

# Delegation Request

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## **Delegation's Information:**

Anne Martin has requested an appearance before Council.

City: Nanaimo

Province: BC

## **Delegation Details:**

The requested date is July 6, 2020.

The requested meeting is:  
Council

Bringing a presentation: No

Details of the Presentation:

We deeply appreciate the City of Nanaimo's support for the Take a Hike Nanaimo Program through a \$10,000 Community Vitality Grant for 2020. In light of the COVID-19 crisis, we would like to propose redirecting the grant from our original request, capital towards a vehicle purchase, towards mental health supports. Without adequate support, many youth risk regressing to destructive coping behaviours like further isolation or withdrawal, using substances, or self-harm. With redirected funding, we would be able to hire a clinical counsellor earlier than the September start date originally planned, and provide intensive supports through the start of the school year. Helping vulnerable youth to improve their mental health and resilience now will not only support their wellness through the immediate crisis; it will help them to re-engage with school and achieve social and academic success. As well, the COVID-19 crisis is affecting the adventure-based learning and community involvement activities outlined in our original application. We originally requested funding towards a 24-passenger bus to transport youth to these activities, but we are now preparing for physical distancing and in-person capacity restrictions to continue through the fall. This will change the delivery of program activities and reduce the need for a 24-passenger bus.