

## ATTACHMENT A

### **Vancouver Island Raiders Football**

448 Diamond Boulevard  
Nanaimo, BC  
V9T 2R7

February 5, 2021

Mr Richard Harding  
General Manager, Parks, Recreation, Culture  
455 Wallace Street  
Nanaimo, B.C.  
V9R 5J

Dear Richard:

Re: Multi Use Stadium

I am writing on behalf of the Vancouver Island Raiders Junior Football team, who have been part of the sports fabric of Nanaimo since 2005. The Raiders play in the British Columbia Football Conference of the Canadian Junior Football League.

To this end, the Raiders play in the top amateur football league in Canada, with the exception of USport. During its 15 year history, the Raiders have represented Nanaimo across British Columbia as well as the rest of Canada. The team has won 8 Provincial Championships and 3 Canadian Championship and while not winning, the team competed for an additional 4 Canadian Championships.

The team has been very successful and feels that it has represented Nanaimo quite well. Up until now, the team has played out of Caledonia Park. While the facility was never on par with others in the league, the team made it work. However, the days are past where it can function properly, on the field and off the field with Caledonia being its home field.

The lack of proper facilities have hindered and really affected attendance at games and the state of the facilities has affected player recruiting. The facility has been judged the worst in Junior football across Canada. In fact, the BCFC and CJFL have decreed that no playoff games would ever be held in Nanaimo again, if Caledonia is the venue of such games. Other teams also regularly point to the lack of a proper facility in Nanaimo when it comes to recruiting players. This makes it difficult to field a competitive team each year.

Add in the fact that the lack of proper facilities has had a dramatic effect on attendance, game day revenue and sponsorship, it has been increasingly difficult to sustain the team financially while utilizing Caledonia Park. The seating is exposed to the elements, both sun and rain, the lack of lighting prevents night games which would give our fans more flexibility in order attend games, and the lack of telecommunications which makes it difficult to live stream our games, all hits our financial bottom line.

Therefore, we are very supportive of a new multi-use facility being built in Nanaimo. To be able to use such a facility as our home base and field would open up a huge number of opportunities for us and allow us to sustain ourselves financially and athletically.

To this end, we have been working cooperatively with yourselves for 3 years or more in the hopes a new facility would be built that would suit our purposes. To use utilize the existing field at NDSS to incorporate into a new facility makes great sense and then to have it located within in a sports hub as it presently exists, brings forward symbiotic relationships that could benefit all end users.

We understand that it takes time to have such a facility up and running, however, as discussed we can work with you on a phased improvement plan that meets our objectives and those of the city. Enough of the elements needed for our games and operations exist so that they could be used temporarily. This gives time for the ultimate facility to be constructed while giving us the lifeline that we desperately need.

I appreciate that time that you have spent with us to understand our needs and we are wholeheartedly supportive of the new facility. We think it would be a great asset to Nanaimo as well as ourselves.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself.

Yours sincerely,

Kabel Atwall

