

July 10, 2020

Hello Jesse Ketler
Chair, Comox Valley Regional District,

I am a member of the Monarch Lions Club and a Director on the Board for the Affordable Housing Society. We are requesting a Letter of Support from the Mayor's office on behalf of the Comox Valley Affordable Housing Society. I am copying my email to Ann Janssen, our Administrator and Fred Tutt, the Chairman of our Board. I am serving as a Director on this Board and Mr. Tutt and I are working together on this project.

To give you some background on our projects, I will share the following information:

The Courtenay Low Income Housing Society began in 1990. The Board took over the D'Esterre Senior Citizens Society in 2015. In 2019 the Courtenay Low Income Housing Society changed its name to the Comox Valley Affordable Housing Society. The board believed that the name was a better fit for the Society moving forward.

Shortly after the name was changed, The Comox Valley Affordable Housing Society and the D'Esterre Senior Citizens Society amalgamated. D'Esterre was given to us in a state of extreme disrepair; it had not been properly maintained essentially since it was built. While we have tried to maintain it as best we can, it is to the point we are running at a deficit and if we do not rebuild - we will have to shut the property down and look at other alternatives (such as selling the property). Obviously, we do not want to have to do that.

A tenant relocation plan has been put in place, and we will work with the displaced tenants as best we can to help them find new homes. We have put together a pay out package including some money towards moving costs, etc. Unfortunately, we can only do so much in the housing market as it is - which is why we are working so hard to build new units. The rents the tenants will have to pay in their new homes WILL be higher as they are paying in many cases less than \$300.00 per month for rent (which is part of the reason that we run in a deficit).

Currently, there are 16 units on about 1 acre of land for D'Esterre in Comox. This is not good use of the property. We are aiming to increase this number to 52. Almost TRIPLE!

I am suggesting a letter of support that might say something along the lines of "the society is not only capable of building the new property, but will ensure all aspects of running and maintaining it are taken care of in the years to come." Or "more low-income housing is needed in the valley, and the society has my full support in this project." Etc. Etc.

Perhaps you can refer to the grossly unaffordable rental rates and severe need for seniors affordable housing valley wide. Also it should be noted the Comox Valley Affordable Housing Society's ability to house 36 more people who desperately need homes at decent rental rates would be one of the results of this extra new seniors housing.

If you have any further questions about this project, I would be happy to answer any questions you may have. I can be reached at rolowebb@telus.net or home phone (250) 338-6603. Should you agree with our request for a letter of support, we would appreciate receiving it as soon as possible.

We look forward to your support of this important project. Your letter of support can be sent to the following: (With a copy to me)

Ann Janssen, Administrator
Comox Valley Affordable Housing Society
#21 - 1547 Dingwall Road
Courtenay, BC V9N 3S8

Thank you, Chair Jesse Ketler, RD

Sincerely,
Ron Webber

Comox Valley Affordable Housing Society
501 4th Street, Unit 302
Courtenay, BC V9N 1H3