

ATTACHMENT C



VANCOUVER ISLAND
UNIVERSITY

October 15, 2019

Madeleine Koch, MCIP, RPP
Parks and Open Space Planner
Parks and Recreation
City of Nanaimo

Thank you for reaching out to Vancouver Island University (VIU) to discuss the potential partnership opportunities at East Wellington Park. During our initial consultations with Nanaimo City staff regarding the future use of the Park, it appears that there will could be some amazing opportunities to collaborate with the City to offer experiential learning opportunities for our students while enhancing a community space.

At VIU we have invested significant time and energy in developing our Academic Plan. Within that Plan some of the core objectives that we have identified include the following:

- enhance experiential learning opportunities and involvement, and community-based learning activity
- support opportunities to build high quality scholarship, research and creative activity
- sustain collaborative relationships, including research opportunities, with business and industry, communities, educational partners, governments and Indigenous communities in order to ensure suitable responses to regional cultural, economic, environmental and social needs
- support community-based learning that builds on Indigenous protocols, ways of knowing, and facilitates bridging into VIU

We feel that the potential partnership opportunities that exist within the scope of this project would help us achieve these objectives. Our Horticulture program resides at the G.R. Paine center only blocks away from the Park location and they are keen to participate in the development process for the space as well as potential on-going experiential learning opportunities. Our Heavy Equipment Operators program would be keen to participate if the opportunity was there for our students to have the opportunity to apply their learning and training in an industry setting. The Science and Technology faculty at VIU also has a number of programs that could participate in this partnership either through the design phase of the project or through ongoing applied research opportunities, including Natural Resource Protection and Fisheries and Aquaculture.

This potential partnership could provide valuable ongoing experiential learning and research opportunities embedded with indigenous ways of knowing for VIU students. I would like to submit this letter of support for the City of Nanaimo and VIU to explore partnership opportunities as part of the East Wellington Park plan development process.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jessie Chalmers".

Jessie Chalmers
Associate Dean, Trades and Applied Technology
Vancouver Island University