

# C.O.R.E.Y. *Keeping young motorbike riders safe*

**There have been some significant milestones achieved in the year since the anniversary of the C.O.R.E.Y. ride safe campaign in 2016.**

The Coalition of Riders Educating Youth (C.O.R.E.Y.) was launched in 2005 by Kitimat's Denise Lodge in memory of her son Corey who was killed in a motorcycle accident on Vancouver Island on March 3, 2005, when he was only 21.

She launched C.O.R.E.Y. in an attempt to educate riders and to have regulations around motorcycle safety tightened, to prevent other families from having to go through what her family did.

She said inexperience combined with Corey buying a high-powered motorbike a day after writing his motorcycle knowledge test, contributed to the accident.

Since 2016, the campaign has been formalized into the CoreySafe Society, a non-profit society with members and four directors which will also hold annual general meetings.

"A society has to account for its mandate, and for what we put out there in public," said Denise.

Since becoming a society in December 2016, Denise said they will be focussing their attention on two programs in B.C., C.O.R.E.Y. Ride and Drive Safe and C.O.R.E.Y. Motorcycle Safety.

One of the milestones achieved through the Motorcycle Safety program was a meeting with the new government's solicitor-general, Mike Farnworth, on October 5 in Victoria. Denise and her husband met with Farnworth and his staff to discuss

having graduated licencing with training implemented in the province.

"Farnworth is the 11th solicitor-general we have met with since we launched C.O.R.E.Y. That is how determined we are to get power restrictions put in place," said Denise.

"How can you handle a 1000cc motorcycle when you have never had a motorcycle before?" She said Farnworth requested the half an hour meeting with Denise after the District of Kitimat made a presentation to the solicitor-general, the transport minister and ICBC at the Union of B.C. Municipalities convention held earlier this year.

The graduated motorcycle licence program was given the thumbs up by the UBCM in June.

"I think the meeting went very well. It's one of the more positive meetings I've had with the solicitor-general," said Denise.

She said Farnworth committed his office to conducting its own research and finding out why the legislation hadn't been

implemented yet. The C.O.R.E.Y. Ride and Drive Safe program has also had a successful year, reaching 4,800 students in schools throughout the

province. The program targets students from Grade 7 to 12 with a 45-minute presentation which includes Corey's story, a presentation by the RCMP about sharing

the road safely, a video of a motorcycle accident and road accident statistics. The students also get to check out street and dirtbike gear, loaned to C.O.R.E.Y. by Kitimat

mayor Phil Germuth. "We are hoping to be able to buy our own gear for the program," said Denise. She said the society

will be focussing on fundraising and grants so that it can expand its programs to more schools and beyond the B.C. border.



**Denise with some of the bike gear used in the presentations to young rider hopefuls at a fundraising drive outside Save On Foods.**



**Const. Justin Steenhof, Const. Tanner Fowler, Brenda (Jingles) Dauphinee, Denise Lodge, Corp. Brad McKinnon, Sgt. Graham Morgan and Const. Kurt Fink all helped flip hamburgers to support the C.O.R.E.Y. campaign.**

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