

ATTACHMENT B



September 15, 2023

Sent by email: SDPR.minister@gov.bc.ca

Honourable Sheila Malcolmson
Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Sent by email: HOUS.minister@gov.bc.ca

Honourable Ravi Kahlon
Minister of Housing
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8X 1X4

Dear Minister Malcolmson and Minister Kahlon,

Re: Funding Support for a Permanent Meal Program to Assist Nanaimo's Unhoused Population

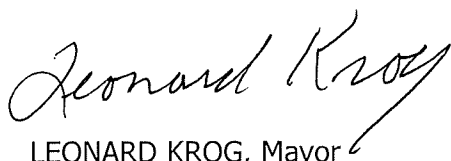
This letter is to request ongoing funding support for a permanent meal program to assist the unhoused population in the City of Nanaimo. The City's non-profit sector has been resourceful and creative in finding ways to provide regular meals to the City's unhoused population. However, the lack of a consistent funding source for this basic human need has contributed to instability in service provision, and caused added stress to an already tenuous situation amongst the many vulnerable people residing in the streets and public areas of Nanaimo. After November 2023, no funding has been secured for a consistent meal program for the unhoused in Nanaimo, and the City is reaching out to the Province for financial support. Ideally, meal service(s) would be provided in an indoor location, allowing the homeless the dignity to have a warm meal sitting at a table.

For many years, the 7-10 Club Society operated an indoor breakfast program in Nanaimo for vulnerable populations relying on various sources of donations and funding. However, since the closure of a City-owned building rented by the 7-10 Club Society in 2021 (to make way for permanent supportive housing), the organization has not re-established in another location. To bridge the gap in service the City funded the Salvation Army to provide an indoor breakfast

program between September and December 2021. The Salvation Army was able to secure alternate funding to provide a breakfast program between January 2022 and October 2022. Between November 2022 and July 2023, the City allocated UBCM Strengthening Communities funding to the Salvation Army to provide a breakfast meal program, however indoor service has not been possible. The City is once again funding an outdoor distributed meal program (partnership between the Salvation Army and 7-10 Club Society) from August to November 2023. Relying largely on donations, a few other various non-profit organizations in the City are providing limited supplies of meals to vulnerable populations, however they are not able to reach the vast numbers of homeless between the north and south ends of Nanaimo.

We look forward to hearing back from you to secure funding for this basic need in Nanaimo, particularly before cold winter weather adds stress to the situation. In the meantime, should you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, we would be happy to meet with you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leonard Krog". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LEONARD KROG, Mayor
City of Nanaimo

cc: Richard Harding, Acting CAO, City of Nanaimo