ranging, with delegations of interested parties coming for tours of the courthouse from local and B.C. organizations, Alberta, Ontario, Washington State, Beijing, Russia and Australia.



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