



February 19, 2019

Mayor and council

Re: Purchase of former Blanshard School site by city of Victoria

The North Park Neighbourhood Association (NPNA) supports the purchase of the former Blanshard School site by the city of Victoria for the purpose of developing community amenities, as proposed by the Hillside-Quadra/Quadra Village community through their Neighbourhood Action Committee.

The site is currently owned by regional interests, and the Capital Regional Hospital District has a tentative plan to build mixed-market housing and another regional health facility on it. This is in addition to the adjacent Summit at Quadra Village facility being built on former Blanshard School playing fields that will replace Mt. Tolmie Care Hospital and Oak Bay Lodge.

The former school and playing fields were an integral part of building a community in the Hillside Quadra neighbourhood and the loss of this asset to regional facilities will have a serious impact on the community. The dramatic loss of green space and play space is not in keeping with the development of a healthy community. We note that Evergreen Terrace low-income housing will be physically cut off from the neighbourhood by the massing of the proposed regional facilities and that the neighbourhood at large will suffer the loss of significant green space and services.

A counter proposal from Quadra-Hillside cites the need for accessible green space, a neighbourhood gym, daycare and other programs, the potential for a library branch – all community-building endeavours that the NPNA supports. By purchasing 950 Kings, the former Blanshard School property, the city of Victoria would be in a position to establish amenities for a low-income, underserved city neighbourhood, with the access to green space and community services that are essential to a healthy community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenny Farkas".

Jenny Farkas, President

cc: Hillside/Quadra Neighbourhood Association and Downtown Residents' Association