

**Stone Soup Delegation, July 15, 2019**  
**Andrew Homzy: 180 Pirates Lane V9R 6R1**

**Thank you Mayor Krog and Councillors for responding to my email of June 19, 2019:**

-----Original Message-----

From: Andrew Homzy <[REDACTED]>  
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2019 7:22 PM  
To: Mayor&Council <[Mayor&Council@nanaimo.ca](mailto:Mayor&Council@nanaimo.ca)>  
Subject: Stone Soup -

Dear Mayor and Council,

I urge you to consider support and resolution for Stone Soup.

For many years, Tanya and Doug Hiltz have given their hearts and lives to help the homeless and low-income people survive the debilitating effects of being impoverished and hungry.

Please consider forming a committee to meet Tanya and Doug Hiltz - to hear their story in a non-threatening, respectful situation - and come to a decision which has an out-come to be admired throughout BC.

Yours for a Safe and Vibrant Nanaimo,

Andrew Homzy

[REDACTED]

Nanaimo, BC

[REDACTED]

**1. Crisis: possible extinction of a needed, well-managed and well-used free evening meal program. Update: Eviction of Tanya & Doug Hiltz began this morning.. They are now homeless.**

**2. What we're requesting. A Meeting: Communication, Facilitation, Solution - facilitated by the knowledgeable expertise in Nanaimo's City Hall.**

**3. Who are the stakeholders? City, BC (VIHA), RCMP, Volunteers, Churches, Businesses, Property Owners, Tenants, and Street People.**

**4. Common Ground: We can all agree the Stone Soup service is needed, established, zoned, permitted, well used and helps connect street people to health agencies. Stone Soup supports and implements all of the City's stated social policies —> Harm Reduction, lowering crime through CPTED, 'Buy-In' and Community Engagement.**

**(Thx, council, BTW, for the Island Health/safe injection decision last week - 2nd motion revised by Tyler Brown)**

**5. Opportunity for resolution through facilitated communication.**

**...and remember:**

**6. Price:** Stone Soup is free and the volunteers are “priceless”

Nanaimo has the resources, ethics, experience and budget to make Nanaimo Better.

This council promised to turn the previous dysfunction around, and this is a great opportunity to do so through improved **Community Engagement. Map: “Buy-In” from the Neighbourhood.**

**7.** Thank you, and I’d be happy to take any questions. Please note that representatives from Island Health may also with us tonight.

**Finally: I’d like to say:** Thank-You to Tanya and Doug Hiltz and the other volunteers and donors who have contributed to the operation of Stone Soup for their 16 months of providing free meals to homeless and low-income people.

Will you join me?

\* \* \* \* \*

**FAQ** (Some concerns, questions, straw targets and red herrings we've heard):

a) **"They have to follow the rules.** There is simply nothing more to discuss". Another view: They did / they are! (show photo of the Permit). and All cooks and servers are food-safe certified and many are also Narcan-trained. Island Health most recently renewed the operating permit on June 3, does regular inspections. Building code and bylaws requests have been implemented. The biggest point ... its not "simple"!

b) **"Stone Soup grew too big, too fast"** Another view: A challenge yes, but it's Opioids & Discontent City that grew too big too fast. Solutions, even temporary, are **never** big enough or soon enough.

c) **"Its a good idea, ...but** someone else should run it". Another view: Why? Who? When? Where? How?

d). **"They should move** to another available place that is properly zoned". Another view: 150 Nicol has the necessary (D12) zoning already. (..and so does the empty 7-11 at 190 Nicol, and all the other properties in that block.)

e). **"The city can't overrule the owner's right to evict"**. Another view: Nobody is asking the city to do that.

f) **"The MLA can't over-rule the Residential Tenancy Branch."** Another view: Nobody is asking Sheila to do so. Their decision is being challenged through proper channels.

g) "Resolving private Landlord-Tenant conflicts is not legally the city's job". Another view: Of course not. But if Council so chooses, Nanaimo can assist where conflict resolution would make Nanaimo a better city. And so can our MLA. This particular circumstance is a rare and significant opportunity to engage directly with citizens on an important and needed social intervention. The possible elimination of Stone Soup will impact many more stakeholders than just the landlord and tenant.

**Consideration:** Nanaimo spent \$850,000 on the Goldner Report and related legal bills precipitated by a lack of communication.

**Source:** Oct 2018 Nanaimo dysfunction - legal bills rise to \$850,000

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/british-columbia/article-voters-hope-election-cleanses-nanaimo-of-dysfunction/> and

Aug 2017 Council commissions Goldner report on resolving rude council behavior

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/nanaimo-city-council-needs-lessons-in-manners-report-says/article35870639/>

\* \* \* \* \*

## Potential Stone Soup Opinion Poll - (multiple choice)

### FAIRNESS:

1. Was the original complaint against Stone Soup
  - a). Serious and respectful?
  - b) Retaliatory and vexatious?
  - c). Don't know.
2. Was the substance of the complaint
  - a) valid, accurate and significant?
  - b) minor and frivolous?
  - c). Don't know.
3. Have wrong or defamatory FaceBook posts shaped your understanding of Stone Soup? Have you visited Stone Soup in person?
  - a). Yes
  - b) No
  - c) Don't know.

### COMPLIANCE:

1. Was compliance with the building inspector's order:
  - a) Disregarded?
  - b) Somewhat accomplished
  - c). Substantially accomplished?
  - d) Don't know.
2. Is Stone Soup compliant with VIHA food standards?
  - a). Yes
  - b) No
  - c) Don't know.

## PROCESS:

1. Is the RTB ruling to evict Stone Soup's organizers being challenged?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Don't know.

## ACCOUNTABILITY:

1. The Stone Soup controversy is:

- a). Strictly a private landlord tenant matter, not involving the City.
- b) A multi-stakeholder crisis / opportunity that impacts the city, the province, local churches, businesses, and other stakeholders..



## CITY Resources

Nanaimo [communication](#) and engagement departments:

<https://www.nanaimo.ca/your-government/departments-contacts/departments/communications-engagement>

## Links

Aug 2017 Council funds Goldner report on rude council behavior

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/nanaimo-city-council-needs-lessons-in-manners-report-says/article35870639/>

Feb 2018. Nanaimo loses \$7 million funding by nixing social housing project

<https://www.nanaimobulletin.com/news/supportive-housing-project-wont-go-ahead-at-cranberry-road-site/>

Sept 2018. Parksville approves \$ 6.9 Million social housing project

<https://www.timescolonist.com/business/parksville-gives-go-ahead-to-contentious-supportive-housing-project-1.23425069>

Oct 2018 Nanaimo dysfunction - legal bills rise to \$850,000



<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/british-columbia/article-voters-hope-election-cleanses-nanaimo-of-dysfunction/>

Dec 2018 New Mayor Krog vows to repair tattered reputation from social and council dysfunction)

<https://www.nanaimobulletin.com/news/supportive-housing-project-wont-go-ahead-at-cranberry-road-site/>

Dec 2018 Mayor to turn page on dysfunction

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/nanaimo-city-hall-krog-moving-on-1.4935730>

news links 10 minute article by Lewis Beck —

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NO\\_kun4CWFA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NO_kun4CWFA)

From VIHA, via Tanya Hiltz. July 8, 2019

IN 1986, the Ottawa Charter on Health Promotion began by defining the pre-requisites for health. Conditions that are necessary prior to beginning to focus on health and wellbeing. One of these pre-requisites is food. British Columbia in establishing the core functions of public health which promote and protect health and prevent disease, specifically labelled food security as an integral component of a provincial program. Food security as defined by the WHO is *when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life*

Persons who are food insecure, are often housing insecure and are further subjected to social injustice. Shelter and social justice are two additional pre-requisites for health.

As a community, Nanaimo should strive to ensure all residents have access to the basic fundamentals of living, or as the Ottawa Charter specifies, to the pre-requisites of health. No one service, or grouping of services is likely to result in food security for all residents, and a diversity of options from breakfast clubs, soup kitchens, faith based organizations, food banks and collective feeding programs are integral to the response. The need for the service is in part measured by how well it is used, and clearly Nanaimo has demonstrated the need for an evening food program.

**DR. PAUL HASSELBACK**

3rd Floor, 6475 Metral Dr

Nanaimo, B.C.

V9T 2L9

250-739-6304

# PERMIT

## to OPERATE

A Food Services Establishment With More Than 50 Seats

Premises Number: NBYL-AYFSWF  
Premises Name: Stone Soup  
Address: 150 Nicol Street  
Nanaimo, BC  
V9R 4S9

Proprietor: Wisteria Community Association/Tanya Hiltz

Conditions:

- Limited to soup prepared in St. Paul's Church kitchen or provided by a commercial facility with a valid operating permit from Island Health. Breads, cookies, crackers, hard-boiled eggs and whole fruits may be served.
- Food handling restricted to dispensing soup, buttering bread and spreading jam or peanut butter on bread.
- Soup must be cooled with cooling wands at the church and transported in covered containers at 4°C to Stone Soup. One frozen wand per soup pail per day; refillable ice-cube wands may be used more than once a day but only if the wand is never less than 25% ice. Refresh ice in these wands frequently.
- All warewashing to take place in the commercial high temperature sanitizing dishwasher at St. Paul's Church Kitchen.
- Records must be kept daily for all Stone Soup fridge temperatures, St. Paul's Church temperature log and temperature of soup at service.
- A record must be kept for all donations of potentially hazardous food. The records must include the food product donated, amount of product, donor name and date of donation. The record must be kept onsite and available for inspection.
- Maintain a production log with the number of buckets of soup made and served per day.

Relief of Poverty – permit fee waived  
Permit Revised: June 3, 2019

04-May-2018  
Effective Date

  
Environmental Health Officer

This permit must be displayed  
in a conspicuous place and is not transferable

Place Decal Here







# Save Stone Soup Petition - as of July 13

18 of 20 residents on Wisteria Lane have signed the petition

