



March 12, 2020

Mayor and Council
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria BC V8W 1P6

Re: Development and Rezoning Application at 736 Princess St. – Social Enterprise

Dear Mayor Helps and Council,

As part of the JHS Victoria proposed development plan includes a social enterprise café. The café will be on the street level of the building and open to area residents and the broader public. The space will be versatile in terms of casual space for the community and cater to the needs of the business community.

The JHS Victoria has an employment readiness program that includes hospitality and specifically, barista training. This program removes barriers for people entering the workforce. Barriers can include lack of skills, empowerment, confidence and low interpersonal skills.

Employment readiness training covers a broad range of skills and is offered by employment specialists with participants receiving qualified certifications (e.g., First-Aid, WHMIS, FoodSafe, Serving-it-Right and SuperHost). Training also covers non-certified skills such as workplace attitude, employer expectations, long term employment behavior patterns, job search skills, interview skills, budgeting and customer service skills.

The café will allow us to operationalize the experience of our trainees by providing them with experiential learning opportunities. Research has strongly demonstrated the importance of experiential learning with respect to long-term sustainable employment. The success of this program is measured by the employment opportunities for our trainees.

The café will provide a space for us to integrate several aspects of our business. In addition to the employment readiness program, we will also sell organic fruits and vegetables from our therapeutic garden during the season. The space will showcase local artists and provide a space to sell their work. We will also be looking for opportunities to integrate our training programs from the kitchen on the second floor of the proposed building.

The café, while a simple idea, will demonstrate the ideation of community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Manj Toor".

Manj Toor
Executive Director