



September 29, 2023

Mayor and Council  
City of Nanaimo  
455 Wallace Street  
Nanaimo, BC V9R 5J6

Dear Mayor and Council,

As you may be aware, Foundry, the provincial health care nonprofit focused on youth health and wellness, is currently calling for proposals from communities where the agency does not currently have a location. Foundry is a province wide initiative supported by the Government of British Columbia, Graham Boeckh Foundation, Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research, Providence Health Care and St. Paul's Foundation. Nanaimo has responded to a couple of Requests for Proposals in the past but has not been successful at getting a location for our city.

The understanding is that, in prior proposals, there was insufficient proof of support across the community for such an undertaking. A group of community-based agencies have been meeting for the past few weeks to determine if there was an appetite to pursue a Nanaimo Foundry location in this proposal call. The decision was that there was a desire to provide this level of health and wellness support to the youth of Nanaimo and area, and a group is putting together a comprehensive proposal for the October 27 deadline.

If you wish to learn more about the Foundry, the website at [foundrybc.ca](http://foundrybc.ca) provides lots of information about the organization, the various locations across British Columbia and the kinds of activities and support that a Foundry would offer young people in and around Nanaimo.

If successful, this project would also mean an investment of up to \$5 million in capital development and permanent, well-paying jobs for an additional 10 to 15 people in our community.

In an effort to show a broad cross-section of support within our community, I would like to request that Mayor and Council provide a letter of support for the project that we can add to our proposal when it is submitted. This would provide further evidence of our community's commitment to the wellbeing of its youth, and the City's support for such a facility.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Keith Wilson  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Nanaimo Youth Services Association