

November 1, 2023

Mayor Leonard Krog and City Council
City of Nanaimo
455 Wallace St
Nanaimo, BC V9R 5J6

Re: Letter of support for Ballenas Housing Society

Dear Mayor Krog and Council members,

We write today formally requesting a letter of support for Ballenas Housing Society's redevelopment of 11 Buttertubs Drive, Community Housing Fund (CHF) proposal to BC Housing.

The redevelopment is being proposed under the BC Housing CHF funded project, where:

- 20% of the units will have a deep subsidy rental rate (e.g., \$500/month for a one-bedroom unit)
- 50% of the units will be rent geared to income (RGI) where rental rates will be based on 30% of household income, and
- 30% of the units will be at the low end of market (LEM) rates.

The 11 Buttertubs Drive redevelopment will replace the ~ 40 small patio homes for seniors with more than 200 units of new housing, creating a mixed community of families, seniors, people of varying abilities and backgrounds, of low to moderate income. This re-development is intended to be part of the larger masterplan to create a campus-like setting on Buttertubs Marsh, adjacent to the Mill Stream that runs along the north boundary of 15 and 11 Buttertubs Drive.

As part of this long-term planning, the City of Nanaimo and Ballenas Housing Society have discussed a partnership approach to the redevelopment of this property whereby the City of Nanaimo would provide a commitment to completing the water mains upgrade from Bowen Road, down Buttertubs Drive, and Ballenas Housing Society would commit to a Statutory Right of Way (SRW) for a future multi-use pathway and

bridge bisecting 15 and 11 Buttertubs. It is our belief that such a multi-use pathway through the Buttertubs property, would fit the intent of connecting this campus-like residential property to the larger Nanaimo community and supporting the long-term vision of a vibrant and active Nanaimo community. This partnership also assists in reducing the infrastructure costs for the redevelopment.

Additionally, such a multi-use pathway also supports the province's green initiatives, including walking, biking, and alternate means of transportation outside of individually owned gas vehicles. A multi-use path, incorporated into this residential community, also facilitates the residential community to remain active and engaged in the larger Nanaimo community.

This partnership with the City of Nanaimo and Ballenas Housing Society is a model of working together on a shared vision for the community, creating more than what any municipality and housing provider could offer the community on its own and fosters a commitment of collaboration in future partnerships within the Nanaimo area.

Ballenas Housing Society has been operating in the Nanaimo area for more than 33 years and has developed a solid reputation for providing hundreds of homes for Nanaimo residents that are well maintained with a sense of community.

We appreciate your consideration and support in the Ballenas proposal submission process and the partnership that will benefit the Buttertubs residents and the larger Nanaimo community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andrea Blakeman
CEO
Ballenas Housing Society

On behalf of the Society and the Board