



2020-SEPT-23

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Letter of Support to the Port Alberni Shelter Society (PASS) Regarding a Therapeutic Recovery Community in the Alberni Valley

As Mayor of the City of Nanaimo, and on behalf of Council, I am pleased to provide this letter of support to the Port Alberni Shelter Society (PASS) in their pursuit of a Therapeutic Recovery Community (TRC) in the Alberni Valley.

The Port Alberni Shelter Society (PASS) has been exploring options and solutions in the sectors of housing, mental health and addictions specifically aimed at residents on Vancouver Island. Their resulting research has indicated that a long-term Therapeutic Recovery Community model, as demonstrated in limited locations in Canada, the United States, Portugal and Italy has the potential to bring a much greater degree of success than the fragmented and ineffective recovery models more commonly practised in Canada. This initiative involves a facility initially designed for females, which as it evolves, will accommodate all genders and families. It should be noted that there is currently no exclusively for females operating in Canada. PASS intends to establish the TRC in an agricultural location, which it currently has under its operational umbrella, providing a long-term working solution, free to residents, which after initial funding will be a self-sustainable program.

This model encourages peer-to-peer supports, and the use of social enterprises as working venues to produce healthier lifestyles; the satisfaction of achieving goals; economic stability for both the residents and the programs themselves.

We often look for programs practised elsewhere which may have value when implemented into our social programs. This initiative touches on not just the human cost of addictions but also on the cost of law enforcement; the cost to victims of crime; the cost of hospitalization; the costs of housing and the costs of unemployment in the job force. I am very aware of the critical impacts of these issues on Vancouver Island and am committed to helping develop solutions.

Sincerely,


Leonard Krog
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