



June 30, 2023

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

RE: Application for an Amendment to a Temporary Use Permit for 1450-1452 Elford Street – Out of the Rain Youth Centre

Dear Mayor Alto and Council,

Thank you for Council's consideration of this application to amend the 3-year Temporary Use Permit for our *Out of the Rain Youth Centre* located at 1450-1452 Elford Street approved by Council October 6th, 2022 to allow for the youth centre to operate 24/7. The 2022 Temporary Use Permit issued authorized the following:

- *"Allow the operation of a youth cold weather shelter from October to April."*
- *"Reduce the number of parking spaces required to two."*

Reason for Request

An amendment to the Temporary Use Permit is requested to remove limitations to the schedule/timing of use. This request is made because the Province has acknowledged the benefits of the youth shelter, and, starting in the Fall of 2023, will provide funding for the *Out of the Rain Youth Centre* to operate 24/7, 12 months of the year. This will allow for a much more consistent environment for vulnerable youth in the community. The year-round funding will allow youth, if they so choose, to use the shelter amenities throughout the day and will afford a more seamless delivery of programs and services for vulnerable youth.

The Provincial funding will bring some operational changes on the site and Beacon Community Services will be making the changes. A backgrounder on the *Out of the Rain Centre*, programs Beacon Community Services provides and the operational changes made to facilitate the 24/7 operations is attached. This proposal includes no changes to the site infrastructure, landscaping, or use /occupancy of the buildings at 1450-1452 Elford Street. An amendment to the Temporary Use Permit will provide Council with an assessment period on the permanent use of the site as a youth shelter.

Background

Beacon Services is very mindful of neighbours and has established operational mandates to keep a clean, orderly, and quiet environment at 1450-1452 Elford Street. Donated meals and the mat program for youth to sleep will still be provided as part of the youth centre services. The *Out of the Rain youth Centre* has operated at this location for more than 12 years. Since 2009 there have been very few concerns, most of which were very quickly and successfully ameliorated. Neighbours have been previously supportive, and have even donated clothing, gift cards, and other supports for youth at the shelter.

2723 Quadra Street Victoria BC V8T 4E5 | Tel: 250-658-6407

www.beaconcs.ca

Child, Youth & Family Services | Seniors Services | Counselling & Mental Health Services | Volunteer Services | Housing | Employment Services

Charitable Registration No. 12995 1174 RR0001

Closing

A Temporary Use Permit will provide Council with an assessment period on any future consideration for permanent use of the site for a youth shelter that would involve a rezoning application. An amendment to the Temporary Use Permit now will provide increased support and community benefits for homeless youth at 1450-1452 Elford Street at a time when they are profoundly needed.

We thank you very much for your understanding and your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Sonterra Ross, Vice President Operations

cc. Tricia Gueulette, CEO
Deane Strongitharm, Strongitharm Consulting Ltd.

Attch.

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