

# ATTACHMENT A

## Nob Hill Neighbourhood Impact Statements

[REDACTED]: Impact Statement

- One block away from Risebridge

As a resident of the Nob Hill community, I am deeply concerned about the impact of Risebridge on our neighborhood. The establishment of the warming center has brought a wave of challenges that have severely affected our quality of life and safety.

Firstly, the influx of individuals experiencing homelessness and substance use has created an environment of constant tension and unease. Every day, we witness people loitering, setting fires, and engaging in risky behaviors right in front of our homes. This has led to a pervasive sense of insecurity, with incidents of theft, vandalism, and aggressive behavior becoming all too common occurrences.

Moreover, the mental health toll on residents cannot be understated. Living in a state of perpetual vigilance, constantly monitoring our surroundings for potential threats, has taken a significant toll on our well-being. The constant fear for our safety, the sleepless nights filled with anxiety, and the exhaustion of living in a neighborhood besieged by chaos have become daily realities.

Furthermore, Risebridge's presence has had a detrimental impact on our community's cohesion and sense of belonging. What was once a vibrant and close-knit neighborhood has now become fragmented, with residents feeling isolated and disconnected from one another. The constant need to protect ourselves and our properties has eroded the trust and camaraderie that once defined our community.

The situation created by Risebridge is untenable and demands urgent attention. The safety and well-being of Nob Hill residents should be paramount, and it is imperative that effective solutions be implemented to address the myriad challenges we face. Our neighborhood deserves better, and it is time for action to restore peace, security, and dignity to our community.

Sincerely,  
Nob Hill Community Member

[REDACTED]: Impact Statement

I have read statements from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], two of my neighbours, and can testify to their multiple examples of disturbances and social disorder in the Nob Hill neighbourhood, particularly since the opening of the Risebridge warming centre/shelter at 520 Prideaux Street three years ago.

[REDACTED] This used to be a safe, walkable neighbourhood, where I could do my daily errands with ease. As a senior, I personally do not feel safe here anymore, particularly in the past two years. We no longer walk in the evenings, as we used to do in all seasons. Witnessing multiple psychotic episodes in front or next to our house, all hours of day and night, people overdosing on the railway tracks or in the field adjacent to it, self-administering drugs next to the sidewalk in plain view of local residents and children, setting up camps and sometimes fires in the field and/or on Milton Street, etc. and the list goes on and on as outlined by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], has deeply affected my mental health. We have had someone walking up to our front porch stealing a pair of orthopedic-fitting shoes, another time someone went in the backyard stealing a pair of boots, and once more, probably two people taking away our gas tank and BBQ from the back deck. Our fence was damaged by two drug users sitting on the ground slumped over and leaning back against it.

I now suffer from anxiety, depression and insomnia, having nightmares and panic attacks, reacting to every noise going on, on alert, especially at night. I also have become numb to the multiple instances of witnessing people lying on the ground, not knowing if they are dead or alive.

My [REDACTED] has called 911 for emergencies (fires, overdoses), non-emergency RCMP for witnessing erratic or dangerous behaviour, and City By-laws' office multiple times, but they can only do so much. The city's resources and expertise are being used to respond to these individuals acting irresponsibly, disrespectful of other people and of social rules and laws, without any consequences for their behaviour and/or criminal activities, let alone leaving their garbage and sometimes feces wherever they go; this is unacceptable. These resources could be used to help honest citizens who also need medical assistance, unhoused people who have been evicted from their homes by greedy landlords or have fallen on hard times. These are all political issues, on all three levels of government, as you are well aware.

The location of Risebridge warming centre/shelter on Prideaux Street along with the people who run it and let their clients do whatever pleases them, are ruining this residential neighbourhood. Recently, some businesses have decided to close, such as the Haven, our local grocery store Superette is for sale as well as several houses adjacent to or near the centre. Not surprising considering the abuse, threats and thieving the owners and their employees have been experiencing. The increasing number of drug addicts, unhoused people, vagrants, thieves, people with mental illnesses, pimps and pushers is out of control. In my view, whatever branch

of government allowed this centre to be operating on Prideaux Street decided to sacrifice our neighbourhood.

As a matter of fact, such a centre/shelter operating without any regard for the residents and businesses of a neighbourhood should not be operating in any residential neighbourhood at all.



[REDACTED]: Impact Statement Risebridge

The establishment of a warming center Risebridge in our urban neighborhood has had a profound impact on our community dynamics, particularly concerning safety concerns. While the intention of the warming center was to provide essential shelter and support during harsh weather conditions, its presence has unfortunately led to a decrease in the perceived safety among myself and residents. One significant issue is the influx of individuals who may be experiencing homelessness and drug addiction, while many of these individuals are in need of supports the warming shelter isn't providing that. Increased incidents of loitering, vandalism, and crimes in the vicinity of the warming center. This has left myself and many residents feeling uneasy and concerned about their safety and the security of our properties. I don't want to sit outside my own home on my front porch as the daily due to the drug dealers that are now attracted to deal in front of house. Often times I will see street workers getting dropped off right in front of my house. I find glass pipes, bags with drug residue, needles and when I have called the RCMP regarding finding drugs I was told to dispose of it myself. Myself and many residents that live close to the warmer center live in constant fear. I have reported instances of aggressive behavior, calling 911 more than 70 times in a 6 month period between my [REDACTED] and myself I call the RCMP at every few days if not weekly. I have witnessed substance abuse, and disturbances ongoing fighting, and screaming all hours of the night. I have had needles, feces on my front lawn. I had my people on my property hiding in my bushes. I have been threatened more than once for asking individuals trespassing on private property to please leave. I have seen fires on my street with propane tanks and gas and have called the fire department many times. This is [REDACTED] to Risebridge at Local 8 [REDACTED] on Prideaux st and Albert St. Nanaimo. This spot [REDACTED] has become a hot spot for homeless and drug addicted. I have also witnessed overdoses and one in particular happened on Boxing Day I found a man laying in his vomit in the pouring rain overdosing. That has never left my memory. I have installed 3 cameras and lock up everything every night and wake up all hours of the night checking my cameras when I hear anything. I feel completely exhausted and it has affected my mental health. I feel anxious about the future of my neighborhood and wonder if I will come face to face with a criminal in my home. I don't sleep well anymore, and live with anxiety daily. I think about moving daily and no longer want to live in the downtown core that I have lived at for more than 17 years. My car and property always have trash thrown all over the side walk in front of my house and clothing is left daily. Risebridge offers juice boxes and snacks and when they leave and walk down my street they leave the garbage all over my front walkway. My garage attached to my house is always being a target for the homeless looking for bottles and items to steal. Often

times we have had RCMP go look down on Victoria Rd to retrieve our property that has been taken.

Additionally, the presence of the warming center has also impacted property values and the overall perception of the neighborhood. Concerns about safety and the visible presence of individuals camping out will decrease potential homebuyers and businesses from investing in the area. I am a prisoner in my own home.



## Impact Statement

I moved into the Nob Hill area [REDACTED] just over 2 years ago. In that short time I have witnessed an increase in the number of homeless people loitering in the area. I have witnessed people gathering all over the neighbourhood surrounding Risebridge including along Hecate and Prideaux Streets, at the Nob Hill playground and park, at the dead end where Hecate meets Milton Street, along Milton Street and in the empty lot on the corner of Milton and Hecate Street.

I find myself being hyper vigilant when I see a single person loitering or groups gathering. Not only am I worried that they will be starting a fire that could get out of control and jeopardize someone's property, I am also looking for signs that they could be carrying a weapon or that they might be in distress themselves. What has the community come to when I am asking myself if the situation I'm looking at "is bad enough" to warrant a call to the police or bylaw for assistance?

I have personally witnessed a deceased body under the playground equipment at Nob Hill park while driving to work on a Monday morning. This was at 8am. The police were on the scene but it left me wondering who was the first one to come upon the scene at 8am on a Monday morning? A child on their way to school? An elderly resident from the nearby care home? A regular citizen on a morning walk?

In another incident I witnessed a woman turning purple on the sidewalk while overdosing in the middle of the day. In that case there were several people already calling emergency services for help.

Both of these incidents caused me anxiety and distress for several days afterwards. I had to take time to process what I had witnessed. This shouldn't be the case in a neighbourhood where families live and play. There are children in this neighborhood and several daycares. I worry what the kids might see and experience if I'm witnessing these events and experiencing psychological distress.

I have also called bylaw to check on suspicious activity including someone playing with a lighter near my neighbour's fence. In another case, a man with a cart discarded a bunch of his items in the middle of Hecate Street. I have heard my neighbours complain of thefts, seeing nudity and people openly defecating on the street. I haven't even mentioned the open drug use and drug dealing that we see on a regular basis. Just today on my way home, I drove by 2 police cars in front of Risebridge talking to a group of people.

As a neighbourhood we have been forced to be hypervigilant and on edge when we leave our homes. Something urgently needs to be done to address the situation and restore a sense of peace to the Nob Hill community.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]: Impact Statement Risebridge

[REDACTED]

Living in a walkable neighbourhood is an important feature for me and our family. We have built neighbourly relationships with community members from all walks of life including those that are substance users, sex workers, unhoused, or living with mental health issues, for a number of years. We love our 'colourful' neighbourhood, and the sense of community we have. This past winter we experienced social disorder not seen before; that I believe to be directly related to Risebridge operating a warming shelter at 520 Prideaux. Risebridge states they serve 1700 people every 2 weeks. This means that on average they are inviting 120 people with in 200 metres of our home on a daily basis, but aren't responsible for their guests/clients once they step off their property; which they do in great numbers to use drugs/ participate in drug deals/ set up encampments/ steal to support their habit, in close proximity of their daily hangout spot. The increase in street disorder is quantitative; I consulted the call log on my phone which shows I have made 1 call to 911 and 6 calls to Police non emergency number, for various incidents between November 15 2023- March 31 2024 (Risebridge's warming shelter operation dates) and, and only 1 non emergency call in the 6 months prior. The Fire Rescue incidents between 300 and 600 block of Prideaux street that occurred June 1,2023 - October 31, 2023 (5 months) totaled 26 incidents, compared to November 1, 2023 - March 31 2024 (5 months) totaled 60 incidents. Source: [www.nanaimo.ca/fire-resue-incidents/](http://www.nanaimo.ca/fire-resue-incidents/) My quality of life and mental health has been affected greatly, to the point of having panic attacks from feeling hopeless that we will ever feel at ease and be able to enjoy our neighbourhood again. Multiple times people have come into our front yard, stolen patio furniture cushions, patio lights, looked though our belongings. Our secured back yard was trespassed, and our propane tank was cut from our grill, which cost us \$100+ to replace. I was left a sense of violation of privacy, and caused me a heightened sense of awareness, which led to a lack of sleep, being awakened by the smallest sounds. January 5, 2024 I discovered that what I had thought to be a pile of construction garbage for hours, was actually breathing and groaning. I called for emergency services and they discovered wrapped in the plastic was a woman that had suffered burns, and had been laying suffering for several hours while countless people, including myself drove or walked by. Knowing that people are being assaulted and dying just a few metres from my front door is horrifying, I didn't sleep well for weeks after this event. February 13 2024 a neighbour alerted me that they could see people loitering by our shed, near the dead end alley that runs behind our home. I went to tell them to vacate our property and discovered 2 people smoking drugs off of foil. I asked them to leave and clean up their paraphernalia.

The male yelled, cursed and name called me. The woman tried to shame me for not checking on her friend who "had been there overdosing for hours", as though I should be responsible to patrol dark corners of my property for uninvited guests that are overdosing. She then attempted to convince me that she was a nurse working for VIHA and was administering an "upper" to the male to bring him back from overdose. After, I experienced anxiety about the possibility of potentially finding a dead body in my yard; which happened recently not too far from our house when a Telus worker found the body of a drug user under someone's deck. I started checking the area in back of our yard, the alley, by our shed multiple times a day, and discovered regularly: broken pipes, used drug tinfoil, empty drug baggies, wet discarded blankets, clothes and mittens, empty snack packaging, empty juice boxes, that required constant cleaning up. February 21 2024 - I nearly stepped in a pile of human feces against the retaining wall beside my shed, this was the day I stopped the daily patrols. I felt defeated. I used to walk through the neighbourhood on my lunch breaks, as I work from home and it is good for my mental health to get out for some fresh air. Typically I walked a loop to The Superette via Milton to make purchases, and then back home up Prideaux but since November there would be times where I encounter 3 or 4 separate individuals slumped over/ unconscious. The 10 or 15 minutes it should take to walk there and back would often take much longer from stopping to see if they are breathing, or needed help. Instead of returning to work feeling refreshed and energized, I often felt worse off. Several times I encountered people that appeared to be having a mental health episode or drug induced psychosis walking toward me, behaving aggressively and erratically, swinging or throwing whatever they were carrying screaming profanities at the top of their lungs. It is unsettling to witness, and I felt on edge that they might harm me in some way. It takes an emotional toll, so I stopped walking on my breaks. I recognize that these individuals who are struggling with various issues need support with housing, addiction, mental health. I believe in funding detox, rehab, housing for all, and want everyone to have access to the support they need. However, it shouldn't cost people to lose their own sense of safety, well being, and enjoyment. Risebridge's warming shelter does not belong in any neighbourhood when they don't consider the needs of the people who make their homes or earn their living here. Instead Risebridge and their supporters label publicly, on Social Media and on CHLY 101.7FM Risebridge Soundoff that those of us who are not in support of having a warming shelter in this residential neighbourhood, are hate filled abusers, accuse of acts of vigilantism and harassment, and being NIMBY (not in my back yard). A possible solution might be to have a warming centre set up outside of a residential neighbourhood, and provide free transit or a shuttle service to make sure that it is easily accessible.



April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

To whom it may concern,

My name is [REDACTED] and my [REDACTED] and I purchased our home in Nob Hill 5 years ago. We were drawn to this neighbourhood for its walkability, history, and character. This is the first time I have lived in a community that is so welcoming and supportive and it has been disheartening to witness the deterioration that has occurred over the past 3 years – I strongly believe this is directly related to the operations of Risebridge at 520 Prideaux st.

Over the past three years, during Risebridge's warming centre operations, I have witnessed countless overdoses, increased litter and garbage, constant loitering at and around 520 Prideaux st., noise disturbances and the obvious and tangible feeling that we have no control over what is happening in our neighbourhood. If we communicate any of these concerns to Risebridge we are met with resistance, hostility or labelled as "hateful" towards unhoused/substance users – even though we are the ones that call 911, that check to see whether people are breathing when they are slumped over in the middle of the sidewalk, that narcan them. We carry the guilt and cognitive exhaustion of worrying about the unhoused people coming through our neighbourhood and their well-being. This is a responsibility that we have been made to bear as the hosting neighbourhood and one that has taken a toll on both mine and [REDACTED] mental health. This is all exacerbated by Risebridge's unprofessional behaviour – announcing on multiple occasions through their social media about how "hateful" our neighbourhood is. I have asked them to please take the posts down or at the very least edit them. I have requested a meeting with them in an attempt to build some sort of collaboration, to no avail. It is clear that they have no interest in working with the community, one of the major tenants of their Good Neighbour Agreement.

I am not naïve to the fact that there are much larger issues at play and that "the provincial government is responsible for housing" but the city does have the capacity to come up with better solutions than giving \$200,000 of our taxpayer funds to an unprofessional organization that has absolutely no desire to mitigate the impacts to the community they operate in. I am extremely disappointed that the city of Nanaimo seems to take no consideration to the peace and enjoyment of a low-income neighbourhood such as Nob Hill.

With Risebridge's winter warming services winding down as of April 1<sup>st</sup> there is already a sense of calm returned to our neighbourhood. This is the neighbourhood we love and the neighbourhood that is taken from us every winter.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]: Impact Statement

Apr 9, 2024

## Impact Statement on Homelessness and Crime in the Nob Hill Area

Our community has recently faced escalating challenges directly tied to the increasing homeless population, a situation exacerbated by the presence of the local homeless shelter, Risebridge. This statement serves as a critical appeal to the local government, highlighting the urgent need to address the growing concerns for safety, property, and the overall quality of life in our neighborhood.

The burgeoning homeless population, unfortunately, correlates with a spike in criminal activities, casting a shadow over our once-peaceful neighborhood. Residents have reported frequent squatting in unoccupied houses, creating pockets of lawlessness and distress. Vehicle break-ins and thefts have surged, instilling a constant sense of insecurity among vehicle owners. More alarming are the reports of trespassing and attempted home invasions, incidents that strike fear into the heart of our community. The sanctity of our homes, our most personal spaces, is now under threat, eroding the sense of security we once took for granted.

Beyond property-related crimes, our community is increasingly endangered by public health and safety issues arising from the homeless population. Open drug use has become a visible problem, not only posing a risk to those engaged in such activities but also to the broader public, especially our youth, who are exposed to these hazardous behaviors everyday. Equally concerning are the makeshift open fires set by homeless individuals, which pose a significant fire hazard. These fires, often lit for warmth or cooking, are unregulated and frequently left unattended, presenting a real threat of fire outbreaks that could have catastrophic consequences for our entire neighborhood.

It is a daily occurrence for us to witness overdosed individuals laying half-naked on the sidewalks, completely unconscious. I have personally witnessed men with their pants down, injecting substances into their groins, openly on Victoria Avenue. Finding drug paraphernalia such as uncapped syringes scattered in the local park, as well as tents erected among the swing sets, has made it so that we cannot even allow our children to play there. We cannot leave our homes without first checking to make sure that it is safe to do so. Our personal safety is at risk every day.

The cumulation of these issues has profoundly affected our neighborhood's ambiance and residents' quality of life. The pervasive sense of fear and distress is palpable, as daily routines are now fraught with caution and anxiety. The vision of our neighborhood, once a safe and welcoming community, is being eroded by these ongoing challenges.

This is a moment for proactive and compassionate leadership to restore the quality of life in our neighborhood and to ensure the safety and dignity of all its residents, housed and unhoused.

[REDACTED] : Impact Statement Risebridge

Greetings ,

I live [REDACTED] and since Risebridge has been in operation for drug addicts my neighbourhood has tanked as a safe environment. They aren't helping the unfortunate, instead they have them ALL around the neighbourhood, doing harmful chemical drugs. Not only harmful to themselves, but harmful for pets and kids. The tinfoil that, undoubtedly has fentanyl traces , are left throughout the neighbourhood. They sit on the sidewalks with torches, axes ,knives and harmful chemicals. They block my wheelchair from getting to my destination safely while doing their drugs on the sidewalk right across the street from this building. They are even brave enough to do their drugs at the Harmac Union meeting hall, that is also across the street. Then go back to Risebridge. This will only create violence , trust me. I know this means nothing to our Mayor Krog, or any city council members, but something has to change, and one way or another it will.

██████████: Impact Statement

In 1992, when I was ██████████, I lived on the corner of Victoria Road and Prideaux Street. I walked to the corner store on my own. I played at Nob Hill Park with my friends. I walked downtown to take the city bus to my elementary school. I was never hurt. I was not afraid.

In 2002, when I was ██████████, I lived in the apartments on Selby Street close to Nob Hill Park. I took my ██████████ to play at Nob Hill Park every sunny day. We walked downtown to the waterfront every weekend. I walked to work at the casino downtown, and I walked home from the casino at 2:30 in the morning with my ██████████ roommate. We were never hurt. I was never scared. I always felt safe here.

In 2014, I bought a house in Nob Hill. ██████████. They rode bikes in our neighbourhood. They played at Nob Hill Park. They walked to the Superette. They were safe.

And now, in 2024, we still live in Nob Hill. I still work downtown. I do not walk to work. I do not walk home from work. I am not safe.

In the past five years, I have witnessed people die, I have witnessed people attack each other, I have had my property stolen, I have had my property broken. I have had my fence kicked in so that people could return and steal from my backyard. I have called police and ambulance innumerable times. I have witnessed break ins and arson in the property next to me and across the street. I have administered Naloxone to three separate strangers overdosing in my neighborhood. I am not a medical professional, but I signed up for training when my neighbourhood started to decline.

I love Nanaimo. This is my city. This is my home. This is where I was born and this is where I ██████████ my children. This is where we have all grown up and I am so sad that this is what Nanaimo has become.

I am now in my ██████████ and I am afraid to walk in my neighborhood. I am afraid to walk to my corner store. I am afraid to walk to my job. I own a house here, I pay taxes here, I volunteer here, but now I am helpless. I cannot give back, I cannot help because it is unsafe for me to leave my house.

I understand this province has a serious problem that requires complex solutions but in my neighborhood, it is simple. If services are going to be provided for our most vulnerable community members, then services also need to be provided to protect the neighbourhoods they are in. We need security, we need accountability, we need safety. We need our city to protect us, to protect our neighbourhood, to protect our children. We matter too.

██████████

## Impact Statement Risebridge

I live on [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Risebridge operating here has had a devastating impact on our community. Every day there are people slumped over at either end of our tiny street. At both the roundabout or the dead end that we as a community have put a lot of effort in to make beautiful.

I have a child who goes to [REDACTED]. I am not comfortable with them walking to and from school alone and my work requires me to be up island regularly. I am seriously considering giving my notice at work because of this and doing something else closer to home due to my safety concerns for my child.

My child has been completely numbed to the dead looking bodies everywhere. I have received phone calls asking what to do about the dead looking guy on the sidewalk on the way home from school many times. That was at the beginning of the year. Now they don't even really notice them anymore because there are slumped over and collapsed people everywhere.

Putting this "service" in our neighbourhood has, of course, also brought the dealers. I have an older [REDACTED] that rents a room from me. [REDACTED] has been followed by aggressive dealers trying to give [REDACTED] samples and their number. My adult [REDACTED] witnessed a drug deal right in front of Risebridge and called it in when [REDACTED] was leaving my house.

Being surrounded by this human misery, suffering and the constant threat of chaos has put myself and my dependent child on constant high alert and this has a psychological toll. It's exhausting.

I have called in so many wellness checks, fire checks, and other police incidents that I have the emergency numbers on speed dial, and I am sure dispatch recognizes my name.

The most horrific discovery was found one evening in the pouring rain by my neighbour and I when what we had all been driving by and assumed to be more garbage laying around turned out to be a moaning, badly burned girl wrapped tightly in plastic and dumped along the round about (a few doors up from Risebridge and a favourite hang out and get high spot). Her face was so wrapped she could barely breathe. The police told us that had we not found her she likely would have died. We never found out what happened to this girl.

How is it acceptable that in our neighbourhood it is impossible to discern between the piles of garbage left everywhere and a young woman tightly wrapped in plastic after having been burned because seeing people passed out in bags and blankets is so normalized? I have almost driven over people sprawled out across our alley in the dark many times. All of these events cause trauma.

We are all on constant high alert for fire because there are people roaming our neighbourhood and lighting fires everywhere. It's terrifying and exhausting being on this level of high alert all the time and that is to say nothing of the people wandering around our street with various weapons and knives.

I came home one day to find some guys on the corner of Albert and Prideaux having a game of throwing big knives at the tree towards the sidewalk while people walked by.

All of this is supposed to be accepted and put up with by my neighbours and I and if we dare say anything or document the insanity we are labelled, doxxed, bullied, threatened, accused of horrible things and called all sorts of names by the [REDACTED] that runs Risebridge (and conveniently lives in Nanoose) and [REDACTED] little army. It's not a coincidence that half the homes directly around Risebridge are for sale (which is, no doubt, impacting our property value) as is the Superette and the Haven Store around the corner. This is devastating our community and no one seems to care.

We are tired of the chaos, being on high alert, garbage, human waste, drug garbage and baggies, fires, and to top things off being attacked by Risebridge to the point we don't dare say anything. None of us have ever harassed or threatened anyone as they claim without proof. Do we try to document what happens around us? Of course we do. Just last week there was a man overdosing behind the steering wheel of his car in front of my house. This guy is driving around a neighbourhood full of seniors and children.

This sort of a service does not belong in ANY neighbourhood. Let alone one with tons of young families, seniors homes and daycares. Surely there must be some way to warn people in drug induced psychosis so that it's not a neighborhood that is sacrificed.

I know we will hear the same talking points... the city can't fix this, it's a provincial and federal matter, there's nothing we can do... same old same old. We have had enough. We have put in our three years with Risebridge after successfully getting rid of a horrible drug/ squatter house where we also had no help. The city has to find a better solution than this.

It's time for the city to get creative right now and come up with another solution for a warming/ coffee/ donut space for next winter that is not a residential neighbourhood. We have done our part and we won't be silenced anymore.

Respectfully

[REDACTED]

██████████: Impact Statement Risebridge  
Dated: April 6 2024

I voice my concerns based on where my property sits at the corner of ██████████

Canada is currently facing a pandemic of mental health problems, increasing substance use and a deadly toxic drug supply. And most of Nanaimo's issues stem from Risebridge. This has landed at the door steps of our community. Literally at our door steps, our yards, our sidewalks and local businesses in our surrounding area. With a community that has already been dealt so much since the pandemic, I can not understand why the Risebridge has been set up in a community already under immense stress and fracture. This has been crippling for our community, our neighbors, and our personal safety. This neighborhood is resilient and fights back to maintain a community space where we want others to feel comfortable in. Kennedy st, Milton st, Hecate St, Albert st, Victoria rd are all thruway's for the community, and have now been littered with the presence of Riserbidge problems.

Every single day, I am an acting liaison between the city of Nanaimo and the people coming and going from this warming center, and enough is enough. I am not paid to do your job. My compassion & sympathy is no match for the helplessness they inflict on the citizens of this city. No one is asking us to stand up, and create a move on atmosphere but we are are committed to Nob Hill thriving which means if no one will help us we have to patrol ourselves. I have had to be brave and address these individuals, asking them to move on, put out fires, pick up needles, to take down their camps, and its not okay for a city to put this on the people who live here. We know their are RCMP, we know their are Bylaw officers all of which we utilize, however their hands are tied, and can only do so much. Who should be looking after the people in its city. YOU. You should be creating communities that feel safe in their homes, their neighborhoods and parks. It is critical that we address substance use as a health issue, and continue to look at ways to create people who use drugs to the criminal justice system and towards the healthcare system by providing social supports, including effective drug treatment services. Warming centers promote all the behaviors that create the pandemic problem, and puts them in a concentrated community and that is just plain, NOT OK, esp when Risebridge turns an eye on all the effects of the 'service' they provide. Are they to blame, no, it comes down to the city allowing this to be downtowns problem.

My Examples:

We are NOT SAFE, with people sleeping under our cars to keep warm.

We are NOT SAFE, with fires being set at the sun glow building, the FOF (corner of Hecate and Milton)

We are NOT SAFE, coming home to someone sleeping on our porches.

We are NOT SAFE, with people starting fires next to our fences.

We are NOT SAFE, watching someone walk down the street with a chainsaw, a ladder, a shovel, propane tanks, chairs, axes, metal pipes etc etc etc

We are NOT SAFE, having to lock ourselves in at night. Physically putting a pad lock on gate so no one gets in.

We are NOT SAFE, having to tell each other when away so we can look after each others properties.

We are NOT SAFE, watching people doing drugs everywhere. It is so normal that we disregard it.

We are NOT SAFE, Having people yelling all hours of the night.

We are NOT SAFE, Having garbage everywhere, so much that I stopped caring about the yard outside my house.

We are NOT SAFE, Having our pets roam around our yards. I let my dogs bark as people set up at the end of Milton, and have had threats to kill them, to kill me, to shut me up.

We are NOT SAFE, When I work until 1am, and have to wake my [REDACTED] up to make sure I get from my car to house safe.

We are NOT SAFE, When we have to think of alternate routes for dog walks where they want eat something left by someone, or step on a needle etc.

We are NOT SAFE, when people are trying to get into our mailboxes.

We are NOT SAFE, having to keep our eyes on the neighboring Daycare after hours as people go in the driveway there.

There is a component to this that no-one looks at, and that is the mental health concerns that have crept into the community. Hear me out, there are drastic mental health concerns with some of the people coming to and from Risebridge and other warming centers that creates a lot of these concerns above. But I want to be very clear on something. This impact on our community has created mental illness within the residence who reside here. I cant speak for anyone other than me but here are ways this has contributed to my mental health.

Mental Health: I am always on heightened alert of my surroundings, the front of my house, the street down Hecate to Kennedy (the path people take), & the FOF.

Mental Health: I withdraw from social experiences as I am drained, tired, and dont want to leave my house.

Mental Health: Every single noise has me to my feet, and automatically stressed over what is happening outside.

Mental Health: I worry about my neighbors, a group of daycare kids walking down the road, dogs I see going for a walk, Families walking past.



Mental Health: I have a ladder by my side window so I can immediately go on, and see over my fence if there is noise or concern someone is starting a fire at the [REDACTED] etc.

Mental Health: The fact that most conversations with people who live in this community involve scary stories.

Mental Health: I barely sleep worried about my house going up in flames, someone from Risebridge doing damage to one of our houses, and damaging our cars etc.  
and and and, **we can not thrive is we are trying to survive.**

These are just a few, and I am one person. I chose to live in Nanaimo. I chose to live downtown before these issues crept in, and it is up to you as our leaders to solve this problem. Stop saying, we know its a concern, and start dealing with it. The residence in Nob Hill are your people too, and we deserve as much respect & care as the people you are protecting on the streets. This situation is a state of emergency, and my fear is with so many underlying problems, places like Risebridge feel entitled to volunteer, and go home, letting the community be the ones addressing the aftermath effects daily.

Just do better for the people in your city.

For the homeless, and for the residence having to do your job in a community in crisis. You need to come up with better solutions for next years warming center, that does not impact the Nob Hill community.

Sympathy & Compassion has been lost, and you need to earn it back,

sincerely,  
community member  
Nob Hill Community

My name is [REDACTED]. Before I moved to Nanaimo my career began with Health , Safety and Environmental in my youth when I was an Environmental monitoring technician and then later on expanded into Safety including, fire watch, air watch and confined space entry. I have been on the biggest sites and the smallest all over BC and AB- Residential, commercial and Industrial. I have been a part of safety plans and procedure and implemented them throughout my life and career. I transitioned to the Health care field where I would set people in palliative care up on respiratory homecare with oxygen concentrators and cylinders and worked with hospitals and care centres to give people correct treatment along with care and compassion. Since moving to Nanaimo my field of expertise is now Estimating for commercial construction - project coordination and risk mitigation are a large part my skillset. I have worked with local nonprofits [REDACTED]. I have taught food security skills to Nanaimo as a community and have been involved with [REDACTED]. I love Harewood, I love my home and have not lived in a different place since moving here.

I have lived on [REDACTED] since 2016. This is the first time I have felt such a strong sense of community where I have lived. My time at [REDACTED] as a facilitator and community representative lead me to connect very quickly with the heart of Nanaimo. When I first moved here, the downtown core was bustling and alive. The vault was busy and the Queens along with Mambo's pizza was on a lively street full of eclectic sounds and visuals. I joined the Art Council, I enjoyed the Queens Sunday Blues Jam and loved being able to walk downtown and enjoy its beauty. Since moving here, I have seen a steady decline in the condition of my community but since the introduction of Risebridge, notably at the start of 2023 with their change in their scope of operations, it has become a dangerous chaotic mishandled situation that cannot be excused.

When Risebridge first dropped off the letter stating that they would be providing warming shelter services and we had any concerns to reach out if needed, the other tenants in the [REDACTED] and myself were wary. However being that three out of the five people living in my house/apartment were teachers to differing abilitied youth and people struggling In our community we erred on the side of compassion. Unfortunately, it immediately was clear that we now had people began shooting up at our [REDACTED], in our yard, at the bus stop, at the [REDACTED] which is right at [REDACTED]. The tracks and the neighborhood began to fill with addicts. That year the teacher who worked with autistic children in my house saw an overdose in front of [REDACTED] window. [REDACTED] has now moved out because it was too hard.

This season it was horrific and awful. I began calling RCMP to protect my home. It got very bad and my boundary was crossed after the city did nothing to protect us and police told us they could do nothing but shoo them away. I was broken into 2 times and now are windows are boarded up for protection. I could not enter my home and ran to the police station at one point as at least 15 people were directly outside my home, shooting up, passed out in the middle of the street, several of them surrounding the dealer in a circle getting their fix. I went to the police imiidiately down the road and then had to sneak in the back through the bushes to enter my home. I have seen fire truck after fire truck, ambulance after ambulance, police after police. At one point I was sitting on my

bed scrolling on my phone, looked up, saw my home light up with flashing blue lights and went back to scrolling as if nothing happened. After I realized how absurd that was. To be so used to these lights and sirens that I did not even get up to see what was happening. Everyday and every night we are inundated with awful scenes and presence directly in front of our home. We are down from Risebridge. We have an elderly, a with a differing abilitied child and two single living there. Since the winter 3 people have occupied the first unit facing the street as no one can handle what goes on there. A Safety "Officer" appointed by Christy Wood took my victim statement. We had two phone calls and I spoke with her in detail. I have not provided a victim statement today as I wish for that original statement to stand firm. It was taken right after the incidents and is the most complete record I can give. I would ask that you reference this and include it with my entry today.

Council had no plan in place to protect us and allowed Risebridge to violet their contract over and over again, knowing full well what was happening. When I asked for proof of safety mitigation there is none. No hazard assessments, no impact assessments, no plan. I contacted nanaimo business licensing and they did not respond and told me their manager was on vacation, I followed up and I was told all Risebridge issues were to be forwarded to Dave Lebarge. He then responded and told nothing would be done as they were not violating anything. As I navigated this situation and searched for answers as to why it was so uncontrolled I found that there are no guidelines or regulations ensuring the safety of the general public when it comes to operating business's or non profits. Occupational health and Safety, WorkSafe, Nanaimo Business Licencing, Government or Nanaimo City Council have no set rules for these organizations or non profits to follow and are not willing to enforce bylaw that could have been used to force a responsible management of Risebridge. As long as their employees are safe they do not have to answer for hurting their community until they are sued. We were in direct danger and Council as well as business licensing acted as if we were just annoying 'karens' unable to handle looking at the homeless. I was directed again and again to holding my Mayor and Council responsible by these other institutions. Unfortunately the track record is not good as far as the cities response and this is not the first time they have chosen to put a support centre like this- unregulated and unconcerned with public safety, in Nanaimo in a residential area. NANDU was shut down because of the seriously unsafe conditions present. The people their had to witness dead bodies being removed and horrific events as well as their lives put at risk. Safe injection sites, methadone clinics and support services are causing chaos in our home as they are unregulated when it comes to the safety of the general public. I agree that we need to help people who are having a hard time, in fact I have worked hard to support those at risk of falling into that life. However, I would never implement a project or service without considering the safety of the people and business around me and providing proper safety and protocol. Risk mitigation and guidelines for the safety of the general public must be put into place and enforced with the cooperation of business's and non profits. With the track record that the City of Nanaimo carries and the handling of this years addictions services and warming centres I know they are guilty of criminal negligence causing phycological harm, PTSD, high risk of bodily harm and destruction / theft of property. This assault on our home cannot continue. The council, Christy Woods, Dave Lebarge, Risebridge and all involved in the poor decision making and implementation of this situation are guilty of violating the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

and violating our right to Life, Liberty and Security of Person. These are our legal rights, which protect our personal autonomy and bodily integrity from laws or actions by the government that violate those rights.

Again, I must reiterate that I do care about these people which is why it took me so long to come forward. I did not come forward until I absolutely had no choice. People with severe mental illness, addictions and known criminal charges were shuttled directly from the hospital to my home. Addicts come to Risebridge to meet up with each other, meet with their drug dealers and perform free use. They were dropped off and left in our neighborhood with no support or resources. They damaged property, broke into our home and made us scared to come home. Jan 04 I was invited to come over and speak to the founder of Risebridge where [REDACTED] called to me from my yard and asked me to come talk. Please note that this conversation occurred after my home was broken into by addicts who made it a drug den and my boundaries were seriously crossed. I am not my kind self in this video. We should not have had to yell to have our voices heard. RCMP told the city and the City did nothing. They waited until we broke.

Play video of talk with Risebridge (this video cannot be shown to the general public as it has bystanders in frame. It showcases the lack of concern for public safety that Risebridge has as well as the extent to which they will go to provide services including going over their capacity of 86 to over 1000 on our small corner. They do not care what happens to us and they do not operate with care or concern, they let their children watch people inject so do not think that this is traumatising to normal people)

The founder of Risebridge is rewarded with a salary, free daycare and work positions for [REDACTED] partner. I do not think it is bad for people who run nonprofits to be blessed with support, in fact it needs to happen so they can perform their roles properly and without the stress of daily living. This comes with a responsibility and a price though. They have a powerful obligation to the public and the community. I know in this video I was open to Risebridge continuing their youth support programs however after this conversation and seeing that Risebridge will not care about our safety or home, they are not welcome on Prideaux Street. Not that they were ever given consent to be there. They believe that the suffering their clients go through means our safety and peace do not matter. I disagree and I do not trust them to perform any service in our neighborhood or anywhere in Nanaimo within proper capacity. I do hope that Risebridge continues and learns from this experience to be more thoughtful and caring about where they are located and how they treat their neighbors and to extend their compassion also to the people whos area they would be operating in.

I listened to a video of the Council making this decision about us. This was my reaction. It broke my heart to watch them decide our fate.

Play video of council reaction (this video is not being shown, no reason was given – summary is my reaction- You knew what you were bringing to our home, you knew what would happen and you did it anyway. No protection no concern. You are so lucky a member of the public was not killed. ) if you would like to see the lack of planning and poor management as well as see Council make the decision to do it knowing full well people were put into extreme danger and known hazards please follow this link to view

<https://pub-nanaimo.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=8ca451d1-a4aa-4a8f-a64f-e8c255f1959b&Agenda=Agenda&lang=English>

Show contract and broken vows.- This will be submitted separately I assume but in essence Risebridge broke contract immediately and had no enforcement regulating them from bylaw, business licensing or council. They were not good neighbors as the contract calls for.

I have seen a young man go from homelessness to temporary / day labor to full time employment and a roof over his head that he provides for himself because of utilizing and being supported by the well meaning and powerful non profits existing here in Nanaimo. You can see when these groups and programs make a difference and are doing it correctly. You can see when you have found a solution and what works. This young man is flourishing, and I am very proud of him. The nonprofits that were involved did a good job.

I would like to call on the City of Nanaimo and all Provincial and Federal Governments to implement a regulatory and enforcing body similar to Occupational Health and Safety to ensure that the General Public is not at risk due to the location or activities of these support services as well as all other business or operations. Even though there are many that are responsible and do no harm, we need enforcement in place to ensure the safety of the general public against organizations that do not have the proper skills, capacity or moral standing to safely engage with the public.

These people need help, however you do not get to move in without consent knowing full well what hazards you bring to my home without repercussions. You do not get to put the lives of myself and my house mates, the neighbors or the businesses located by Risebridge at risk anymore. **These services do not belong in residential areas** and if you can bus them from the Hospital to my house, you can bus them to a more controlled situation and location then provide shuttles to and from services for them to access what they need. You can protect the general public. It is time for Nanaimo to decide if we will take on all of the addiction and homeless crisis of Canada or if we will set boundaries with Federal and Provincial Governments about how many we can safely afford to lift up and while also taking care of our own people and ensuring their **absolute** safety. If we do it could be successful and an example for the rest of Canadian cities to follow. However, if we continue to provide warming shelters, methadone clinics, safe injection sites and the like in our City without proper implementation and enforcement to protect the well being of the general public, you are playing roulette with peoples lives and putting them in harms way. By providing

services to people who are not from Nanaimo we are telling these people to come here. By letting the supply continue we are asking for them to come here.

Risebridge is not welcome on Prideaux Street.

Again Please ensure to review and include my victim statement given to Christy Woods Safety Officer.

And again I will request that the City of Nanaimo and all Provincial and Federal Govenemernts to implement a regulatory and enforcing body similar to Occupational Health and Safety to ensure that the General Public is not at risk due to the location or activities of these support services as well as all other business or operations. **In the future this needs to be done right or not at all.**

Ps after meeting. All written victim statements are to be taken as of the same value as people coming in person. Not everyone has the capacity or ability to deal with this or miss work.