

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2016 6:36 PM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council; Mary Griffin

Subject: MEDIA HAS NOW BEEN ALERTED

City of Victoria

When I arrived home last night I found a notice on my condo front door explaining the city's plan to turn Mount Edwards Care Home into a refuge for junkies and the seriously mentally ill.

I have never before been moved to write a letter of protest until this morning. I would like to go on record as being 100% opposed to this plan.

We bought our, quarter of a million dollar, 700 square foot condo specifically because of this neighborhood. This plan of yours will not only erode our neighborhood and endanger everyone around here but it will also devastate our property value. Who will make up the difference when I decide to sell? You?

I drove past Kool-Aid on Ellice St. at around 5 in the morning a few months ago and was truly shocked to see the state of things on the street out front. Dozens of people on the street, amidst piles of garbage, cardboard, tarps and who knows what else. There were naked people. I'm not kidding. Naked people stumbling around. WTF???

I also understand from the note on our door that this plan will be attempted to be rammed through the approval process with no public consultation. Is this true? Will there be a community meeting to discuss this?

I lost sleep last night over this.

I expect a response regarding my concerns in this letter.

I have given the letter in the attachment below to Mary Griffin at Chek News this morning. She assured me she would look into it.

Sincerely,

Home owner, business owner, tax payer,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Rockland Ave.

Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2016 12:30 PM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council

Subject: Mount Edwards - Low Barrier Housing.... Please Don't

Original note attached.

Kind Regards,

Good morning Mayor, Director, Councillor and Board,

I would like to express my deep concern with turning the old Mount Edwards building at Vancouver and Rockland into low-barrier housing. I've heard a number of concerns but here are the top ones for me:

- 1. While you may be able to achieve greater economies of scale by concentrating homeless people in one location, there are endless examples of how concentrating destitute people with drug addictions creates a self-reinforcing culture of drug-use, theft and other crime*
- 2. Mount Edwards is in the middle of a residential community and right beside an elementary school (Christ Church Cathedral) – the last place anyone would want to establish such a self-reinforcing culture*
- 3. We have been living with destitute homeless people in our neighbourhood for a while now – “tent city” and Pioneer Square Park are just a 2 blocks away – and the impact is obvious:*
 - a. Vandalism and theft has increased*
 - b. Erratic, unstable people roam the area (the other day I saw 2 men doing heroin with a blowtorch off a tombstone at 7am on my walk to work)*
 - c. Residents feel unsafe in their own community*

My family, like all the other families around here, don't want any of that near our homes.

If you want to address homelessness – do it right, really invest in it. Spending hundreds of thousands to shelter homeless on Yates street for 4 months is a waste of time and money. Letting public parks get destroyed so homeless can setup tents for a couple months is sloppy public policy. Not only will concentrating people with drug additions in one large facility like Mount Edwards create a hub of drug use and crime – it will waste tax payers money and won't solve the problem. If you're going to put money into it – do it right.

Please do not consider using Mount Edwards for low-barrier housing.

Kind Regards,

Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2016 2:52 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Fw: Mount Edwards building for the Cool-Aid Society

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2016 2:39 PM

To: mayor@victoria.ca

Cc: kstinson@coolaid.org ; ccoleman@victoria.ca ; planandzone@fairfieldcommunity.ca ; speakup.fairfield@gmail.com ; letters@timescolonist.com

Subject: Mount Edwards building for the Cool-Aid Society

Dear Mayor Helps and Council,

With all due respect: Are you out of your collective minds ?!

Right off we have to state that we acknowledge that there are truly some of the homeless that need and deserve our help. Our comments here-in are directed towards the other 90% of the street people.

To even consider allowing the building to be used as Low Barrier Housing is absurd. That would be tantamount to building a wolf's den in the middle of a sheep pasture. The hunters among the food. If you think what you are encouraging will be helping people you will be very happy with the results; the iron bar makers, security companies, "dog spray" sellers and other such suppliers of personal security appliances will be doing a booming business. Not to mention the real estate agents who will be getting lots of listings for the area. All the ongoing construction of condos in the area is making it a growing, vibrant neighbourhood. Allowing Cool-Aid to shift the Tent Ghetto to the Mount Edwards building will only serve to decrease property values and diminish the desirability of normal, taxpayers to live in the area.

My wife and I are long-time tax paying residents who live in a condo just a half block from the Mount Edwards building. Every day we are out and about walking the area so are intimately familiar with the effects of the homeless on the area. Almost every day we see the leftovers of the drug trade as we walk the streets, needles, wrappers and even once a small bag of white powder that had somehow had dropped into the gutter. Years ago when the Bottle Depot started up on Vancouver Street we noticed a very marked increase in the drug paraphernalia littering the area along with the glassy-eyed users wandering and street-sleeping in the area. After the city finally came to it's senses and removed the depot the junk in the area practically vanished. No coincidence to be sure. Slowly over recent years the number of drug users wandering the Pioneer Square area has again increased leading to the natural increase of needles and such littering the area. We used to take our grandkids to Pioneer Square and let them run around - never again. Regularly we see street men wandering through our back yard and closely scrutinizing the ground floor. Motive?

Now to address the tent ghetto, slum or whatever you wish to call it. Those squatters who really wanted to improve their lot have taken advantage of the Yates Street location. We applaud and wish them good luck. The dregs are mostly those who wish to be parasites on the system and our tax dollars. Some have actually bragged as such to the media. These are the people Cool-Aid wishes to house in the building with little or no supervision and security. A more suitable location would be the Woodwynn Farm in Central Saanich. But that would only work for those who wish to reform.

By allowing Cool-Aid to house these people in the old Mount Edwards building the City is just condoning the illegal behaviour of the majority of the squatters. Is not the site zoned for "Nursing Facilities"? This proposed use would not be such and so does not meet the zoning requirements. Do not allow this to happen! You would just be allowing the wolves to live comfortably amongst the lambs.

What is the building's actual physical state? Is it up to the current earthquake standards? Why did the former nursing home occupants move out?

If the City allows the Cool-Aid Society to ram this proposal thru we will lose any remaining respect for Mayor and council and vote accordingly in the next election. Any councillor who actively opposes the permit will be noted.

██████████

██████████ Rockland Ave

Victoria, BC ██████████

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2016 11:12 PM

To: Lisa Helps (Mayor)

Subject: Cool Aid facility proposed for Mount Edwards Court

Dear Mayor Helps:

I am writing to express my strong concerns regarding the establishment of a Cool Aid facility at Mount Edwards Court, 1002 Vancouver Street, Victoria, B.C. The proposed facility is expected to house 101 chronically homeless individuals, including those with significant mental illness and substance abuse issues.

Locating this Cool Aid facility at Mount Edwards Court would make it the largest such facility in Victoria. It would also be the only facility of its kind next to an elementary/middle school in Victoria - one that has children from kindergarten to grade 8, with frequent visits from a daycare with children aged 3 to 4 years old. As well as being adjacent to a school, locating the facility at Mount Edwards Court would put it near seniors who often use facilities and programs at the Y and Christ Church Cathedral, which are both situated within one block of the proposed Cool Aid site.

I am well aware of the need to address the issue of homelessness in Victoria, and share compassion and concern for this cause. I respect the will to solve this problem, but cannot accept the impact the proposed facility will have on the community and lives of the children in the area.

Juxtaposing a large supported living facility the size of which has not been seen in Victoria next to a school will result in numerous impacts, including safety concerns such as needles left as litter, transient individuals, and unpredictable behaviors, and ultimately, the closure of the school community. I believe that the current community safety challenges already present in this location, such as drug issues at Pioneer Square and crime issues at the tent city, will not only provide opportunities and temptations for Cool Aid patrons that will in turn compromise their health and welfare, but will also create a neighbourhood and community that is no longer safe for its most vulnerable people - our children and our seniors.

As a parent and citizen whose employment site also is located very near the proposed facility, for the above reasons I strongly object to the placement of the Cool Aid operation in this location. I urge you not to support the establishment of the Cool Aid facility at the Mount Edwards Court site. Please explore other strategies and outreach programs that are considerate, compassionate and supportive of programs such as Cool Aid, but are also respectful of the safety of all members of our neighbourhoods and our community. In short: social housing yes, this location no.

I also sincerely request that before the City of Victoria makes any decisions contributing to the establishment of this facility at Mount Edwards Court that all interested parties are invited to participate in discussions so that we might reach a solution acceptable to the affected communities.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2016 12:30 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Mount Edwards - Low Barrier Housing.... Please Don't

Good morning Mayor, Director, Councillor and Board,

I would like to express my deep concern with turning the old Mount Edwards building at Vancouver and Rockland into low-barrier housing. I've heard a number of concerns but here are the top ones for me:

1. While you may be able to achieve greater economies of scale by concentrating homeless people in one location, there are endless examples of how concentrating destitute people with drug addictions creates a self-reinforcing culture of drug-use, theft and other crime
2. Mount Edwards is in the middle of a residential community and right beside an elementary school (Christ Church Cathedral) – the last place anyone would want to establish such a self-reinforcing culture
3. We have been living with destitute homeless people in our neighbourhood for a while now – “tent city” and Pioneer Square Park are just a 2 blocks away – and the impact is obvious:
 - a. Vandalism and theft has increased
 - b. Erratic, unstable people roam the area (the other day I saw 2 men doing heroin with a blowtorch off a tombstone at 7am on my walk to work)
 - c. Residents feel unsafe in their own community

My family, like all the other families around here, don't want any of that near our homes.

If you want to address homelessness – do it right, really invest in it. Spending hundreds of thousands to shelter homeless on Yates street for 4 months is a waste of time and money. Letting public parks get destroyed so homeless can setup tents for a couple months is sloppy public policy. Not only will concentrating people with drug additions in one large facility like Mount Edwards create a hub of drug use and crime – it will waste tax payers money and won't solve the problem. If you're going to put money into it – do it right.

Please do not consider using Mount Edwards for low-barrier housing.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

From [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2016 4:05 PM

To: Lisa Helps (Mayor)

Subject: The project to transform Mt. Edward (Vancouver & Rockland) into a "low barrier" residence for the homeless

Dear Mayor Helps,

I am writing in regards to the planned opening of a "low barrier" permanent residence for homeless people at Mt. Edward on Vancouver and Rockland.

I am strongly opposed to the utilization of this property for this purpose. As a single woman who regularly walks alone at night in this quiet neighborhood, I would no longer feel safe passing by this address, if I knew that it was inhabited by a high percentage of residents with serious mental illnesses and/or drug addiction. A facility of over 100 is far too big to be managed by only 2 fulltime personnel. It is simply a recipe for disaster! The very thought of this kind of housing arrangement makes me shudder with apprehension!

With the large number of elderly residents in Victoria, surely there is a continual need for Mt. Edward to be utilized as a nursing home or hospital, for which it was designed? Shouldn't this building continue to serve the community in this capacity?

I urge you to hear the concerns of all the residents in this neighborhood, before giving the green light to a project that appears to be fraught with peril.

Respectfully yours,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Rockland Avenue

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2016 5:46 PM

To: speakup.fairfield@gmail.com; Lisa Helps (Mayor); kstinson@coolaid.org; mngd.minister@gov.bc.ca; planandzone@fairfieldcommunity.ca

Subject: Mt. Edward Proposal

To Whom it May Concern:

We are deeply concerned with the proposal to allocate Mt. Edward building on Vancouver St. as a low barrier housing project.

We live @ Rockland and Vancouver and we have had various problems around our building and in our parking lot area emanating from homeless and drug addicts. A week doesn't go by that we do not find disposed drug paraphernalia, including needles and vials in our parking lot. Since we have carports it's not the first time that individuals spend the night there and then they leave their garbage behind. Resident cars have been vandalized, just last night a car window was smashed to pieces. We also have come across individuals that set up their tent at the back garden!!

By concentrating 100 individuals in this area it will only escalate the current problems that we are already facing as a community. Walking through the 'green area' on Rockland between Vancouver St. and Quadra has become a very uncomfortable and risky practice and we have been avoiding this area because of these individuals hanging around the area. At times they hurl insults and swear at passersby for no other reason that they are either drunk or stoned out of their minds and of course quite a few are mentally ill, in which case they should be monitored in some institution.

If injecting hard drugs, such as Heroin, is illegal why are these addicts being given carte blanche to do it in public places? Shouldn't the police and the various government agencies be locking up these individuals?

Your misguided "do good" attitude is doing nothing to resolve the problem. These individuals should be housed in different areas of the city and not concentrated in one area.

We are totally opposed to this housing project and you can rest assured that our voices will be heard, if not now, it will be in the next election.

Yours truly,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2016 11:02 PM
To: Lisa Helps (Mayor); kstinson@coolaid.org; Chris Coleman (Councillor);
planandzonw@fairfieldcommunity.ca
Subject: Plan to house 101 chronically homeless at Mt St Edwards

Dear Ms Lisa Helps, Ms Kathy Stinson. Chris Coleman as Victoria City councillor and Minister responsible for housing and the Zoning board of Fairfield/Gonzales,

To inform you that my husband Wesley and I are protesting the use of this facility for the use of "low barrier " housing.

1....We are opposed as it will be only steps away from the Christ Church Cathedral school which is kindergarten to Gr 8 and will likely result in its demise.

2....It is in the heart of a residential community which does not have enough pedestrian traffic to provide passive security for the areas around the site.

3...My understanding is that the facility will have only 2 full time personnel.

4....My understanding is that this will be the largest facility of its kind in Victoria .

5....A SFU study found that when homeless people and services are congregated in one area , self destructive behaviour is reinforced.

6."Low barrier" housing has been found to be detrimental to drug addiction recovery.

7.....We are concerned that the surrounding streets, parks school ground back lanes .parking lots will be impacted with litter,discarded needles, loitering,associated drug trade and the need for increased police interventions.

8....My understanding is that the current city zoning for Mt St Edwards allows for a nursing home or hospital which does not fit this planned residential project.....would there not be re-zoning required for tis project?

9.....My understanding is that 'usually'...there is some consultation with the local residents..?

10.....My understanding is that the residence is slated to be occupied with persons with serious mental illnesses and/or drug addiction and people who are no longer welcome in shelters...and that they will NOT be monitored or required to take any anti psychotic medication or any kind of treatment???

We have lived in and enjoyed this area for 16 years and are disappointed that we have not been informed or consulted regarding this new initiative!

Please let me know why the Central Park facility might not achieve the objectives that you are hoping for...is it not in a more appropriate location??

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Collinson Street

Victoria [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, January 18, 2016 2:26 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Mayor and Council email

[REDACTED]
Reference :
[REDACTED]

Hello Mayor Helps and City Counsel Members,

I am writing to you today to express my concerns with the proposed Cool Aid purchase of the Mt. Edwards facility with hopes that you will be able to help.

Did you know that it is right beside an elementary school? How is this even possible? Are there not bylaws in place that dictate what can be placed beside a school?

Christ Church Cathedral School is an independent not for profit school and despite it's downtown location it has managed to thrive.

While it is an Anglican school it is so much more than that. It is an accepting community that embraces all faiths, and those with out faith. We have same sex couple families, Jewish families, Indo Canadian families, to name a few. We also have families that cover all the demographics financially. Doctors, firemen, police officers, surgeons, nurses, waiters, teachers, and government workers all send their children to the school. We have many students attending the school on bursaries.

The school also has a large number of special needs children who attend the school including several with Autism. My daughter is one of those students. My daughter has attended the school since preschool and I can't even begin to tell you all the amazing ways that this loving and compassionate school environment has benefited my child. The most wonderful teachers and staff work at this school. I have never in all of my life witnessed a group of co workers that actually get along and work so well together! Teachers here go the extra mile. This is the kind of school that you dream of sending your child too. It is a rare gem that must be celebrated and protected.

While everyone agrees that Victoria desperately needs more housing I can't believe that we have reached the point that we are willing to destroy a thriving community. We don't build facilities like this next to a school. Victoria is better than this. I encourage you to not give them the funding they are asking you for unless they are willing to find a new location. This doesn't belong in a residential area. We don't want our school to wither away and die like St. Andrews did. The size of the project is too large, Cool Aid has no other facilities next to a school, they have made no effort to alleviate any concerns we have or to even answer our most basic questions. There are too many unknowns, and I refuse to believe that the community will stand for children being used as collateral damage.

Financially you need the school to stay. The school, staff and parents all spend copious amounts of money within our immediate area. We buy our coffee at Bubby Roses and other local coffee shops. As a class rep I know that I have personally purchased thousands of dollars worth of gift certificates from local stores like Leka Designs, Cafe Brio, Pizzeria Prima Strada and the Moka House as Christmas and year end gifts. The school uses Island Blue Print and a downtown based advertising agency. Our lunch program is serviced by 4 local restaurants the depend on our weekly lunch orders.

Our little school also does an enormous amount of charity work. This past year we raised over 2 thousand dollars for the Terry Fox fund.

We had a sock hop at Christmas and raised almost a hundred dollars and over 200 pairs of socks which were donated to a local shelter.

We raise thousands of pounds of fresh fruit and veggies for the Rainbow Kitchen. We are good neighbours, the kind of a community that you want to keep. Our little neighbourhood is already supporting several group homes and a transition house. We also have to deal with Tent City. This is enough of a

burden. It is our fear that if Cool Aid is allowed to move in next door that it will destroy our school. The children deserve better.

I urge you to come and tour the school and see for yourself what an amazing gem this truly is.

Please help us save our school!

Thank you for your time.

██████

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, January 18, 2016 9:46 PM

To: Lisa Helps (Mayor)

Subject: Cool Aid facility proposed for Mount Edwards Court

Dear Mayor Helps:

I am writing to express my strong concerns regarding the establishment of a Cool Aid facility at Mount Edwards Court, 1002 Vancouver Street, Victoria, B.C. The proposed facility is expected to house 101 chronically homeless individuals, including those with significant mental illness and substance abuse issues.

Locating this Cool Aid facility at Mount Edwards Court would make it the largest such facility in Victoria. It would also be the only facility of its kind next to an elementary/middle school in Victoria - one that has children from kindergarten to grade 8, with frequent visits from a daycare with children aged 3 to 4 years old. As well as being adjacent to a school, locating the facility at Mount Edwards Court would put it near seniors who often use facilities and programs at the Y and Christ Church Cathedral, which are both situated within one block of the proposed Cool Aid site.

I am well aware of the need to address the issue of homelessness in Victoria, and share compassion and concern for this cause. I respect the will to solve this problem, but cannot accept the impact the proposed facility will have on the community and lives of the children in the area.

Juxtaposing a large supported living facility the size of which has not been seen in Victoria next to a school will result in numerous impacts, including safety concerns such as needles left as litter, transient individuals, and unpredictable behaviors, and ultimately, the closure of the school community. I believe that the current community safety challenges already present in this location, such as drug issues at Pioneer Square and crime issues at the tent city, will not only provide opportunities and temptations for Cool Aid patrons that will in turn compromise their health and welfare, but will also create a neighbourhood and community that is no longer safe for its most vulnerable people - our children and our seniors.

As a parent and citizen, for the above reasons I strongly object to the placement of the Cool Aid operation in this location. I urge you not to support the establishment of the Cool Aid facility at the Mount Edwards Court site. Please explore other strategies and outreach programs that are considerate, compassionate and supportive of programs such as Cool Aid, but are also respectful of the safety of all members of our neighbourhoods and our community. In short: social housing yes, this location no.

I also sincerely request that before the City of Victoria makes any decisions contributing to the establishment of this facility at Mount Edwards Court that all interested parties are invited to participate in discussions so that we might reach a solution acceptable to the affected communities.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, January 18, 2016 8:58 AM

To: Lisa Helps (Mayor)

Subject: Mt Edward Property - Vancouver and Rockland

Dear Mayor Helps,

I am appalled at the lack of transparency and consultation around the possible use of the property at Vancouver and Rockland for the purpose of "Low Barrier" residence for the chronically homeless. These are people who can not find a place to live because of their ongoing anti-social behavior. To have this facility in the middle of a residential community is unthinkable. Here are the reasons:

1. Too close to Christ Church Cathedral School with children in the Kindergarten to Grade 8 level;
2. Not enough pedestrian traffic at night to ensure passive security;
3. Lack of personnel (only 2 planned) to ensure safety;
4. Concentration will only encourage self-destructive behaviour;
5. "Low Barrier" style also encourages anti-social behaviour;
6. There has been no re-zoning application (this will not be a hospital);
7. Again - there has been NO public consultation and there has been too much secrecy;
8. Property values will decline; and,
9. There will be an increase in the crime rate.

This initiative must be reconsidered and the public must be involved.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2016 8:21 AM

To: Lisa Helps (Mayor)

Subject: A Sincere Appeal - Please Support Cathedral School Children and our Community

January 19, 2016

Dear Mayor Helps:

I am writing this letter as a concerned parent of Christ Church Cathedral School (CCCS) students about the proposed Cool Aid housing facility at the former Mount Edward Court building at 1002 Vancouver Street. There are 188 children registered at CCCS, from grades K to 8. Additionally, 43 junior kindergarten students ages 3-5 visit our campus at least once weekly. This school is well established, celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. Instead of celebrating this milestone, however, we are facing the threat of our beloved school and community closing.

As we have learned in a recent town hall meeting involving a Cool Aid representative, this organization intends to convert this building into the Dr. Joe Haegert Centre, a facility to house 101 chronically homeless individuals. This includes a case mix of approximately 1/3 with significant mental illness, and another 1/3 with serious substance abuse issues. We understand that, if this goes ahead, this will be the largest supported living facility in Victoria, and of such a size that a Vancouver social housing association has recommended such a facility exist only in the Downtown Eastside neighbourhood. We understand that no similar facility is located in the vicinity of a school in Victoria or in Vancouver. We also have been informed by a police liaison officer that disruptions outside similar, but notably smaller, Cool Aid facilities occur typically daily. We have been informed by Cool Aid that 2 staff will serve this facility, the same staffing number in another Cool Aid facility that serves 37 individuals and is known to have impacted the community with frequent police and ambulance attention.

We are well aware of the issue of homelessness in Victoria and indeed in the school's neighbourhood, and share compassion and concern for this cause. We share and respect the obvious political will to solve this problem, but cannot accept the impact that this issue will have on our school and the lives of our children. Many Christ Church Cathedral School parents have already informed the school of their intention to withdraw their child(ren) from this school should the Cool Aid proposal proceed. We therefore anticipate that our school may close directly from the impact of our proposed new neighbours.

We anticipate both safety concerns (needles or other potentially infectious materials being left as litter, potentially on the school grounds, transient individuals, the potential for labile or unpredictable behaviours from neighbours or visitors), in addition to concerns about the appropriateness and peace of a nurturing learning environment.

As a public official, if you were designing an ideal community, we cannot imagine that you would ever find the juxtaposition of a large supported living facility the size of which has never been seen in Victoria (or Vancouver for that matter) being situated next to a school. If you knew that such a facility might lead to the closure of that school community, we suspect you would find that similarly unacceptable. So why is the proposed Dr. Joe Haegert Centre acceptable here?

We are advocating for our children, who have quieter political voices than the homeless and their noble advocates. Social housing yes. This location no. We pointedly ask you to not support this project in this location. Our community depends on it and we believe that proceeding with the large social housing developing in the proposed site is simply not the right thing to do. I would be pleased to discuss this further and welcome contact via this e-mail address.

Yours truly,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Cathedral School Parent

From [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2016 3:19 PM

To: Lisa Helps (Mayor)

Cc: kstinson@coolaid.org; Chris Coleman (Councillor); mngd.minister@gov.bc.ca; planandzone@fairfieldcommunity.ca

Subject: Mt Edward proposal 2016...

For the attention of Mayor L Helps,

I am writing in response to the recent announcement that the City of Victoria along with the Cool Aid Society plans to convert the former Mount Edward Senior Care Facility located on Rockland and Vancouver into accommodation for the 'homeless'.

This is of great concern for obvious reasons. I am a resident in the Fairfield/Gonzales area living on Rockland Avenue less than 100m from this building. No less than 6 times since 2016 has started that I personally have had to remove individuals from the property who were engaged in various activities including one male moving from vehicle to vehicle inspecting inside and pulling on door handles. I am just one resident in a building of more than 50 people.

These types of activities have become even more frequent in the area due to the 'Tent City' on Provincial land next to the Courthouse on Courtney Street. Prior to the assembly of individuals living next to the Courthouse there have been very few individuals congregating in the area despite Rockland being a short distance from Pandora Avenue.

While I understand that homelessness is an issue for the city and there is no quick or easy fix I would like to point out that the intent for the Mount Edward is poorly thought out, irresponsible and given the fact that the site is next to an elementary school, this borders on contempt for the residents of the local area. The cost for this facility and interest is merely appeasement for the growing number of individuals flocking to Victoria for a hand out. Pioneer Square has already transitioned from a park & cemetery to a dumping ground for discarded items, rubbish and an increasing number of discarded syringes. These last items which are so ubiquitous in Victoria are discarded casually irrespective of the fact a bright yellow needle drop box is mounted in the park across from the Cathedral. Opening this site to open drug use, criminal activity and transient individuals will result in the eventual closure of the school as well as increasing costs to the city and its Police to deal with those frequenting the area and using the site.

There are many individuals, couples and families who are struggling with poverty in Victoria. People who are working multiple jobs and who genuinely need assistance and who have earned it. These unfortunate examples are not the same as people engaged in crime,

engaged in drug use or others who come to the city to exploit it's taxpayers, charity groups and facilities for assistance. Why should the city be so quick to open a building for these people who have no intention of using the facility to get their lives on track yet not make serious improvements for those who deserve and have earned assistance? The ever present safety net to support those who make demands without doing anything to support themselves or improve their own situation is socially repugnant.

This email may seem like another 'Not In My Back Yard' rant but I can assure you that I do not want this proposal to be given serious consideration in my area or any other area in the Greater Victoria area. History has shown us time and time again that appeasement does not work. If someone cannot establish themselves in Victoria then they cannot stay. It is literally that simple. We all know people who have left Victoria to live in Vancouver or elsewhere because it is hard to establish a comfortable existence here. I myself struggled to settle into Victoria but eventually was able to make something of my time. These people are not welcome in the area nor are they welcome in Victoria.

While I apologise for the tone of this letter and that it may not be very constructive, neither is the proposal for another area sacrificed to an increasing number of exploitive people preying on the bureaucracy, charity, tolerance and benevolence of the city and it's people.

Yours respectfully,



From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2016 5:43 PM

To: Lisa Helps (Mayor)

Subject: Mt. Edwards/Cool-Aid

My story: I am a Senior, who has lived for 15years at Viscount Apartments, 950 Rockland Ave, next to the Mt. Edwards property. After dark I always go out of my way to walk home by Vancouver St and access my building from the east rather than through Pioneer Square Park(which is on the other side of my building). I will not have a safe route home if Cool-Aid sets up in Mt. Edward. I will have to be parachuted onto the roof of my building I guess.

Even though we are close to downtown, this is a nice neighbourhood where young working-people and Seniors rub along together just fine.

A facility of 101 should never be considered anywhere, it is just too big. There is much more I could say, I know downtown, and many of the people involved. They have some good days, but many pretty crazy days. All 101 will be outside on a regular basis just to smoke cigarettes, the drug dealers will love the bulking together of their customers.

I will not be able to invite friends to visit, I will probably have to move, I can't afford to move. Does anyone care? Thank you, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2016 11:41 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: opposing Cool-Aid Society plans for Mt Edward Court

Dear Mayor Helps:

Since April, 2008, I have resided in one of 33 apartments at [REDACTED] Vancouver St, between Meares St and Rockland Ave, across the street from Mt Edward Court. When I look out my dining room window, I see Mt Edward Court.

My ex-wife and my son live across the backyard of Mt Edward Court, at [REDACTED] Meares St. She has lived in that house since September, 1998. He has lived there since November, 2000. I lived in the same house for 8 years. From the room where my son was born, at the back of the house, the window faces Mt Edward Court directly.

Over the 20 years I have lived in the immediate vicinity of Mt Edward Court, we have known it as *the old folks' home*. Years ago, when its residents could hear the sound of a baby crying, it was my baby boy; not their dementia.

Since the Baptist Housing Society boarded up the main-floor windows of the old folks' home, we no longer see staff in nurse-like uniforms coming and going. We no longer hear fire crews and ambulances responding emergency calls for what we always assumed were old folks falling and suffering fractures.

However, we still hear what we assume to be normal sounds of living on the edge of downtown: most noticeably, people yelling late at night. So close to Pioneer Square, we often see police on bicycles checking on users of the park; sometimes breaking up suspicious gatherings; sometimes taking people away in a police van.

If the Cool-Aid Society gets its way with Mt Edward Court, we'd surely resume hearing sirens and people yelling; likely more. Police on bicycles and taking people away police vehicles would likely increase, too.

I have walked past the Rock Bay Landing shelter (535 Ellice St) hundreds of times since it was built in 2010. Accordingly, I've passed through the street scene that it attracts year-round. The apartment building beside it (Rock Standard at Ellice St and Rock Bay Ave, formerly an extended-stay motel) is surrounded by tall fencing and locked gates. I'd wish no less for anybody living so close by.

I have also walked past the Our Place shelter (919 Pandora Ave) hundreds of times since it was built. Like Rock Bay Landing, Our Place provides immeasurable value to its clientele and to the community at large. Yet, nobody lives very close to it. The St Andrews School (Pandora Ave and Vancouver St) became a vacant building within a few years of its completion.

Now that the St Andrews School building has been abandoned as a place suitable for elementary school, Our Place seems more-or less suitably located in its immediate vicinity. Since the Rock Standard apartment building has been fenced in with tall fencing and locked gates, Rock Bay Landing also seems more-or less suitably located in its immediate vicinity. Residences are sparse for blocks in every direction.

If the Cool-Aid Society gets its way with Mt Edward Court, it would house 101 chronically homeless people as a "low-barrier permanent residence." I have come to understand that this means "tenants are not expected to abstain from using drugs or alcohol or from carrying on with street activities

while living on site, so long as they do not engage in these activities in common areas of the residence and are respectful of other tenants and staff."

Moreover, I understand that Mt Edward Court would be occupied by a high proportion of people with serious mental illnesses and/or drug addictions and people no longer welcome in shelters. Further, they would not be monitored or required to take any anti-psychotic medication or other kinds of treatment.

If the Cool-Aid Society gets its way with Mt Edward Court, then the fate of St Andrews School could soon befall Christ Church Cathedral School on the other side of Rockland Ave.

My ex-wife and son rent the house on Meares St across the back yard of Mt Edward Court. Hence, if the Cool-Aid Society gets its way with Mt Edward Court, then my family would not have the option of erecting a sturdy barrier to the view of the denizens of Mt Edward Court, nor to reduce accessibility between the back yards. The house could quickly become less private, less comfortable, and less safe.

If the Cool-Aid Society gets its way with Mt Edward Court, then I would expect the sights out my dining room window increasingly to resemble the sights on the 900 block of Pandora Ave (e.g. fewer and fewer children and old folks) and on the 500 block of Ellice St (e.g. troubled people with little better to do than mill about, grocery carts and bicycle parts strewn on the sidewalks and street, frequent appearance of police vehicles). I might have to sleep with my windows closed much more often to block out the voices of troubled people expressing their aggravations.

I recognize that Rock Bay Landing and the Our Place shelter provide immeasurable value to their clientele and to the community at large. I recognize also that there are many homeless people in the Victoria area whose needs are both acute and burdensome to themselves and to society. Mt Edward Court could be a good facility if managed well by the Cool-Aid Society to satisfy pressing needs – if not for a certain, acute, severe misfit with the immediate neighbourhood.

Christ Church Cathedral School is a treasure that could not relocate without massive long-term compromise. Pioneer Square already has its full measure of visits from police always striving to keep the peace. The house where my son was born is best kept private, safe, and comfortable – not easily peered into by mentally ill addicts not welcome in shelters. My neighbours and I value the privacy, safety, and comfort of our apartments and condos in the immediate vicinity.

I have abundant compassion for the hard-to-house, abundant sympathy for the mentally ill, and abundant goodwill for the substance-addicted. Even so, as a resident of the immediate neighbourhood of Mt Edward Court since 1995, I foresee much unwanted disharmony if the Cool-Aid Society gets its way with Mt Edward Court. No matter how good a fit it might appear to be, it's not the right place.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Victoria, BC, Canada

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2016 9:44 PM

To: Lisa Helps (Mayor)

Subject: Re: Mt. St. Edwards Proposal

Dear Mayor Helps:

I am writing to state my alarm at the proposed site of a Cool Aid Low Barrier Housing site at the existing designated nursing home/hospital zoned site of Mt. St. Edwards on Vancouver St.

As a tax paying owner a short block away I am already dealing with the tent city one block away and am now unable to walk home from down town after dark along that route for my own safety. It appears this situation will not be resolved for some time, if at all.

The other main walking route home from my drugstore and grocery store is directly in front of Mt. St. Edwards. I would feel unsafe walking in front of a Low Barrier Housing project day or night! I experienced working beside Streetlink for 5 1/2 years and saw the impact of theft, shoplifting, drug abuse, drug sales, garbage, profanity, begging, fights, damage to neighbouring properties, violence, unattended mentally ill and addicted people, constant loitering and inappropriate interactions out front of that facility daily. No one in the neighbourhood could walk by the area in the front of the building and had to cross the street in a non cross walk zone to avoid this dangerous and unpleasant situation. The business owners and their management and staff were in constant contact with the police and the Streetlink staff with no resolve, ever. This would be a more serious situation due to the size proposed of this Low Barrier Housing and the residential neighbourhood that Mt. St. Edwards is a part of.

This site is across the street from the school which is completely unacceptable.

The City and Cool Aid have not been forthcoming with information about this proposal with our residential neighbourhood.

I am against this proposal in any form. This is not a suitable and safe site for a Low Barrier Housing Project.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Burdett Avenue

Victoria, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

To: SPEAKUP.Fairfield@gmail.com

Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2016 4:53 PM

Subject: Possible Homeless Shelter

To the City of Victoria:

The prospect of a shelter at Mt Edward which allows homeless to use drugs, drink, and do as they please is irreponsible. The area near the Burdett court house tent city has seen increases in car break ins, theft, property damage, drug use/crime, and vulnerable residents (elderly people and children) are at risk. Not to mention the violence and deaths that have taken place at or near the site. In a effort to help the homeless the city seems intent on turning the city core into a slum which business' either leave, avoid, or struggle to survive in, and vulnerable residents fear the streets. There is a time for compassion for street people, but not at the expense of the community's safety and standard of living. Seems the city mayor and council are listening to special interest groups that don't represent the interests of the sustainability of the city, or the majority of its citizens. Allowing the tent city to continue will lead to civil unrest, as when you have large numbers of people in an area with a common gripe instigators will arise and whip the group into a mob with a mob mentality. Dealing with such individuals is more constructive in small groups from a security stand point. I have some knowledge on this subject, having aide to civil authorities training as I served with the armed foces for a number of years. To allow a troubled group virtual control of an area to do as they please is a recipe for disaster. Centres where the mentally ill and addicts can be lodged and treated/helped are needed as most of the street people are of this ilk, not a home that enables them to cause problems for the larger community. It is too easy through complacency and the wish to not look heartless to create the basis for loss of positive control leading to rioting. The road to hell is paved with good intentions. I worry because I care for the city, and my elderly mother lives near the purposed site. I would like her to feel safe walking the street in daylight. The area is getting so bad the vulnerable only go out in daylight and are nervous if alone. Will council risk the people they are supposed to serve by continuing to create a slum of the city centre to suit a tiny yet vocal minority?

Yours Sincerely:

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2016 11:51 AM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council

Subject: Fwd: MOUNT EDWARDS HOUSING PROPOSAL

To All Parties Concerned:

My wife and I would like to formally object to the Mt. Edwards proposal being put forward by Cool Aid Society to convert the existing building into a low-barrier housing situation for homeless in Victoria. We live one block from the current building, and although we would favour refurbishing and reuse of the building and site, we feel that to quickly turn the property into low-barrier housing to rectify some of the homeless issues being experienced at the tent city two blocks away is not the proper way to deal with the issue or the site.

It is our understand that low barrier housing means that residents are not expected to abstain from using drugs or alcohol or from carrying on with street activities while living on site provided they do not engage in these activities in common areas of the residence and are respectful of other tenants and staff. It is also our understanding that the residence is slated to be occupied by a high percentage of people with serious mental illnesses and/or drug addiction and people who are no longer welcome in shelters. We also understand that they will NOT be monitored or required to take any anti-psychotic medication or any kind of treatment. It is our understanding that only two full-time personnel will be overseeing the facility and this is definitely far too few people to monitor goings on in and outside of the facility.

We feel very strongly that the guidelines that we understand to be accurate are far too loose to have a facility of this size opened in a residential neighbourhood across the street from a school and in an area which many seniors enjoy the peace and tranquility of their neighbourhood. We have grave concerns about having this "loosely monitored" facility located down the street from our home and are very concerned about feeling very unsafe at any time of the day or night because of encounters with drug addicted and mentally unstable people who will not accept any responsibility for their actions.

It is one thing to provide shelter housing as has been done in the Boys and Girls Club location, but there definitely need to be rules and strict enforcement of those rules, if in fact, this location is chosen for this purpose.

We feel that the facility might be used as temporary housing or transitional housing, but this should be for those people who need a hand up, not a hand out. The Provincial and Federal Governments need to establish more drug treatment facilities and mental health facilities to help those people in need with those particular issues. **Mt. Edwards is not that location and should not, under any circumstances, be considered a possible location for that purpose.**

If our understanding of any of the likely issues is incorrect, we invite you to correct our understanding in an effort to allay any of the many concerns we have.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2016 9:50 AM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Fwd: Proposed use of Mount Edwards Facility

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: January 21, 2016 at 9:46:41 AM PST
To: mayor@victoria.ca
Subject: Proposed use of Mount Edwards Facility

Dear Mayor Helps

It is with great consternation that I learn of the plan of the Cool Aid Society to convert the empty Mount Edwards Facility to a low barrier shelter for 100 residents.

I live at the corner of Burdett and Vancouver, just one block from the tent encampment beside the Courthouse.

Many of the residents in our building are frail and elderly as indeed are many in the adjacent neighbourhood. Short walks outside may have to be curtailed should the character of the neighbourhood change further and should the sidewalks be filled with loiterers suffering from poor impulse control.

I ask that you and City Council do whatever you can to ensure that Mount Edwards is not used in the proposed manner.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Burdett Ave
[REDACTED]

250 384 9351

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, January 22, 2016 7:56 PM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council

Subject: Mt Edwards building on Vancouver and Christ Church Cathedral school

Dear Mayor Helps,

I am writing to lodge my complaint regarding the present proposal by Cool Aid to purchase the Mt Edwards building on Vancouver Street for the purpose of housing 101 very vulnerable homeless people, including untreated drug addicts. Their lack of concern for the welfare of the children at Christ Church Cathedral Elementary and Middle school next door, is deplorable. This shelter will in fact attract drug dealers and others who prey on such fragile folk. The proposed number of staff who will attend to the 101 residents of this shelter, is all of 2. This is unthinkable.

I implore you to stop the funding of such a project so as to protect our children and elderly who live in the neighbourhood please. Perhaps you could assist Cool Aid in finding an alternative location for this shelter?

Thank you so much for your attention to this matter,

[REDACTED]

Parent of 2 sons at Christ Church Cathedral School and parishioner

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, January 22, 2016 7:56 PM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council

Subject: Mt Edwards building on Vancouver and Christ Church Cathedral school

Dear Mayor Helps,

I am writing to lodge my complaint regarding the present proposal by Cool Aid to purchase the Mt Edwards building on Vancouver Street for the purpose of housing 101 very vulnerable homeless people, including untreated drug addicts. Their lack of concern for the welfare of the children at Christ Church Cathedral Elementary and Middle school next door, is deplorable. This shelter will in fact attract drug dealers and others who prey on such fragile folk. The proposed number of staff who will attend to the 101 residents of this shelter, is all of 2. This is unthinkable.

I implore you to stop the funding of such a project so as to protect our children and elderly who live in the neighbourhood please. Perhaps you could assist Cool Aid in finding an alternative location for this shelter?

Thank you so much for your attention to this matter,

[REDACTED]

Parent of 2 sons at Christ Church Cathedral School and parishioner

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Fri, Jan 22, 2016 at 12:03 PM

Subject: Cool-Aid's redevelopment proposal for the Mt Edwards facility on Vancouver and Rockland

To: mayor@victoria.ca, kstinson@coolaid.org, ccoleman@victoria.ca, mngd.minister@gov.bc.ca, planandzone@fairfieldcommunity.ca, councillors@victoria.ca

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to share my grave concerns about the proposed Cool-Aid redevelopment of the former Mt Edward nursing home in Fairfield.

Cool-Aid proposes to turn this into a facility for the chronically homeless, i.e. those with severe mental illness and/or addiction issues. The facility will be more than twice any other such facility, and at a recent meeting, Cool-Aid could not cite a single example of such a successful facility in a residential neighborhood in existence. The facility will be "low barrier", which means that its residents will not be required to follow any kind of treatment or take anti-psychotic drugs and allowed to come and go as they please.

Although I strongly support providing housing for the homeless, I strongly believe that this specific project is misguided. The facility sits right next to a truly special school with 200 children, some as young as Kindergarten, who are not equipped to deal with what they will get exposed to. No amount of chain link fencing, and locked up playgrounds will protect them from verbal assaults from a resident that is undergoing a mental health episode. As an adult, four years ago, I was verbally assaulted by such an individual in the downtown core, on my way to work. This event left me rattled for several hours, and is still vivid in my memory to this day. **No children should be exposed to this.**

As a resident of the neighborhood, I know I will no longer feel safe. The advent of tent city has already had a huge impact on my life: my car and backyard were robbed of possessions. My neighbors' car window was smashed. All the neighbors have installed security lighting. We went from not locking our doors to living in fear of leaving the house.

Cool-Aid has stated that they gave NO consideration to the school or neighbors before focusing on this location. How a respected charitable organization such as Cool-Aid can destroy a school, ghetto-ize an entire neighborhood for the benefit of 101 individuals is beyond comprehension.

As a tax payer, and a voter, I urge you not to fund this experimental project.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, January 22, 2016 10:37 AM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council

Subject: Mt Edwards use

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

My letter is to inform you of our family's strong opposition to the Cool-Aid Society's proposed "low barrier" permanent residence project for 101 chronically homeless individuals at the Mt Edward building on Vancouver Street at Rockland.

Our family has been living in this safe community for the past 60 years. The fourth generation of our family are now living here with their young children. Your support of bringing this group of people into our well developed community of family and senior citizen residences poses a safety, security and health threat and we as a community strongly oppose this decision. We disagree with your method of decision making on this important issue; not informing and consulting the neighbourhood. Already, theft has occurred on our property since you allowed the Tent City to be established. We are strongly opposed to establishing this residence at Mt Edwards.

We understand that you intend for this residence to be occupied by a high percentage of people with serious mental illnesses and/or drug addictions. This would be a serious safety/security/health threat to our community. Under the influence, some of these individuals may be dangerous and have little or no control over their actions towards themselves or the public. You are proposing 101 chronically homeless people staffed with only 2 fulltime personnel. This is an invitation for problems. These people need a proper care facility equipped with the medical care they require.

The surrounding residential streets, parks, bike lane, school ground, back lanes, parking lots will be impacted with litter, discarded needles, loitering, drug trade associated activities and increased police interventions. (Victoria Police Department estimates 30 call outs per month at a similar facility with fewer than 40 residents)

Current city zoning for Mt Edward allows for a nursing home or a hospital. The suggested use is in direct violation to this.

Placing this chronic homeless site in our community would impact our real estate values. Most people would not want to move their families into a community with these concerns and threats. This facility is in the heart of Victoria's tourist activity and would impact the well being of businesses who count on that very important industry in our Garden City.

We don't want and we will not allow our children, families, friends and seniors to be exposed to and be confronted by this situation on a daily basis.

It is the responsibility of the BC Government and the City of Victoria to provide a facility that meets the needs of its distressed persons.

Thank you for your immediate attention to our concerns.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2016 2:56 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Fwd: Mt Edward

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Mt Edward
Date: 23 January, 2016 2:52:53 PM PST
To: mayor@victoria.ca
Cc: ccoleman@victoria.ca

Dear Mayor

As a local resident, at [REDACTED] Burdett, I am writing to express strong opposition to the proposed development of Mt Edward as a permanent residence for the chronically homeless.

There are any number of good reasons why this development is inappropriate - it is in the heart of a residential community and current city zoning does not allow for a project of this type or scale, to name only two. But these reasons pale in comparison with the proposed siting yards away from Christ Church Cathedral school which takes children from kindergarten to grade 8. It is difficult to conceive of a more unsuitable, and potentially dangerous, institution to place in extremely close proximity to young children. By definition this residence will have a large number of people with serious drug and mental health problems. The city obviously has an obligation to do what it can for the homeless but have we now reached the stage where they take priority over the physical and mental health of young children?

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2016 2:05 PM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council

Subject: RE: Mount Edwards - Low Barrier Housing.... Please Don't

Thank you for the response, Monica. I appreciate that you and your office take the time to listen and respond.

While I recognize the need to provide assistance to our homeless, the Mt Edwards plan seems short-sighted and the response from Cool-Aid was less than reassuring (attached). 3 things are missing for me:

- 1) Where is the hard evidence that this kind of facility delivers better results for the homeless and our neighbourhoods?
 - a. The response from Cool-Aid was missing any kind of hard facts entirely. Additionally, the Speakup Fairfield group has referenced several studies with compelling counter examples.
- 2) The location remains woefully inadequate
 - a. Cool-Aid referenced the quality of their facilities on Pandora Street. While I'm sure these are well run and very helpful to those in need, I would never take my family through that area. If you have a family, I think you will be able to relate. That is hardly the kind of environment I want in my residential neighbourhood and beside an elementary school.
- 3) The proposed size of the facility appears untested and likely to encourage a self-reinforcing culture of drug-use, theft and other crime
 - a. I used to live across from Camas Gardens on Humboldt street with a view of the front entrance. From that experience I can tell you that visits by police and first responders happened multiple times a week. Often multiple times in a single day. Highly intoxicated people were frequent. Outbursts of violence or threats of violence were common. You get the picture. Again, that is not the kind of environment I want in my neighbourhood, near an elementary school, or near my family.

Thank you again for the response, however, Mt Edwards still appears to be a bad plan and one that I fully oppose.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, January 23, 2016 4:03 PM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council

Subject: reMt. Newton(located at Vancouver and Rockland Streets)

Dear Mayor Helps and council members,

I believe the proposed use for Mt. Newton is wrong. The residents would be either addicted to drugs and/or seriously mentally ill. They will be untreated and take no anti-psychotic drugs and more importantly they will NOT be supervised. There will only be two employees in the home of 101 residents and they only are obligated not to create a disturbance in the common areas of the home. The current zoning for that property is for a school or hospital. I don't quite see How the proposed residence fits that designation. Mt. Newton is right next door to Christ Church Cathedral school with children from grades K-8. It is totally unreasonable to place these children in such close proximity. Even the shelters don't welcome these people. I feel the crime rate in the area will escalate and people won't feel safe on the streets, particularly the vulnerable elderly. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 10:40 AM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council

Subject: Cool Aid Proposal for Mt. Edwards Court

Dear Mayor Helps and Council:

I am writing this letter as a concerned parent of Christ Church Cathedral School (CCCS) students about the proposed Cool Aid housing facility at the former Mount Edwards Court building at 1002 Vancouver Street, adjacent to our school. There are 190 children registered at CCCS, from grades K to 8. Additionally, junior kindergarten students, ages 3-5, visit our campus at least once weekly. This school is well established, celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, and the last remaining elementary school in the downtown area.

Cool Aid intends to convert the Mt. Edwards building into the Dr. Joe Haegert Centre. This facility would house 101 chronically homeless individuals in 200 sq.ft. single rooms. Units of this size would likely attract a transitional population rather than stable residents seeking permanent housing. Cool Aid has proposed a resident mix of approximately 1/3 with high-level mental health and addictions issues and another 1/3 with moderately high issues. The stated minimum staffing level will be 2 staff for the 101 residents in this facility, the same number of staff as in another Cool Aid facility that serves only 37 individuals and impacts the community with frequent police and ambulance attention. A Victoria police liaison officer reported disruptions outside that facility occur typically daily. We understand that, if the Dr. Joe Haegert Centre goes ahead, it will be the largest supported living facility in Victoria. A Vancouver social housing association has recommended such a facility exist only in the Downtown Eastside neighbourhood. Cool Aid could provide no example of a similar facility located in the vicinity of schools anywhere else.

We are well aware of the issue of homelessness in Victoria, and share compassion and concern for this cause. We share and respect the obvious political will to solve this problem, but cannot accept the impact that this issue will have on our school and the lives of our children. Many Christ Church Cathedral School parents have already informed the school of their intention to withdraw their child(ren) from this school should the Cool Aid proposal proceed. We therefore anticipate that our school may close directly from the impact of our proposed new neighbours.

We anticipate both safety concerns (needles or other potentially infectious materials littering the school grounds and environs; transient individuals; potentially labile or unpredictable behaviours from residents or visitors), in addition to concerns about the appropriateness and disruption to the peace of a nurturing learning environment. Innocent children may be witness to drug culture, profanity and violent behaviour.

As a public official, if you were designing an ideal community, we cannot imagine that you would ever juxtapose a large supported living facility the size of which has never been seen in Victoria (or Vancouver for that matter) with a school. If you knew that such a facility might lead to the closure of that school community, we suspect you would find that similarly unacceptable. So why is the proposed Dr. Joe Haegert Centre acceptable here?

We are advocating for our children, who have quieter political voices than the homeless and their noble advocates. Social housing yes. This location no. We pointedly ask you to not support this project in this location. Our community and our children depend on your decision.

Yours truly, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 10:31 AM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council

Subject: Proposed Cool Aid Facility

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing this letter as a concerned parent of Christ Church Cathedral School (CCCS) students about the proposed Cool Aid housing facility at the former Mount Edwards Court building at 1002 Vancouver Street, adjacent to our school. There are 190 children registered at CCCS, from grades K to 8. Additionally, junior kindergarten students, ages 3-5, visit our campus at least once weekly. This school is well established, celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, and the last remaining elementary school in the downtown area.

Cool Aid intends to convert the Mt. Edwards building into the Dr. Joe Haegert Centre. This facility would house 101 chronically homeless individuals in 200 sq.ft. single rooms. Units of this size would likely attract a transitional population rather than stable residents seeking permanent housing. Cool Aid has proposed a resident mix of approximately 1/3 with high-level mental health and addictions issues and another 1/3 with moderately high issues. The stated minimum staffing level will be 2 staff for the 101 residents in this facility, the same number of staff as in another Cool Aid facility that serves only 37 individuals and impacts the community with frequent police and ambulance attention. A Victoria police liaison officer reported disruptions outside that facility occur typically daily. We understand that, if the Dr. Joe Haegert Centre goes ahead, it will be the largest supported living facility in Victoria. A Vancouver social housing association has recommended such a facility exist only in the Downtown Eastside neighbourhood. Cool Aid could provide no example of a similar facility located in the vicinity of schools anywhere else.

We are well aware of the issue of homelessness in Victoria, and share compassion and concern for this cause. We share and respect the obvious political will to solve this problem, but cannot accept the impact that this issue will have on our school and the lives of our children. Many Christ Church Cathedral School parents have already informed the school of their intention to withdraw their child(ren) from this school should the Cool Aid proposal proceed. We therefore anticipate that our school may close directly from the impact of our proposed new neighbours.

We anticipate both safety concerns (needles or other potentially infectious materials littering the school grounds and environs; transient individuals; potentially labile or unpredictable behaviours from residents or visitors), in addition to concerns about the appropriateness and disruption to the peace of a nurturing learning environment. Innocent children may be witness to drug culture, profanity and violent behaviour.

As a public official, if you were designing an ideal community, we cannot imagine that you would ever juxtapose a large supported living facility the size of which has never been seen in Victoria (or Vancouver for that matter) with a school. If you knew that such a facility might lead to the closure of that school community, we suspect you would find that similarly unacceptable. So why is the proposed Dr. Joe Haegert Centre acceptable here?

We are advocating for our children, who have quieter political voices than the homeless and their noble advocates. Social housing yes. This location no. We pointedly ask you to not support this project in this location. Our community and our children depend on your decision.

I wish to add a personal note to this letter. As a recovering alcoholic with 32 years clean and sober (as of Jan. 29) I have a great deal of sympathy and empathy for the people Cool Aid serves, and have, in the past, done outreach service with the homeless and addicted. But I feel very strongly that this facility is not in the right location, given its proximity to the school and the local residential neighbourhood.

Yours truly,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 6:38 PM
To: 'mayor@victoria.ca'; 'ccoleman@victoria.ca'; 'mngd.minister@gov.bc.ca';
'planandzone@fairfieldcommunity.ca'; 'kstinson@coolaid.org'; 'speakup.fairfield@gmail.com'
Cc: 'Lynda Clark'; 'Sandi Knowlton'; 'sharon cleugh'
Subject: Mount Edwards Care Home
Importance: High

Hello,

I wish to state that as a resident of the [REDACTED] Rockland Avenue condominium complex, I wholly oppose the move to turn Mount Edwards Care home into a low barrier residence. This would put the community, my residence and me at risk. It is already a highly congested, high traffic area. Our apartment complex has already been the victim to a number of crimes; a vehicle stolen, my own vehicle broken into and items stolen, as well as other vehicles, and I have personally encountered a number of homeless people in our parking lot using drugs. We currently do not have a gated complex; I see potential for a huge expense from this proposal. We are close to the area of downtown of the homeless community already; this would increase and contribute to that. It will increase crime in the area and there is potential for more violent crime. After reading some information as to what is proposed, I have grave concerns regarding the staffing, and safety of the community, the safety of our children as there is a school nearby (kindergarten to grade 8), our homes, our businesses, and our tourism. I'm certain everyone is likely as concerned as I am of the close proximity to the school.

Yes, there is a need for a facility, but this building, the large capacity, in this area, are inappropriate and not zoned for this purpose, and no re-zoning has taken place (nor are we advising to re-zone). The set-up, with the information I've been reading, would not promote a healthy, safe community or one of recovery. It is a detriment to my community, my home, the value of my home, and me personally.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Rockland Avenue

Victoria, BC

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 11:25 AM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council

Subject: Social housing yes. 17 paces from elementary school NO!

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing this letter as a concerned parent of Christ Church Cathedral School (CCCS) students about the proposed Cool Aid housing facility at the former Mount Edwards Court building at 1002 Vancouver Street, adjacent to our school. There are 190 children registered at CCCS, from grades K to 8. Additionally, junior kindergarten students, ages 3-5, visit our campus at least once weekly. This school is well established, celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, and the last remaining elementary school in the downtown area.

Cool Aid intends to convert the Mt. Edwards building into the Dr. Joe Haegert Centre. This facility would house 101 chronically homeless individuals in 200 sq.ft. single rooms. Units of this size would likely attract a transitional population rather than stable residents seeking permanent housing. Cool Aid has proposed a resident mix of approximately 1/3 with high-level mental health and addictions issues and another 1/3 with moderately high issues. The stated minimum staffing level will be 2 staff for the 101 residents in this facility, the same number of staff as in another Cool Aid facility that serves only 37 individuals and impacts the community with frequent police and ambulance attention. A Victoria police liaison officer reported disruptions outside that facility occur typically daily. We understand that, if the Dr. Joe Haegert Centre goes ahead, it will be the largest supported living facility in Victoria. a Vancouver social housing association has recommended such a facility exist only in the Downtown Eastside neighbourhood. Cool Aid could provide no example of a similar facility located in the vicinity of schools anywhere else.

We are well aware of the issue of homelessness in Victoria, and share compassion and concern for this cause. We share and respect the obvious political will to solve this problem, but cannot accept the impact that this issue will have on our school and the lives of our children. Many Christ Church Cathedral School parents have already informed the school of their intention to withdraw their child(ren) from this school should the Cool Aid proposal proceed. We therefore anticipate that our school may close directly from the impact of our proposed new neighbours.

We anticipate both safety concerns (needles or other potentially infectious materials littering the school grounds and environs; transient individuals; potentially labile or unpredictable behaviours from residents or visitors), in addition to concerns about the appropriateness and disruption to the peace of a nurturing learning environment. Innocent children may be witness to drug culture, profanity and violent behaviour.

As a public official, if you were designing an ideal community, we cannot imagine that you would ever juxtapose a large supported living facility the size of which has never been seen in Victoria (or Vancouver for that matter) with a school. If you knew that such a facility might lead to the closure of that school community, we suspect you would find that similarly unacceptable. So why is the proposed Dr. Joe Haegert Centre acceptable here?

We are advocating for our children, who have quieter political voices than the homeless and their noble advocates. **Social housing yes. This location no.** We pointedly ask you to not support this project in this location. Our community and our children depend on your decision.

Yours truly [REDACTED] BSc, RMT Concerned Parent Owner/[REDACTED]

	Central Middle School	Christ Church Cathedral School
Number of residents	40	101
Number of staff	20	2 + 1 coordinator
Residents selection	Willing to abstain from drugs	Chronic homeless, large majority with severe mental disorders and/or drug addiction. Not willing to abstain from drugs.
Meals	3 meals per day	Maybe one meal per day
Conduct Rules	Strict no drug/no alcohol/no guests policy	No requirements to stop using drugs or take anti-psychotic medication.
Distance from school	> 400 meters	70 meters
Security	18 hours a day, inside and out	None
Additional safety measures	Residents are kept indoors two hours per day (at school start and end)	None
Time since fully used	A few weeks	-
Expected duration	4 months	Permanent
Operated by	Our Place	Cool-Aid

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 1:11 PM

To: Mount Edwards Community Awareness Coalition

Subject: A glimpse into SROs

What Cool-Aid is proposing to build is an SRO, single room occupancy. Rooms are approx. 200 sq ft. bed sits with a hot plate and 2 piece bathrooms (toilet and sink). Showers are shared. Large scale SROs have been proven time and again to be detrimental to the people who have to live in them.

Here is a glimpse of a 96 unit SRO in Vancouver:

<http://news.nationalpost.com/full-comment/brian-hutchinson-after-throwing-84m-at-slum-housing-city-spending-128k-per-room-on-renovations>

Note the following excerpts:

"The Marble Arch Hotel is a ramshackle, seven-storey brick pile in downtown Vancouver. It's 100 years old, ancient by local standards. But aside from its age, there's nothing special about it. The "Arch" is a featureless, grimy hovel, notorious for hosting decades of criminal activity, prostitutes and long-term resident Gilbert Paul Jordan, a serial sex offender who poisoned to death women using copious amounts of alcohol.

It's now a money pit, into which tens of millions of tax dollars are being flung. The Marble Arch is designated as a "single room occupancy" hotel, or SRO. That's a local idiom for slum housing. All of its residents are on social assistance and have concurrent disorders, including HIV and AIDS, mental illness and addictions."

"It's a short-term, "Band-Aid" approach to fighting homelessness, says Mr. Laquian, a University of British Columbia professor emeritus. "Homelessness cannot be solved by housing," he says. "Just putting a roof over someone's head doesn't address the real issues behind their problem. The issues are drug addiction, disease and mental illness. We need to make these people self-reliant," he adds, rather than increasingly dependent.

And that requires a different strategy, one that people seem reluctant to embrace. Rather than concentrate social housing in one part of town — in Vancouver's case, the Downtown Eastside — authorities should spread it around, creating smaller residences in various neighbourhoods, and staff them appropriately. "Integrate people in these communities," says Mr. Laquian. Help them get on their feet. Don't isolate them."

Remember: The proposed Mount Edward project is too large and too close to the downtown core for the well-being of its own residents. Cool-Aid's Stinson herself said at the January 13 meeting that she expects many would go downtown to receive services. We have the benefit of hindsight from Vancouver. Why is the city repeating known mistakes?

[REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 10:34 AM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Mayor and Council email

[REDACTED]
Reference :
[REDACTED]

Dear Mayor Helps and Council Staff:

I am writing this letter as a concerned grandparent of a Christ Church Cathedral School (CCCS) student about the proposed Cool Aid housing facility at the former Mount Edwards Court building at 1002 Vancouver Street, adjacent to the school. There are 190 children registered at CCCS, from grades K to 8. Additionally, junior kindergarten students, ages 3-5, visit our campus at least once weekly. This school is well established, celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, and the last remaining elementary school in the downtown area.

Cool Aid intends to convert the Mt. Edwards building into the Dr. Joe Haegert Centre. This facility would house 101 chronically homeless individuals in 200 sq.ft. single rooms. Units of this size would likely attract a transitional population rather than stable residents seeking permanent housing. Cool Aid has proposed a resident mix of approximately 1/3 with high-level mental health and addictions issues and another 1/3 with moderately high issues. The stated minimum staffing level will be 2 staff for the 101 residents in this facility, the same number of staff as in another Cool Aid facility that serves only 37 individuals and impacts the community with frequent police and ambulance attention. A Victoria police liaison officer reported disruptions outside that facility occur typically daily. We understand that, if the Dr. Joe Haegert Centre goes ahead, it will be the largest supported living facility in Victoria. A Vancouver social housing association has recommended such a facility exist only in the Downtown Eastside neighbourhood. Cool Aid could provide no example of a similar facility located in the vicinity of schools anywhere else.

We are well aware of the issue of homelessness in Victoria, and share compassion and concern for this cause. We share and respect the obvious political will to solve this problem, but cannot accept the impact that this issue will have on our school and the lives of our children. Many Christ Church Cathedral School parents have already informed the school of their intention to withdraw their children from this school should the Cool Aid proposal proceed. We therefore anticipate that our school may close directly from the impact of our proposed new neighbours.

We anticipate both safety concerns (needles or other potentially infectious materials littering the school grounds and environs; transient individuals; potentially labile or unpredictable behaviours from residents or visitors), in addition to concerns about the appropriateness and disruption to the peace of a nurturing learning environment. Innocent children may be witness to drug culture, profanity and violent behaviour.

As a public official, if you were designing an ideal community, we cannot imagine that you would ever juxtapose a large supported living facility the size of which has never been seen in Victoria (or Vancouver for that matter) with a school. If you knew that such a facility might lead to the closure of that school community, we suspect you would find that similarly unacceptable. So why is the proposed Dr. Joe Haegert Centre acceptable here?

We are advocating for our grandchildren, who have quieter political voices than the homeless and their noble advocates. Social housing yes. This location no. We pointedly ask you to not support this project in this location. Our community and our children depend on your decision.

Yours truly,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 9:42 AM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council

Subject: re: funding for Mt Edwards Cool Aid project

Please note that I do not approve of the city providing funds to the Cool Aid Society for the proposed residence at Mt Edwards. I am not opposed to providing housing for the homeless - I have specific concerns about this proposal and feel that at the very least there should be a proper opportunity to consult with the neighbourhood before funds are committed.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 10:44 AM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Cool Aid Purchase of Mount Edwards

Dear Mayor Helps and Victoria City Council,

This letter is to protest the location of the homeless and mentally ill shelter as proposed by the Cool Aid Society Group. As a retired Registered Nurse, I write from experience of caring for these unfortunate people. They really need constant supervision and to be accompanied if they go out in public. Their mood and behaviour can change without warning.

As a resident and taxpayer of Burdett Ave. near Tent City, I am experiencing the homeless wandering around the neighbourhood, watching the children in the schoolyard and stopping to watch the entrance of our building. I'm concerned about it for the safety of the children and the elderly residents of my building. Our building has also experienced loitering around the building and drinking, cigarettes, and syringes around the garden and entrances.

I'm concerned with what is happening now and that it will escalate in the future if a shelter is installed on Vancouver St.

The Tent City inhabitants by the Courthouse have made it abundantly clear they do not want shelters, they want affordable housing and the Cool Aid shelter on Vancouver St. is not a solution to this problem. Their protest will continue even if Cool Aid shelter is opened until affordable housing available.

The downtown Victoria area is not a safe locale for them.
Psychiatric care and supervision is needed to be readily available to them.

I hope a suitable location can be found for them away from the downtown area, perhaps near the Jubilee Hospital since this is a health issue.

[REDACTED]

Registered Nurse (retired)

Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 10:41 AM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Mayor and Council email

[REDACTED]
Reference :
[REDACTED]

Dear Mayor Helps and City Council:

I am writing this letter as a concerned grandparent of Christ Church Cathedral School (CCCS) student about the proposed Cool Aid housing facility at the former Mount Edwards Court building at 1002 Vancouver Street, adjacent to our school. There are 190 children registered at CCCS, from grades K to 8. Additionally, junior kindergarten students, ages 3-5, visit our campus at least once weekly. This school is well established, celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, and the last remaining elementary school in the downtown area.

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We are advocating for our children, who have quieter political voices than the homeless and their noble advocates. Social housing yes. This location no. We pointedly ask you to not support this project in this location. Our community and our children depend on your decision.

Yours truly,

[REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 12:47 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Homelessness

The Mount Edward building should not be used for the homeless. It is in a quiet neighbourhood and very young children attend the Christ Church school. Some children are only 3 years old.

It seems like the homeless issue has taken precedence over more important issues in town. City Council should lobby the province to dismantle the tent city on provincial land. It is disappointing that the City has done so little to get rid of this eyesore and the associated health and safety problems. Bonfires! Two stabbings!

Sincerely,


Collinson Street
Victoria

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 10:18 AM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council

Subject: Mount Edwards

To: Mayor Helps and City Councillors

I am a business owner at Fort and Cook. I have been here for fifteen years and I have seen a lot going on in this area.

I am voicing my concerns with respect to the homeless facility that Cool Aid would like to use in the Mount Edwards Building.

Please keep in mind, as I write this, that this used to be a seniors facility, with a much different clientele.

CURRENTLY, shopkeepers on this block already deal with:

1. thefts,
 - a. openly stealing from one shop and trying to sell it two shops down
 - b. stolen goods being hidden in and around our buildings
2. drug addicts shooting up in front or behind their shops,
3. drug deals,
4. needles,
5. car break-ins,
6. fights
7. feel threatened when confronted
8. condoms laying on the ground,
9. personal belongings being spread on the streets,
10. garbage,
11. dog feces,
12. people changing in front of our shops,
13. re-adjusting themselves,
14. coming in and asking to use our bathrooms,
15. spilling their food and drinks everywhere in our shops,
16. using our chairs in or out that are for clients,
17. wanting to buy cigarettes from clients or shopkeepers
18. asking for money
19. screaming and yelling
20. etc.

We run *businesses* here.

Most of the business owners on the 1000 block are women, running stores on their own, or with only one staff member, usually female, in the store at a time. In other words, the facility puts us at risk.

When the Bottle Depot was located at Vancouver and Cook it was terrible. The visible number of drug dealers and their dealings was outrageous, and the police were constantly called to deal with situations.

NOW you want to house people in a neighbourhood who are many of the perpetrators of the list above.

AND there are numerous elderly and disabled people that live in this area whom I assure you will be made victims.

Let alone, a school several paces away from the proposed facility. Do you want the children at that school watching drug deals, finding needles, or feeling threatened? Let alone the staff and parents. Adults can sometimes fend for themselves, children can't and shouldn't.

There is also a crosswalk there that is directly in front of the entrance of the facility crossing from Rockland to the other side of Vancouver.

Stand at the Market on Yates and see how many of their customers feel threatened when they are approached for money as they walk out with groceries. Or just stand there for a few hours and watch what goes on in and around London Drugs.

No addict lives far from the source.

There will be an increase of drug dealers openly sitting on Mount Edwards steps and dealing, no matter how many staff you have working there. Just like the Bottle Depot. And they *will* be preying on those who are addicts housed in your facility and those who are mentally challenged will be preyed upon as well. Just like the Bottle Depot.

And if you think everyone will live inside, you *will* be mistaken. There will be tents all around that property as well.

Look at the Tent City at the Court House! How many drug overdoses have there been, a stabbing, altercations, it's ridiculous. There are obviously drug suppliers around, and that tent area now which has made it easy for them to supply people.

To add insult to all of us who would attend, a time has been *inappropriately* chosen for a meeting on Friday, January 29 between 1 pm and 2:30 pm, at the Cook Street Community Centre at where our voices could be heard.

YET we are all at work! And so are many of the inhabitants of this high density, living area.

Yes, there needs to be a solution.

Something definitely needs to be done but there are other facility options available, where people can be housed, receive help and get on their feet.

You have TAXPAYERS that pay all of your salaries and for social programs, I think it's time that you listen to them and the very community that you are supposed to be helping.

We are all shopkeepers and employees of businesses trying to earn a living and not waste police time.

I recall, Ms. Helps, that when you were running for election, you stood in my shop and said you would do whatever you could to offer assistance.

You have *NEVER* been back in my store, since that day. The time is now. Sincerely, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 9:58 PM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council

Cc: 'Hall, Stuart'

Subject: RE: Mt Edwards building on Vancouver and Christ Church Cathedral school

Dear Mayor Helps,

Thank you for this response and for your suggestions. As a parent of two sons at the school, (my eldest has been there 9 years and my younger son 6 years), I am vehemently opposed to the Cool Aid proposal for that building on Vancouver Street, adjacent to the school.

I listened closely to the interview you gave yesterday on CBC radio with Gregor Craigie and I was disappointed to hear that you do not yet seem to have the full picture. I was also confused about the rezoning you mentioned since it was claimed by both Cool Aid and the Times Colonist yesterday, that no rezoning would be required. However, all of us at the school hope this rezoning **will** be required because it will allow for some public opinion to be voiced.

I attended a meeting two weeks ago at Christ Church Cathedral School (it lasted about 3 hours) with representatives from Cool Aid. Although they told us at that meeting that they "are committed to working with the neighbourhood to understand and address questions and concerns with their proposal" , we heard no evidence of this from them. In fact, their proposal to create a shelter in the Mt Edwards building that would house 101 people (more than twice the size of any other Cool Aid shelter in Victoria) with just **two** staff members, added further shock and horror to us as parents and to the staff of the school. Contrary to their so-called commitment in the above quote, the Executive Director of Cool Aid gave us no assurance whatsoever as to whether these residents might be screened and merely told us that the division between drug-addicts, mental health patients and homeless folk in this shelter would comprise one third for each group. There was no assurance regarding any kind of increased staffing for this much larger shelter and there was no assurance that any criminal or dangerous individuals would be identified. So in fact, one group of vulnerable people would be living right beside another group of vulnerable people, our children at the school. It was abundantly clear by the end of that meeting with Cool Aid, that the effect of setting up this facility as proposed would have a significant negative impact on this jewel of Victoria, Christ Church Cathedral School as well as on its neighbours. As both the police department and Cool Aid admitted, there would be a significant increase in incidents requiring police intervention. It is certain that such a shelter, with the ludicrous ratio of 1 staff member to 50, would be disastrous for the school. If it goes through, no matter what promises are made by Cool Aid, many parents will feel they have no choice but to withdraw their children from Christ Church and new parents will not choose to send their children to a school right beside such a shelter. This could mean the closure of what is a fabulous school. I do not believe we are dealing with the same level of organization as you mentioned having witnessed at the shelter near Central school. Cool Aid has still not given any indication of making changes to their proposal; rather, they are forging ahead to gain sufficient funding to purchase the property. Since we know they will be asking the City of Victoria to help in this regard, I implore you and your council to decline any such assistance until or unless an entirely new plan for that building is made.

As our Chair of the Board has said, Christ Church Cathedral school and its students have given so much to the less privileged members of our city and we care deeply about them. But when young children are clearly being placed in the path of danger, and parents and staff can do little to protect them from those who will gather outside to sell drugs, those of unsound mind or those who will regularly be under the influence of various substances, then I ask you, where has common sense disappeared to?

Yours sincerely, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] On Behalf Of [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 11:08 PM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council

Subject: NO to the proposed Cool Aid project at Mt Edwards

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I am a parent of 2 students at Christ Church Cathedral School (CCCS) - one in elementary and one in middle school. I am very concerned about Cool Aid's proposal to build low-barrier supportive housing at the former Mount Edwards Court building at 1002 Vancouver Street. I also live less than 1.5 kilometers from the school (in the Fairfield area).

When Cool Aid first informed the school community that they intended to convert Mt Edwards, I was interested in hearing their vision. Indeed, one of the things I appreciate most about CCCS is the effort made to instill in the students a sense of moral and civic responsibility. And the problems of homelessness in Victoria needs to be addressed quickly and compassionately. But, the desire to do good in this instance is overwhelming common sense.

After hearing the proposal at Cool Aid's informational meeting on January 13, I must reluctantly conclude that it is inappropriate and must not be allowed to go forward. This proposal is far too large, does not provide enough support and places 2 vulnerable populations (young children and people with mental health and/or addiction issues) too close together. If Cool Aid's proposal is allowed to go forward without major modifications, community perception of the danger posed to children attending CCCS will most certainly cause prospective parents not to enroll their children at CCCS. A direct result of this proposal will be the closure of the school.

- According to Cool Aid, they intend to convert Mt Edwards to a low-barrier facility housing 101 tenants. According to Kathy Stinson, Executive Director of Cool Aid, about 2/3 of the tenants would have high to moderately-high levels of mental health and drug addiction issues. As low-barrier housing, tenants would not need to be on their medication or even attempting to work on their addictions.
- When questioned specifically, Ms. Stinson was unable to point out any instance of such a facility located near an elementary/middle school - not just in Victoria but *anywhere in Canada*.
- Cool Aid has allocated only 2 support persons to look after all 101 tenants. This is a ludicrous support ratio! This is the same number of staff that supports only 37 residents at the Queens Manor facility. According to the police liaison officer at the January 13 meeting, that facility generates an average of 30 police calls a month (ie. 1 police call per day).
- Comparisons to My Place Transitional Home across from Central Middle School further demonstrate the problems with the Mt Edwards proposal.

The My Place shelter is a *temporary* facility - operating for only 4 months until the end of April 2016.

The My Place shelter houses only 40 people, but has 3 staff people on site 24/7. (Compared to only 2 staff people on site 24/7 for 101 residents at Mt Edwards). In addition, My Place shelter has a security person patrolling from 6am to 12 midnight, a cook and a custodian.

Central Middle School is located across Yates Street, a major traffic artery in a mixed commercial neighbourhood with a fire station next door to the shelter. In contrast, CCCS is in a

residential neighbourhood and only Rockland Ave - a narrow, dead-end side street - separates it from Mt Edwards.

CCCS has been a vital member of the Victoria community, operating in this location for 25 years. There are about 190 students, a significant percentage of whom have special needs that respond best to a small, supportive, inclusive environment like the one CCCS provides. One of my children has a significant level of special needs requiring a full-time aide, and has found a warmly accepting community at CCCS from his peers, staff and other parents.

If the proposed Cool Aid facility at Mt Edwards goes forward, CCCS will not survive. No school can continue without incoming students to replace those who graduate or otherwise move on. Why on earth would a parent enroll their child at CCCS with a 101-resident low barrier housing facility next door? **Honestly, would you enroll your 5 year old under those circumstances?**

CCCS is a wonderful resource for Victoria and needs to be valued, not destroyed. A vote to fund the proposed Cool Aid Mt Edwards facility is a vote to close CCCS.

Yours truly,

██████████ May St, Victoria ██████████

From: [REDACTED]

Date: January 29, 2016 at 10:04:47 PM PST

To: mayor@victoria.ca

Subject: No to Mt. Edward as low barrier housing

Attention: Mayor Helps

I feel compelled to write to you and ask that there be consultation with area residents, schools, and businesses in around the area of Mt. Edwards. As a tax payer I have a right to have correct information given to me and the right to voice my opinion & vision for the city I live in.

Since I have received an information flyer regarding how the "low barrier" housing will be run by Cool-Aid I have great concern. The flyer I received states 100 occupants, 2 full time personnel to care for the residents. It is possible the information is incorrect and honestly I hope it is, as I would hope we would not set up members of society with addiction issues and mental illness without proper medical care, support and treatment. You can not house that many people where the large majority will suffer with a mental illnesses, and or addictions such as drug, alcohol, gambling, & sex addictions, right next to a school of young children, large number of elderly that enjoy walking to their church or neighbouring shops, citizens who enjoy walks to the parks in the area, all the tax payers who live in the area (myself included) for the beauty of the tree lined boulevards and heritage homes only to have intoxicated people, possibly unmedicated people passed out, shooting up or wondering the area. Needles & trash will be scattered about. Children & Tax payers lives may be put in harms way.

The camp at the corner of Burdett has proven the issues that arise when such large numbers of society's unwell are allowed to do as they wish and not accessing the help they need to address their challenging issues. We have our police dept. having to put in so much time at the camp rather than deal with other serious crimes, things will not change by housing them without help. I bet if we asked how many and the kinds of calls that VicPD gets to View Street Tower that might just give us an idea what Mt. Edwards could be like.

I would like to share with you my 19 years of working in the addictions field. The one thing I know it takes a staff of over 100 to treat those whom wish to address their addiction & mental illness for an 80 patient treatment centre. Mental illnesses can't be addresses till the addictions are first, then diagnosis of mental illness can be properly assessed and the proper treatment can be given. Over the years I have seen wonderful successes when addiction and mental illness is treated and extended care such as 12 step meetings, mental health support groups, counselling, medical care etc. is available with in a facility.

I have also followed the work of Our Place...they have done an outstanding job and they continue to find ways of getting the help for those they serve. If the Mt. Edward was going to be run by Our Place or someone with the kind of knowledge, vision and quality of care they provide I would possibly be In support, knowing everything is going to be done to help the illest of society possibly make that first step of asking for help and that help will be right there. I applaud Our Place and the city for trans forming the Boys and Girls club as temporary housing, providing support to find permanent housing and jobs as well as medical help if required.

In closing I will say that unless there is the best quality of treatment and care, and plenty of staff added to the planned housing it does not have my support. 1/2 measures will not serve the ill.

Thank you for your time.

[REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, January 29, 2016 1:31 PM

To: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Chris Coleman (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Margaret Lucas (Councillor); Pam Madoff (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); carole.james.MLA@leg.bc.ca; Geoff Young (Councillor)
Subject: In support of Mt Edwards project-CCCS Parent

Dear Mayor Helps, councillors and MLA Carole James,

I am a parent of two children at Christ Church Cathedral School. Although I have some concerns of how this development can be managed next to a school, I do not include myself in the group of parents who have made their opposition clear and public. I certainly respect everyone's opinion but sincerely hope we can meet in the middle, so to speak. My first reaction to the initial announcement was very positive and I was surprised and, quite frankly, embarrassed at the strong negative, seemingly NIMBY response. Of course, safety is at top of mind but also educating my children to be kind, charitable and aware citizens is as well.

I'm hopeful we can all work together to find a resolution. An initiative like this is sorely needed in our city.

My biggest fear is that enough parents will remove their children from our wonderful school such that it cannot afford to operate. That would be a terrible loss to the neighbourhood and for our children.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, January 29, 2016 1:27 PM

To: Lisa Helps (Mayor); maurine-karagianis.MLA@leg.bc.ca; carole.james.MLA@leg.bc.ca; rob.fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca; gary.holman.MLA@leg.bc.ca; ana.popham.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Cc: Marianne Alto (Councillor); Chris Coleman (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Margaret Lucas (Councillor); Pam Madoff (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor)

Subject: Cool-Aid Proposal for Mt. Edwards

Dear Sirs and Mesdames,

I am a parent of a grade 2 student at Christ Church Cathedral School. I am writing to express my support for Cool-Aid's proposal for the Mt. Edwards site. I understand that there has been a great deal of expressed opposition. I do not share the concerns of those parents who have spoken out against the facility, nor do I share the current expressed position of the Board. While I expect that there will need to be some modifications of Cool-Aid's plans for operation of the facility to address and mitigate some of the public concerns, I am confident this can be achieved and that Cool-Aid is willing to take whatever steps are necessary to mitigate real or perceived risks.

In my opinion, everything that has occurred to date has been largely the result of poorly managed communication and alarmist, fear-based rhetoric that is in no way based in fact. It is not reflective of the community I want to live in, nor is it reflective of the community I thought my child was going to school with. I believe that a means to better communication exists so that the Cathedral School community can overcome their fears and enter into a productive and mutually beneficial relationship with Cool-Aid, just as we are now seeing with the temporary shelter by Central Middle School. I am hopeful that the City will support Cool-Aid in creating this sorely needed facility to provide housing for Victoria's homeless population.

If I can be of any assistance in this process, I would be pleased to be called upon.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Richardson Street

Victoria, BC [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2016 12:22 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Proposed use of Mount Edwards

Dear Mayor and Council

This is my second letter on this subject because I detect a tendency on the part of both the Mayor and the Cool Aid Society to treat objections to "low barrier" housing as equivalent to objections to any housing of the homeless.

In my own objection, nothing could be further from the case.

I recognize the need for better solutions for homelessness and for a wide spectrum of possible remedies.

I recognize that some of these remedies may be in settled residential communities.

My objection is about using this facility, in a settled residential neighbourhood and beside an elementary school, for "low barrier" accommodation. All the reasons for "low barrier" housing work against maintaining the appropriateness of current neighbourhood use.

I ask both Council and The Cool Aid Society to parse this issue with greater sensitivity.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Burdett Ave
Victoria, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2016 12:02 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Re: Cool Aid Housing Proposal at 1002 Vancouver Street

Dear Mayor and Council:

With a significant amount of regret, I am writing to express my opposition to the Cool Aid low-barrier housing development at 1002 Vancouver Street. I do not live in the immediate neighbourhood, but my two children go to Christ Church Cathedral School, across the street from the property.

I say that I am regretful because I, like the School Board and the majority of the parents (and students) at CCCS, very much wanted to be in favour of a supportive housing project next to the school. In fact, initially I was in favour. However, Cool Aid's lack of responsiveness to legitimate safety concerns from parents has led me to change my mind.

Unfortunately, it seems clear that Cool Aid has no interest in considering a proposal that would be more appropriate for its location in a residential neighbourhood adjacent to an elementary and middle school. As I'm sure you are aware, their proposal is for 101 residents, a third of whom will have mental health issues, a third will have addictions issues, and a third will be market housing. There will be just two staff on site, and the residents will not be required to be in any kind of treatment programs. Unfortunately, Cool Aid has been unable to provide any evidence whatsoever that this type of facility, which is more than twice the size of any of their other projects, can coexist with an elementary and middle school. What is more alarming is that the executive director of Cool Aid seems indifferent to the concerns of parents and the school.

Like the vast majority of parents at CCCS, I want to help our city's homeless, and teach our children to do the same. I would have welcomed the opportunity to work with Cool Aid to bring an appropriate housing facility to the school's neighbourhood. I would still welcome that opportunity, if it were proposed. But instead I find myself writing a letter to my City Council in opposition to housing for the homeless, which is something I never thought I would do. I very much regret that Cool Aid has botched what could have been an inspiring partnership between them, the Anglican Church, and CCCS.

I understand that you, as our elected officials, need to help house our city's homeless population. I applaud your efforts. And I think you would find a very willing partner in the CCCS community, if Cool Aid were to alter their proposal to better suit the location. I only hope that the damage done by Cool Aid's initially indifferent attitude can be repaired.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Fairfield Road

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, January 30, 2016 9:27 PM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council

Subject: Cool Aid & Mount Edwards

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to express concerns over the proposed Cool Aid facility at the site of the former Mount Edwards Care home on Vancouver Street.

Cool Aid has proposed a resident mix of approximately 1/3 with high-level mental health and addictions issues and another 1/3 with moderately high issues. The stated minimum staffing level will be 2 staff for the 101 residents in this facility, the same number of staff as in another Cool Aid facility that serves only 37 individuals and impacts the community with frequent police and ambulance attention. A Victoria police liaison officer reported disruptions outside that facility occur typically daily.

This level of staffing would not result in a "well-managed" facility. A well-run facility should not experience such frequent police call outs.

A Vancouver social housing association has recommended such a facility exist only in the Downtown Eastside neighbourhood. Cool Aid could provide no example of a similar facility located in the vicinity of schools anywhere else.

Whether or not the facility is being run in a "gold-plated" manner will not eliminate the risks to children.

We are well aware of the issue of homelessness in Victoria, and share compassion and concern for this cause. We share and respect the obvious political will to solve this problem, but cannot accept the impact that this issue will have on our school and the lives of our children and community.

We anticipate both safety concerns (needles or other potentially infectious materials littering the school grounds and community; transient individuals; potentially labile or unpredictable behaviours from residents or visitors), in addition to concerns about the appropriateness and disruption to the peace of a nurturing learning environment. Innocent children are likely to witness drug culture, profanity and violent behaviour.

It is a conflict of interest for Mayor Helps to assert that this is merely a proposal and that Cool Aid must raise the money, yet the city will be providing funding and all indications are that the city is pushing ahead. This is being railroaded through without due process. There has been no consideration of alternative sites - this is merely a quick fix to look up the street from Tent City and house people in the nearest empty building that they see.

Mayor Helps has said that there would be public input into rezoning, however, she has indicated that the city is working on the rezoning. This is a contradiction. There are many empty buildings in Victoria and certainly there is something suitable to allow the formerly homeless residents to transition into the community and at the same time have some distance to buffer from nearby schools such as a couple of blocks away. Immediately next door to any school should never be considered.

We are advocating for our children, who have quieter political voices than the homeless and their noble advocates. Social housing yes. This location no. We pointedly ask you to not support this project in this location. Our community and our children depend on your decision. As a public official, you have a duty to consider all of the participants of a community.

Yours truly, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2016 11:08 AM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Proposed Homeless Residence at Vancouver and Rockland

January 31, 2016

Dear Mayor Helps and Council Members:

Re: Proposed Homeless Residence
Mount Edwards

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed plan to convert Mount Edwards Court at Vancouver and Rockland to a homeless "low barrier" residence for over 100 people with addiction and/or psychiatric problems. It is difficult to imagine a more inappropriate site for this facility.

First, it is wholly unacceptable to situate a facility of this nature and size literally steps away from an elementary and middle school. Given that there will be minimal supervision, and residents will be free to drink and use drugs, children unavoidably will be exposed to all the dangers and negative behaviours associated with drinking and drug use on a large scale. The likely result is that parents will refuse to enroll their children and the school will face the very real prospect of closing.

Second, a homeless residence of this size is completely at odds and out of place in this established low-density residential area and will negatively impact it in myriad ways to the detriment of all residents. Despite whatever palliatives Cool Aid might offer to assuage residents' concerns, the reality is that the facility will inevitably attract addicts from all over the city littering the streets with the detritus of a large number of drug users. Property and violent crimes will increase and the peace of the neighbourhood will be replaced by ongoing police calls to the residence and immediate area. Property values will be seriously negatively affected and the quality of life currently enjoyed by residents will be destroyed.

Third, I am deeply concerned and disappointed with the lack of transparency and attempt to push this proposal through without community input or consultation. It is a serious breach of accountability for the organizations and politicians involved to fail to inform residents of this proposal at the earliest opportunity. Instead, residents only know about the plans for the site because parents at the school have organized in opposition to it and distributed flyers in the neighbourhood.

While it may well be the case that funding and zoning have not yet been secured and the residence is not yet a fait accompli, this does not relieve those pushing this plan forward from the obligation to have informed residents and all affected parties with a stake in the neighbourhood, and to have provided the opportunity for ongoing community consultation, at the earliest stages.

I strongly urge you to reconsider this ill-advised proposal and to seek a more suitable site for a "low-barrier" homeless residence.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Associate Professor, retired
[REDACTED] Burdett Avenue
Victoria, BC

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2016 8:51 PM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council

Subject: Cool Aid Proposal

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing as both a father and as a member of the broader community to express my concerns about the proposal being brought forward by Cool Aid to accommodate 101 homeless individuals largely in low barrier single occupancy rooms (SRO's) at the former Mt. Edwards site on Vancouver Street. The sheer size of the proposal is unprecedented and would be considered very uncommon even in much larger and denser urban centres such as Vancouver.

I have great empathy for the plight of the homeless and believe that we as a society should be doing our best to provide them with appropriate permanent homes that will allow them a greater degree of dignity and comfort. However, this proposal is suggesting that providing tiny single rooms in a very large low no barrier environment is equated to permanent housing. I do not believe this to be the case. SRO's have historically been used as a stop-gap measure or transitional housing for the very hardest to house individuals. On the broader housing spectrum SRO's are deemed only slightly more desirable than shelters and have been openly identified by Cool Aid staff as not a good housing model.

When our family was informed of the proposal next door to our children's school we did as most families from the Cathedral School community did and sought out as much information as we could. Cool Aid provided very limited information to the community so we were left to seek information from other sources. We contacted staff from the City of Victoria, Cool Aid, the CRD, UVic, and BC Housing. We also spoke with our children, members of the police force and other first responders, child psychologists, homeless outreach workers, recovering addicts and alcoholics and members of the homeless community.

We reviewed all of the information analytically and determined that we were unable to support the proposal. In your media commentary you refer to members of the community as basing their objections on fears. This has not been our case. We are basing our objection on an exhaustive review and analysis. We find it upsetting that we as parents and members of the community are classified as NIMBYists, uncaring and unsympathetic for advancing a secondary position on the suitability of collocating homeless accommodation in close proximity to schools, yet the homeless supporters themselves openly dismiss the possibility of entertaining any dialogue that does not align with their personal positions. Who of us is really being closed minded and judgemental?

I have heard numerous members of council stating that this is a Cool Aid proposal and that it has nothing to do with the City. I believe this is categorically untrue as any decision by Council to partially fund the purchase of the former Mt. Edwards site in partnership with Cool Aid is providing implicit support from Council for low barrier SRO's to be colocated with schools. I as the parent of a five and seven year old would have to ask myself when did the needs and concerns of children and families within the City of Victoria become irrelevant.

Cool Aid's Vancouver Street proposal is permanent, unlike the temporary Yates Street transitional housing that some media outlets compare it to. It does not have the same abstinence requirements or the same security levels. As such,

significant consideration needs to be given to the short and long term implications on the residents and stakeholders of the local neighbourhood, including the almost 200 children at the Cathedral Elementary and Middle School. It is ironic that to protect BC's children, strict regulations have been put in place regarding the proximity of liquor stores and marijuana stores to schools in many jurisdictions, yet the City of Victoria, the Capital of BC, has no guidelines around the placement of SRO low barrier housing in close proximity to schools.

SROs are not permanent housing solutions. Schools and SROs are inappropriate neighbours for many valid reasons; this opinion is based not on fear but rather research and consultation with many organisations that understand homeless issues the best. I urge council to say no to Cool Aid's funding request, and in turn, immediately commence the work needed to create the necessary policies, processes and criteria that will allow the homeless initiatives the potential to better meet the needs of the homeless within the context of existing communities.

Sincerely, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2016 1:37 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Cool aide project

We moved from Manitoba in 2014 to the Chelsea at [REDACTED] Burdett Ave . [REDACTED] in beautiful downtown Victoria. Since we moved we are now faced with the Ste. Angela project next door & the Cool Aide project a block away which brings "low barrier" people to our neighbourhood. We strongly object to the project in that it will negatively affect our property values & the safety of the school next door.

There seems to be more concern for the homeless than the resident homeowners & tax payers in the area.

Respectfully yours,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2016 10:21 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Cool-Aid Mount Edwards and CCCS

Dear Mayor and Council

I am the parent of a student at CCCS. I am inspired to write you this evening by the vociferous opposition of some CCCS parents to the Cool-Aid proposal to open a shelter near the school. I am NOT one of those parents, and I do not wish to be silenced by their clamour. I will be writing to the school as well, and hope that you and they recognize that the opposition being described in public as arising from CCCS parents is not nearly universal.

I live in fairfield and both my wife and I work within blocks of the school. I regularly attend the courthouse and walk and cycle the Rockland corridor to go about my daily business. While there are many complaints that can be made about the Cool-Aid communication plan, at least it is a solid, credible and intentional effort to help provide structure and a step up to those in need. While it would not be fair to say I am "unconcerned", I am not against having a well-structured and managed facility being placed in this neighbourhood in which I live, play and work every day. From what I have seen and learned about Cool-Aid's other operations, I believe they are well-suited to take on this ambitious endeavour and I support them in their effort.

The school's administration and board are lovely and well-meaning people, but they have (in my opinion) reacted poorly and precipitously to the combination of a chorus of boos from some of my fellow parents and some very poor communication efforts by Cool-Aid.

I know most of you by reputation to be good-willed people with strong hearts, willing backs and balanced minds. Your efforts in office for the most part reflect that, to date. Many of the parents screaming the loudest against this operation are well-heeled, articulate, grand-sounding, well-connected ... but scared, underinformed and in some cases just plain prejudiced. At the risk of sounding a bit calculated about it all, most are also not residents of the city of Victoria, do not pay their taxes here and cannot vote in our elections. I am, I do and I can. Please hear my voice, know that those speaking the loudest do not speak for all of us. These homeless are my homeless, and yours. Let's not stand in the way of the incredible people at Cool-Aid willing to do some important work. Let's lend a hand, and a little space in our backyard.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Richardson Street Victoria BC.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2016 10:49 AM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council

Subject: Proposed Cool Aid development next to Christ Church Cathedral School

[REDACTED] Admirals Road

Victoria

[REDACTED]
30 January 20116

Dear Sir/Madam,

As Dr. King taught us, "our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." Poverty, homelessness, drug and alcohol addiction, and chronic mental health have sadly become systemic issues for our city. They require compassionate, creative, and evidence-based approaches by politicians, taxpayers, private and public entities, and concerned citizens to obviate what can be seen as intractable and insurmountable challenges. It seems to us that all involved in the discussion about the proposed Cool Aid housing facility at the former Mount Edward Court building at 1002 Vancouver Street recognize the critical need for social housing as a bedrock upon which individuals in need can begin to rebuild their lives. When we first heard that the Mount Edward Court building, so near to our children's school (Christ Church Cathedral School), might be turned into a social housing complex, we were very open to the possibility. However, the more we have learned, the more alarmed we have become, in particular by the dismissive, cavalier, and unprofessional approach of representatives from the Cool Aid Society who seem to revel in disregarding, or even attempting to understand, the legitimate concerns of the parents, the community, and the neighbourhood. Therefore we write to you today to express our strong and active opposition to the proposed scheme. We do so with the interests of our well-established, community-focused school and its children firmly in the front of our minds.

Creating a facility to house over 100 chronically homeless individuals, the majority troubled by untreated addictions and mental health concerns, is a noble goal, but to place it cheek-by-jowl next to a school full of children ages 5-14 is at best misguided, at worst an egregious prioritization of political-expediency over common sense. Consider that:

- At least two thirds of the residents (at least 67 individuals) will suffer from significant mental illness and/or illicit and active drug and alcohol addiction, according to the Cool Aid Society representatives themselves.
- No evidence exists, or was offered by Cool Aid Society representatives, to suggest a proposal of this size and scope would have minimal impact on an adjacent school and its vulnerable student population.
- This is all the more concerning as this project would be the largest supported low barrier single room occupancy (SRO) housing facility in Victoria, or indeed on the entire Island.

- The Vancouver social housing association has recommended that a facility of this size and type should only be established in the Downtown Eastside, one assumes because they (unlike the Cool Aid Society in Victoria) recognize the challenges associated with such a large resident population.
- A police liaison officer has informed school parents that disruptions outside similar, but much smaller, Cool Aid facilities occur daily. Cool Aid has informed parents that 2 staff will serve this facility, the same staffing number in another Cool Aid facility that serves 37 individuals and is known to have impacted the community with frequent police and ambulance attention.
- As no similar facility is located in the vicinity of a school in Victoria or in Vancouver, this project is, in effect, an unprecedented social experiment with considerable liability exposures and many known and unknown risks that will put children at risk and will cause undue stress for the children, teachers and families of our school.
- In Vancouver this week the School Board trustees were requesting greater buffer zones for medical marijuana dispensaries. At present the requirement is a 300-meter buffer zone and the request is for 500 meters. The buffer zone with this Cool Aid project is a mere 70 meters. Our children will be witness to far worse acts than viewing dispensaries.

The BC Housing initiative to "home" the homeless is a worthy goal, but one that becomes highly suspect if it is pursued at a great disregard for neighbouring schools and properties. As parents we have concerns for the emotional, mental and physical safety, and well-being of our children should the Mount Edwards project proceed. As taxpayers, we want to ensure provincial funds are allocated responsibly to projects that are appropriately designed and thoughtfully located – next door to an elementary and middle school in a quiet residential area is certainly not a suitable location. We are concerned that BC Housing is considering providing funding towards the Cool Aid proposal for homeless units at the Mount Edwards property despite the knowledge that the zoning for such a development is in question. Purchasing any site without assurance of the necessary zoning for the proposed development and without adequate public consultation is putting public funds at risk. Similarly, there is no commitment from any party to fund the substantial capital costs to refurbish the heritage building in question nor the ongoing operating costs. Would supplying the funds for the purchase of this site commit the province to pay the necessary costs to refurbish this heritage building?

We would like better transparency, consultation, and consideration in site selection that is sensitive to the needs and concerns of the existing community. This government was elected largely on a Family First platform. We as parents do not feel that our voices are being heard. Perhaps we do not have the same lobbying power that social causes such as homelessness are able to rally, but our concerns are nonetheless relevant and should be taken into consideration. We, and our fellow parents and community members, will not be "silent about things that matter."

We request that BC Housing not fund this particular proposal and that it put processes in place that will prevent this situation from arising in the future by requiring a buffer or safe zone with a minimum acceptable distance between the housing facility and a school. Such requirements are already in place for liquor stores and marijuana shops. Given that residents of low barrier housing will be openly feeding their addictions of both pharmaceutical and illicit drugs and alcohol at the proposed site one would expect that such regulations would also apply.

We are relying on the province to provide a voice for our children and apply the necessary safeguards to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment.

Sincerely yours, [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2016 7:28 PM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council

Subject: Letter of concern re: Victoria housing project

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am a physician with fifteen years experience in BC, Alberta, and Australia. I am also a concerned parent of a five and seven year old who attend Christ Church Cathedral Elementary School next door to the former Mt. Edwards Court building at 1002 Vancouver Street in Victoria, where Cool Aid and/or BC Housing is proposing housing 101 homeless. I am writing to ask that you not approve any form of housing for the homeless in this location, next door to our school, which educates 190 children between the ages of 4 and 14. It is ill advised; children and the marginalized/street-entrenched homeless do not good neighbours make. Yes, we as a society have an obligation to address the homeless issue, but we also have an obligation to allow our children to grow up in safety, with a protected sense of security and innocence.

We have been told this housing will be low barrier, which means active drug and/or alcohol use may continue while residents are on site. Children may thus not only be witness to drug culture, but may also be witness to *or victims of* the violence and chaotic behaviour that often follows psychoactive drug use. I have stitched up seniors who have been beaten by an otherwise pleasant young man who was high on crystal meth. Those seniors were competent adults, with the insight to judge an unsafe situation. If they became victims of a beating, what could happen to children, who cannot accurately gauge and respond to social cues/warnings? The two buildings are in such close proximity that an addict high on drugs could cause major damage in the schoolyard prior to the police being able to respond.

I am a physician who has homeless patients and patients who have lived in Cool Aid facilities. They have described these housing options to me as 'toxic', and that they often do not feel safe there because of other residents high on drugs or exhibiting violent behaviour. If they are trying to get sober themselves, it is not where they want to live, because they want to remove themselves from the unhealthy influences and maladaptive behaviour of their neighbours who continue to use. One man described the existing SRO(single room occupancy) Cool Aid units at Douglas and Pandora as 'little boxes' or 'jail cells'. This is not a workable or desired solution from the point of view of the homeless either. So why are we rushing to create more such housing, particularly next door to innocent, defenseless children?

I am not naïve. As a medical student, I did mental health rotations and ambulance ride-alongs on the downtown east side of Vancouver. I volunteered in the kitchen of the Union Gospel Mission. I have worked with the homeless and always treated them with respect, although I cannot say I always received the same respect in return. Our local mayor has dismissed the concerns of CCCS parents and local neighbours as being "fear-based". This completely discounts the fact that many of these same

concerned parents and residents are professionals (doctors, nurses, social workers) dedicated to working with the homeless and thus very well versed in the attendant issues. Prior to opposing the Mt. Edwards redevelopment, we also conducted research to better understand what was being suggested. I myself, and others, toured existing Cool Aid facilities, none of which has changed my opinion that housing the homeless next door to a school for young children is completely inappropriate.

To be perfectly frank, between Pioneer Square, the tent city at Quadra and Burdett, and now the proposed 101 unit homeless facility at Mt. Edwards, a precinct of homelessness is being created, not unlike a microcosm of the downtown east side in Vancouver. Surely I do not need to point out the issues that loom large both for Victoria as a city and for the homeless population itself if that occurs? Proponents say the Mt. Edwards property will resolve the tent city, but some of the tent city dwellers, by their own admission, want to live out of doors and have no intention of moving anywhere. This will not resolve the issue of the tent city; it will compound it. No rational person would choose to operate a small elementary and middle school on East Hastings in Vancouver. CCCS has been offering excellent quality education for the past 25 years. The homeless say they want to keep their sense of community. We want to keep our school community, which now faces the very real threat of closure as enrollment falls.

There are many other vacant buildings in Victoria, not situated next door to a school for young children. I ask that you abandon the current plans for the Mt. Edwards site in favour of one of these other locations. It is not reasonable to pretend this is not a city council issue. It is very evident that funding from the City of Victoria will be required for the Cool Aid project to proceed, so the council does have a voice on this matter. If our society truly wants to resolve the issue with homelessness, we should be offering permanent homes where we ourselves would actually be comfortable living. Choose a building that will allow apartments to be offered to our homeless, a much more adaptive, desirable choice than single room housing. To stuff 101 homeless into SROs just to say we have 'done something' is sweeping the issue with homelessness under the carpet, not resolving it. Allow these apartments to be in busy neighbourhoods with lots of pedestrian traffic, which will help the homeless in their goals of getting sober, rather than a low barrier building in a quiet residential neighbourhood, where they can continue being plagued by their addictions and threatened by those who prey on the homeless.

I was born and raised in Victoria, BC, and never have I felt less secure. Our families aren't first on the current political agenda. We feel very much like we are being pushed to the backburner by local and provincial governments in favour of the more vocal, more visible homeless and their advocates. Put our families first, keep our school secure, and stop the housing of the homeless at the former Mt. Edwards Court, 1002 Vancouver St. in Victoria.

Sincerely,



BSc, MD, CCFP, FRACGP

Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 8:57 PM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>

Subject: Mount Edwards

The following email was sent to Rich Rich Coleman Minister of Housing and Social Development copy to Mayor Lisa Helps:

Dear Mr. Coleman:

The CTV Vancouver Island New this evening, March 2, reported that the Mount Edwards facility is now permanent and that the two floors currently unoccupied will be renovated as has the first floor to house the homeless. As previously reported the number of occupants once renovations are completed will be 100. The purchase price as I understand for Mount Edwards was 3.5 million dollars and this amount does not include renovations.

There has been no public input regarding this matter. I trust you will agree that there is a significant difference of use at Mount Edwards as a Long Term Care Facility than housing for the homeless many of whom have addiction issues. Further, in a Long Term Care Home residents do not usually leave the home unless with a family member or friend of the family and having been associated with two Long Term Care Homes in Victoria over the past six years outings are rare and usually are for medical appointments. The residents the homeless as I understand will have free egress during certain hours. This could be a significant problem as drugs are readily available according to the Victoria Police Department in the downtown of the City of Victoria a mere three blocks from Mount Edwards. In addition within close proximity of Mount Edwards there at least three liquor stores from which liquor can be purchased from persons addicted to alcohol.

As a precursors to the above, I am not and in fact in favour of appropriate housing for the homeless once again many who have addiction issues.

That said location is important and the close proximity to Christ Church Cathedral School being across the street by any reasonable standard given the potential of the safety of the young children attending the school due to issues associated with the homeless and addiction Mount Edwards is not a suitable location.

Watching your interview on the CTV News with respect your demeanour displayed I can only describe as arrogant and addressed no concerns raised by Christ Church Cathedral School and residents of the area of Mount Edwards which have been stated publically and you are no doubt aware.

Our young children should not be exposed to a potential environment given the safety concerns I, and others, have stated and should be considered a serious concern warranting a review of your decision.

A response to this email is requested.



Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2016 9:22 PM

To: planandzone@fairfieldcommunity.ca

Cc: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>

Subject: Outraged!

As a voter, taxpayer and resident of Fairfield Gonzales, I am outraged by the fact that the community organization employees that are supposed to represent the best interests of my neighbourhood have sold us out to Coolaid and Bc housing.

It is obvious to anyone that is not on the dole that the Mt Edwards SRO project next to a school that teaches children as young as 4 is absurd. We have bylaws that prohibit much less dangerous things than this and yet, all I ever hear from MY representatives are words that could be (and probably were) scripted by Coolaid.

I, along with my neighbours have previously written to you about this and got nothing but a link back to Cool-Aid's Web page filled with lies and deliberate misinformation.

Obviously, seeing how useless you are, we stopped seeking your support. How dare you turn around and claim that Mt Edwards is running smoothly because we are no longer writing!!!!

For the record, things are NOT going smoothly. Just a few weeks in, with extra security (which will go away soon) and only 38 people in (not yet the 100+), we have had to suffer drug dealing, loitering, graffiti appearing everywhere, screaming matches with foul language, mental health episodes, and neighbours have had to suffer yet more theft. Most of these were directly attributable to Mt Edwards residents. Calls to the Coolaid front desk go unanswered for more than 5 minutes. Etc.

If this is how you represent us then I would rather you didn't bother showing up. You do not represent the views or interests of this community.

But if you want more emails from us so you can do NOTHING ABOUT them we will gladly oblige.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 7:55 AM

To: rbutcher@bchousing.org

Cc: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>; Don McTavish <dmctavish@coolaid.org>; Don Monsour <monsour@shaw.ca>; dougtolson@shaw.ca; Wayne Hollohan <Victoriabc@shaw.ca>; Kristina Wilcox <osc@fairfieldcommunity.ca>

Subject: The FGCA has Avoided Reporting Neighbourhood Concerns about Mount Edwards Court at Cool Aid's Liaison Meetings

Hello Mr. Butcher,

Please see the attached document. It is a detailed description of the manner in which the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association (FGCA) has avoided communicating the neighbourhood's concerns about the Victoria Cool Aid Society's Mount Edwards Court project at the neighbourhood liaison meetings. As well, it describes in detail the conflict of interest that underlies the FGCA's avoidance of this communication.

In a nutshell, the conflict lies in the fact that FGCA is two things: it is the official neighbourhood association that the City recognizes to represent Fairfield and it offers community services that require funding from municipal and provincial sources. Due to this reality, the FGCA avoids positions and actions that might jeopardize relationships with these funders. I know this to be true.

Please read the attached document very carefully as it evidences how the structure of this liaison process is set up to manufacture consent in one very critical manner. Except for the few sentences that are my own testimony, the document is substantiated by minutes documents, revenue documents, strategic planning documents, executive directors reports, and audio transcripts.

Thank you for taking this violation of my neighbourhood's right to be heard seriously. The courtesy of a written reply from you within one week is requested.

Sincerely Yours,

[REDACTED]

LANA POPHAM, M.L.A.
Saanich South

Constituency Office
B-4085 Quadra Street
Victoria, B.C. V8X 1K5
Telephone: 250 479 4154
Facsimile: 250 479 4176
Email: lana.popham.MLA@leg.bc.ca



*Shared w/ Mayor + Council
May 6 2016*



Lana Popham, MLA
(Saanich South)

April 28, 2016

Mayor Helps & Council
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC
V8W 1P6

Dear Mayor Helps & Council,

I am writing to you today on behalf of twenty three families living in Saanich South who have children attending Christ Church Cathedral School, located at 912 Vancouver St. in Victoria. These families have many questions and concerns regarding the temporary transitional housing facility at the former Mount Edwards Court building, adjacent to the school and feel their concerns have not been adequately addressed.

As you may be aware, the decision to convert this property into low-barrier housing for the homeless has caught many parents, the school and residents off guard. My constituents would like to be assured that they are included in the community consultation process. I have included with this letter a list of their concerns and questions regarding the housing facility at Mount Edwards and on their behalf, ask that city staff provide a response to their questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Lana Popham'.

Lana Popham
MLA Saanich South

cc. Joanne Macdonald

**QUESTIONS FROM CONCERNED PARENTS
REGARDING THE MOUNT EDWARDS FACILITY & NEIGHBOURHOOD**

- 1. What is the process for determining what happens on the Mt Edwards site when the operating agreement as temporary transitional housing expires in March 2017?**
- 2. What is the time line for (1) submitting proposals, (2) community review, (3) community input and proposals, and (4) zoning reviews?**
- 3. Will extra foot patrols be conducted by Vic PD? If so, when and how often?**
- 4. Will the Vic PD provide extra security when Cathedral School has a school function outside of regular school hours?**

Examples of upcoming events are:

- Spring Concert
- Dances
- Talent Show
- Spring Fair
- Field trips, for example, students attending WE Day in Vancouver will have departure and return after regular school hours
- Daycare provided during school holidays and summer vacation

- 5. Will additional lighting be installed in Pioneer Square Park?**
- 6. Will an additional crosswalk be installed on Vancouver St. near Cathedral School?**

The only crosswalk on Vancouver St. near Cathedral School is positioned directly in front of Mt Edwards. There is no other crosswalk on Vancouver St. to get to Cathedral School until Fairfield Rd, which is 0.5 kilometres (5 blocks) south of Cathedral School.

- 7. Is the City considering implementing a “no go” zone for proximity of marijuana dispensaries near schools to align with the guidelines being suggested by the Federal government.**

If so will the city consider implementing a 500 meter “no go” zone around school that includes low barrier wet shelters, liquor stores, bars and marijuana dispensaries?

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/marihuana/info/licencedproducer-producteurautorise/local-eng.php>

8. **We request Rockland Ave be re-opened to thru traffic in one direction to allow more movement on the street, thereby discouraging loitering and crossing over to Cathedral School grounds.**

When can we hear back about this request and or what additional requirements would you seek from the community to move forward on this request?

The closure of the east end of Rockland Ave occurred before anyone was aware that the Mt Edwards facility was even contemplated. If the City is concerned about the loss of the one-half block of bike path, will Rockland Ave be re-opened as a One-Way street for that half-block to preserve the new bike path?

On April 6 several grade 7 students witnessed a police arrest take place on Rockland Avenue, outside the window of their classroom which looks over this closed off street. More thru-traffic is known to reduce loitering and crime.

Dear Mayor and Council:

I am writing to inform you of my vigorous opposition to the Cool Aid Society proposal for Mt Edwards Court.

Two principal concerns:


First, Concerns over Location

School – Site across street from a grade school, putting young children at risk. I don't want a six year old walking by a facility that will not provide information about the screening process for residents; meaning that residents may have criminal records including violent offences, rape, or drug trafficking. It appears Cool Aid acknowledges they selected the Mt. Edwards site without consideration to its location in a low-density residential area next to an elementary & middle school.

Neighbourhood – Totally change the character of the neighborhood. Facility likely to become a magnet for other drug users and negatively impact quality of life as well as property values of residents in the area.

Second, Concerns over Process

This project came from out of blue and it is fair to ask what happened to transparency, consultations, and neighbourhood inputs. This is outrageous. I thought it was only Stephen Harper who short-circuited procedures.


Professor Emeritus
University of Alberta

Victoria, B.C.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 10:47 AM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council; Murray Miller; Jennifer Bisley; Marianne Alto (Councillor); Chris Coleman (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Margaret Lucas (Councillor); Pam Madoff (Councillor); Charlayne Thornton-Joe (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor)

Subject: Request that the City Refuse Funds for Purchase of Mount Edwards

To the Mayor and Councillors,

I am writing to ask that the City deny the funding application for the Victoria Cool Aid Society's purchase of the Mount Edwards Court building at 1002 Vancouver Street on the basis that the proposed low-barrier housing facility threatens the character of Vancouver Street and its surrounding neighbourhood.

My wife and I use that stretch of Vancouver Street daily to walk to work, to walk to shopping, and to walk our dog. Despite its close proximity to downtown and all of downtown's issues, it has remained a lovely, quiet street lined on both sides with clean green grass and big shady trees.

Our concern is that housing a large number of drug-addicted and mentally-ill homeless in that location will clutter this quiet and picturesque block with the same vagrant population that loiters along Pandora Street. The purchaser has been open about it housing people with the same drug and mental issues and, in all likelihood, this will be the outcome.

Cool Aid might fool people distant from Pandora Street into thinking that their facility can manage the homeless impact on the streetscape but I know otherwise. Contrary to the claim of the Cool Aid Society, the presence of drug-addicted and mentally ill people outside their doors along the 700-block of Pandora Street is very noticeable. I lived on that block at Blanshard and Pandora for 5 months in the winter of 2009 and remember intimidating incidents against individuals who were standing outside on the sidewalk. The threats came from mentally-ill homeless.

Many consider this section of Vancouver Street to be one of the most pleasant in all of Victoria and one wonders about the narrow-minded thinking of anyone who would support an influx of that same population into this area. Add to that the inviting nature of the grassy boulevards of Vancouver Street and its lesser ability to camouflage an indigent population, you have a neighbourhood disaster.

We have noticed increased activity on the street with the growth of Tent City and we think it foreshadowing of what is to come if this purchase happens. Certainly, the spread of "Skid Row" cannot be in Council's vision of a future Victoria and we hope that it votes to stop it.

There is a large population of elderly who live in this area making it decidedly different from Pandora Street. There are also children who walk to school along Vancouver and the streets feeding into it. Homeowners who pay tax to the City live on these streets and this might be easily forgotten given the close proximity to downtown. The well-being and safety of all these people are threatened by this proposal.

Council might be tempted to take whatever option it gets, but we ask that, in this instance, Council considers Victoria's character and its other populations.

Sincerely Yours,

[REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 11:22 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Mayor and Council email

[REDACTED]

Reference :

[REDACTED]

Regarding the proposed development at 1002 Vancouver Street (Mount St Edwards):

Please do not accept this project! We have already seen one elementary school have to move away because of the problems with such a project. My wife and I along with our three sons live right down the road from this proposal and we have already dealt with four break-ins to our vehicles and homeless people coming into our backyards to look for recycling and whatever else they may hope to find.

You are putting our safety at risk. I have a heart and have put many hundreds of volunteer hours into our community, including putting my name forward to volunteer with street youth. This said, this is not the neighbourhood to do this type of work. This project should be in Rock Bay, or some location that is away from high density residential neighbourhoods and for all things good you are proposing to put this right next to an elementary school!

You already closed Rockland Ave alongside, forcing us to deal with the traffic calming hassles that come with such a move. We did not complain, knowing that you were going for a "green corridor". Now this street is going to be filled daily with homeless people and addicts and it is supposed to be a corridor for my family to walk or cycle through? It is supposed to be a corridor for young children attending school?

It is almost mind boggling that you are considering this proposal and then asking us as taxpayers to help fund the construction and the upkeep while putting our safety in jeopardy. Please reconsider this proposal for the well intended but seriously misplaced idea that it is.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]
Vancouver St

Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 9:08 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Mayor and Council email

[REDACTED]

Reference :
[REDACTED]

Attention Ms. Helps

I am writing on behalf of the Christchurch Cathedral School. I am sure you have received a number of letters concerned with the new proposal regarding Mount St Edwards. I understand it is a very difficult area to work with, however in this situation I feel the wrong decision has been put forward for the use of the Mount Saint Edwards Building. My daughter has been going to the school since kinder garden and it is an amazing school in so many ways. I was part owner of Cook and Pandora between 1997 to 2013 and with the Our Place facility being put in the dynamics of the neighborhood changed dramatically. I have also lived in Victoria for the majority of my life and have seen considerable change in this beautiful city. I feel the charm of the neighborhood and the school atmosphere will change considerably putting in the facility next door.

Ultimately I feel we will see the end of the school similar to the fate of St Andrews. I hope that the Victoria Council see the importance of finding a solution to this issue as it would be a tragedy to loose such an amazing school as Christchurch. Sincerely [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: February 2, 2016 12:42 PM

To: mayor@victoria.ca; c.coleman@victoria.ca; bisitt@victoria.ca; jloveday@victoria.ca; gyoung@victoria.ca; cthorton-joe@victoria.ca; pmadoff@victoria.ca; mlucas@victoria.ca; mngh.minister@gov.bc.ca; MCF.minister@gov.bc.ca

Subject: Christ Church Cathedral School and Mt Edwards

Dear Mayor Helps and Councillors of the City of Victoria,

This letter is written to express my deep concern about the process in which the purchase and proposed usage of Mount Edwards at 1002 Vancouver Street has been undertaken.

I listened to Mayor Helps on CBC radio about a week ago say that she was under the impression that this purchase was just a "proposal" but at a meeting of Christ Church Cathedral parents and the Cool Aid representatives at a meeting on January 14, Kathy Stinson of Cool Aid stated that as soon as funding was available, and it would be, that the purchase of Mount Edwards would go ahead and that they did not anticipate any need to "rezone" this facility. Mayor Helps, in her interview, said that the facility would surely need to be "rezoned" if the purchase took place.

I wonder how the Mayor of this city and the head of Cool Aid could be so out of sync in their statements and it certainly appears that the transparency by both parties could be called into question.

As the Mayor of Victoria and the councillors who represent the citizens and taxpayers and voters of this city, you need to be aware that, to many, it seems as if the needs of the homeless in Victoria usurp the safety and well being of Christ Church Cathedral School students (and the good neighbours in the area)

Christ Church Cathedral School (CCCS) is the "little school that could".

In the 7 years that our family has been in Victoria, CCCS has gone from a grade 8 class with a handful of kids to a fully enrolled JK-grade 8 school through the hard work of parents, teachers and staff.

I personally find it a shame that in one fell swoop, with the proposed development of "no barrier" housing (separated by, essentially, a laneway) that legacy is jeopardized with potential declining enrollment and an uncertain future. I hope that it does not suffer the same fate as St. Andrew's school. As a parent, a taxpayer and a citizen of this community, I am most concerned, in fact my ONLY concern, is about the future of this school and the well being of the children it educates. The extra security, the school yard sweep for needles and the "feel good" we can all live harmoniously side by side just doesn't cut it. Not when it comes to our children and the future of CCCS.

As parents, we are lucky because we have a choice in sending our children to CCCS and the placement of the facility owned either by Cool Aid or as a shelter for the occupiers of the tent city, will affect future parents' choices.

I would be disheartened and saddened to see a Cool Aid project of the size and clientele (or as a makeshift shelter for the occupiers of tent city) developed next to our school-disheartened because it will be an uphill struggle for a school that has maximized its enrollment, contributed charitably and been a good neighbour. Saddened because it seems as if the "powers that be" have deemed that to place a population at risk next door to an elementary school is a risk that is worth taking. I respectfully disagree. -- [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 10:28 AM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council

Subject: Mount Edwards home care redevelopment

Hello,

I am writing to you today regarding the proposed Mount Edwards low barrier housing project being planned by the Victoria Cool Aid Society at 1002 Vancouver Street in Fairfield.

Homelessness is a major issue and concern in the City of Victoria and those impacted need to be treated with compassion and provided the proper level of care and support. As a proud Victoria resident, I share and respect the goals of the Cool Aid Society in stepping up to provide needed services for so many vulnerable members of our community and applaud their efforts.

But when it comes to this particular proposal, I am very concerned about what is being put forward and its implications for both the community and the very people we are trying to help.

I cannot image any reasonable person believing that placing 101 high-risk individuals in a low barrier housing facility with minimal staffing directly next to an elementary school without appropriate public consultation is the responsible thing to do.

This is a complex issue, but at the end of the day it is not being treated with the respect and forethought that the community deserves.

I ask for the City's support in encouraging Cool Aid Society to find an alternate location as well as a proposal that is more appropriate in size and scope.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED] Collinson Street [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 8:28 AM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council

Subject: Mt. Edwards low barrier housing

Dear Mayors and Councillors,

I am writing to you today regarding the proposed Mount Edwards low barrier housing project being planned by the Victoria Cool Aid Society at 1002 Vancouver Street in Fairfield.

Homelessness is a major issue and concern in the City of Victoria and those impacted need to be treated with compassion and provided the proper level of care and support. As a proud Victoria resident, I share and respect the goals of the Cool Aid Society in stepping up to provide needed services for so many vulnerable members of our community and applaud their efforts.

But when it comes to this particular proposal, I am very concerned about what is being put forward and its implications for both the community and the very people we are trying to help.

I cannot image any reasonable person believing that placing 101 high-risk individuals in a low barrier housing facility with minimal staffing directly next to an elementary school without appropriate public consultation is the responsible thing to do.

This is a complex issue, but at the end of the day it is not being treated with the respect and forethought that the community deserves.

I ask for the City's support in encouraging Cool Aid Society to find an alternate location as well as a proposal that is more appropriate in size and scope.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Rupert Terrace, Victoria, BC, Canada
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 9:17 PM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council; Lisa Helps (Mayor)

Subject: Cant get a straight answer about Mount Edwards from you people!

To Mayor and Council

I have now written several letters to individual city councilors, the mayor's office plus the director of Cool Aid society. I have explored both (opposing) sides of this proposal once I became aware of the issue. After the first series of letters I wrote, I was repeatedly told by the Mayor, members of city council, and K Stinson what I now believe to be **dishonest** political "doublespeak". After being told repeatedly that they didn't know the details, or that this was a Cool Aid issue, or that they were uncertain because of zoning issues, or some other obfuscation, I find out that the city is going to give Cool Aid money to secure the mount Edwards location for this project.

On Lisa Helps' web page amidst a litany of self congratulatory spew is how she has helped to make the mayor's office more transparent. You all have proven yourselves to be typical lying politicians. Now we hear about yet one more meeting that is **CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC. Why are the residents of this neighbourhood repeatedly been shut out of these discussions?** It feels exactly like you are attempting to force this scourge on us. I have worked my ass off, at an honest career and as a contributing member of society to be able to live in this part of Victoria. I feel totally betrayed by the City of Victoria. You want to ram this through without any regard for the community you will destroy just so that you can pat yourselves on the back for "solving a housing problem" or some other (demonstrably wrong-headed) approach to dealing with this issue.

The idea that petty crime and gang activity are not tied to a residence such as the one proposed for Mount Edwards is to live in a dream world. FACT: Anywhere that drug addicted people live necessarily mean drug dealers, violence, and petty crime. Usually, break and enter and petty theft in order to feed drug dependency. Great, let's see what happens when you put 100 drug addicts/alcoholics together with no rules. Oh wait I forgot, It would be Cool Aid's *proprietary "zero community impact" fantasy*. Give me a break! A 10 year old would know that this is dangerously ludicrous.

Part of the problem with your doublespeak and obfuscation is that once some of your lies have been debunked, that when you go and say that this facility would have a "zero community impact" I'm just amazed at this self-serving lie. You are the little boy who cried wolf now. You lied, you've been caught lying, and your credibility is shot.

Once I heard that the Anglican church next door has come out in opposition to this plan I realized several things. The Anglican school is an organization that is aligned with many of the same charitable goals of helping the street involved people that Cool Aid is, yet they have come out against this plan. I must assume that it is because they have realized that the proposed shelter would leave the children of the Anglican school next door at risk. I can only assume that this means other vulnerable populations in the neighbourhood would also be at risk. (IE the elderly, women?) Will this neighbourhood only be safe for large burly men now?

This is the wrong project for this neighbourhood. **Why don't you go ahead and find a place for this proposal in your own children's neighbourhood?** Be honest, I bet you had an immediate reaction of alarm when you read that. Well, that fleeting feeling of alarm you just had is what we fall asleep with and wake up to everyday now.

I think the mayor's office has definitely "drunk the Cool Aid" Wake up! The link below shows ample evidence that this is a terrible idea. (There are countless other examples of this exact type of debacle anywhere in the world you wish to look.)

<http://news.nationalpost.com/full-comment/brian-hutchinson-after-throwing-84m-at-slum-housing-city-spending-128k-per-room-on-renovations>

[REDACTED], home owner, business owner, taxpayer

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 12:08 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Fw: Cool Aid prject Mt Edwards property Vancouver St Victoria

Mayor Helps and Council,

You may not have had time to read and respond to the mail volume you have received on this issue.

I reiterate my previous opinions concerning the Mt Edwards property and the recent news that BC Housing is preparing the site for "temporary" occupancy by "Tent City" dwellers.

This site is a very poor choice for temporary or permanent residence by many of these individuals.

How could a responsible Mayor and Council consider housing these transients, with very little supervision, next to a school and in the middle of a densely populated residential area?

How are these people being screened to see if they are truly homeless and destitute or if they are even BC residents?

You should be looking at sites in the industrial or suburban areas before forcing this "homelessness solution" on hard working, tax-paying residents.

Edmund Patterson

999 Burdett Ave

Victoria

--- Original Message ---

From: [REDACTED]
To: mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 5:18 PM
Subject: Cool Aid prject Mt Edwards property Vancouver St Victoria

Mayor Helps and Council,

I strongly protest the planned "low barrier", high occupancy Cool Aid project for the Mt Edwards property on Vancouver St. for these reasons:

Christ Church School is 50 metres away.

Drug and alcohol addicted residents have no obligation to refrain from their substance abuse while on Cool Aid property or adjacent public and private property.

Proposed Cool Aid supervisory staffing is very minimal.

The Mt Edwards property is surrounded by single and multi unit homes of law abiding tax payers and contributors to our community.

Many people including a large number of women and children walk and cycle along Vancouver and surrounding streets on dark mornings and evenings to and from work and school. Street lighting is poor along this part of Vancouver St.

Property values and tax base will certainly decrease with the proximity of this type of facility so close to a valuable residential area. --- [REDACTED] Burdett Ave Victoria BC

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 10:05 AM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: [REDACTED]: Strong concern about a housing proposal

Dear Mayor and Councillors:

I am writing this letter as a concerned resident of the Fairfield Neighbourhood regarding the proposed Cool Aid housing facility at the former Mount Edwards Court building at 1002 Vancouver Street.

Cool Aid intends to convert the Mt. Edwards building into the Dr. Joe Haegert Centre. This facility would house 101 chronically homeless individuals in 200 sq. ft. single rooms. Units of this size would likely attract a transitional population rather than stable residents seeking permanent housing. Cool Aid has proposed a resident mix of approximately 1/3 with high-level mental health and addictions issues and another 1/3 with moderately high issues. The stated minimum staffing level will be 2 staff for the 101 residents in this facility, the same number of staff as in another Cool Aid facility that serves only 37 individuals and impacts the community with frequent police and ambulance attention. A Victoria police liaison officer reported disruptions outside that facility occur typically daily. I understand that, if the Dr. Joe Haegert Centre goes ahead, it will be the largest low barrier supported living facility in Victoria. A Vancouver social housing association has recommended such a facility exist only in the Downtown Eastside neighbourhood. Cool Aid could not provide any example anywhere else of a similar facility located in the vicinity of schools with children 4 to 14 years of age.

I am well aware of the issue of homelessness in Victoria, and share compassion and concern for this cause. I share and respect the obvious political will to solve this problem, but cannot accept the impact that this issue will have on the neighbourhood and Christ Church Cathedral School.

I am greatly concerned about the needles and litter of infectious materials; transient individuals; unpredictable violent behaviors from facility residents or visitors in the neighbourhood.

As a public official, if you were designing an ideal community, I cannot imagine that you would ever propose a large supported living facility the size of which has never been seen in Victoria (or Vancouver for that matter) next to a school with student population ranging from 4 to 14 years of age. If you knew that such a facility might lead to the closure of that school community, I suspect you would find that similarly unacceptable.

I am advocating for the neighbourhood and school children, voices that need to be heard. Social housing yes, but not this location.

Yours truly,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 10:18 AM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council

Subject: My. Edward building

Dear Mayor,

I am writing this letter as a concerned resident of the Fairfield Neighbourhood regarding the proposed Cool Aid housing facility at the former Mount Edwards Court building at 1002 Vancouver Street.

Cool Aid intends to convert the Mt. Edwards building into the Dr. Joe Haegert Centre. This facility would house 101 chronically homeless individuals in 200 sq. ft. single rooms. Units of this size would likely attract a transitional population rather than stable residents seeking permanent housing. Cool Aid has proposed a resident mix of approximately 1/3 with high-level mental health and addictions issues and another 1/3 with moderately high issues. The stated minimum staffing level will be 2 staff for the 101 residents in this facility, the same number of staff as in another Cool Aid facility that serves only 37 individuals and impacts the community with frequent police and ambulance attention. A Victoria police liaison officer reported disruptions outside that facility occur typically daily. I understand that, if the Dr. Joe Haegert Centre goes ahead, it will be the largest low barrier supported living facility in Victoria. A Vancouver social housing association has recommended such a facility exist only in the Downtown Eastside neighbourhood. Cool Aid could not provide any example anywhere else of a similar facility located in the vicinity of schools with children 4 to 14 years of age.

I am well aware of the issue of homelessness in Victoria, and share compassion and concern for this cause. I share and respect the obvious political will to solve this problem, but cannot accept the impact that this issue will have on the neighbourhood and Christ Church Cathedral School.

I am greatly concerned about the needles and litter of infectious materials; transient individuals; unpredictable violent behaviors from facility residents or visitors in the neighbourhood.

As a public official, if you were designing an ideal community, I cannot imagine that you would ever propose a large supported living facility the size of which has never been seen in Victoria (or Vancouver for that matter) next to a school with student population ranging from 4 to 14 years of age. If you knew that such a facility might lead to the closure of that school community, I suspect you would find that similarly unacceptable.

I am advocating for the neighbourhood and school children, voices that need to be heard. Social housing yes, but not this location.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Meares St

Victoria BC [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 7:04 PM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council

Subject: Mt Edwards Care Home

February 5 2016

Dear Mayor Helps:

I am writing to you today regarding the proposed Mount Edwards low barrier housing project being planned by the Victoria Cool Aid Society at 1002 Vancouver Street in Fairfield.

Homelessness is a major issue and concern in the City of Victoria and those impacted need to be treated with compassion and provided the proper level of care and support. As a proud Victoria resident, I share and respect the goals of the Cool Aid Society in stepping up to provide needed services for so many vulnerable members of our community and applaud their efforts.

But when it comes to this particular proposal, I am very concerned about what is being put forward and its implications for both the community and the very people we are trying to help.

I cannot image any reasonable person believing that placing 101 high-risk individuals in a low barrier housing facility with minimal staffing directly next to an elementary school without appropriate public consultation is the responsible thing to do.

This is a complex issue, but at the end of the day it is not being treated with the respect and forethought that the community deserves.

I ask for the City's support in encouraging Cool Aid Society to find an alternate location as well as a proposal that is more appropriate in size and scope.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Rockland Avenue
Victoria BC [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 2:15 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Mt Edwards Low Barrier Housing

Dear Mayor Helps and Council Members,

I am writing to you today regarding the proposed Mt Edwards low barrier housing project being planned by the Victoria Cool Aid Society at 1002 Vancouver Street in Fairfield.

I cannot image any reasonable person believing that placing 101 high-risk individuals in a low barrier housing facility with minimal staffing directly next to an elementary school without appropriate public consultation is the responsible thing to do.

To avoid being thought of as a NIMBY objector, I should say that I have lived for several years next door to the Mt St Angela facility. There have not been significant problems from that facility, because it has adequate regulations and staffing levels. This is a complete contrast to the Cool Aid proposal for Mt Edwards, which would have very little regulation and a very low staffing level.

The issue of homelessness is a difficult one, but it cannot be right to disrupt and degrade a functional neighbourhood in the interests of dysfunctional individuals.

The lack of information and of public consultation on this issue is a great concern. The issue is not being treated with the respect and forethought that the community deserves.

I emailed the President of the Cool Aid Society with a polite request for more information, but received no reply.

I ask for the City's support in encouraging Cool Aid Society to find an alternate location as well as a proposal that is more appropriate in size and scope.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Burdett Avenue, Victoria B.C. [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 8:45 PM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council

Subject: Mount St Edwards Care Home

Dear Mayor Lisa Helps and Councillors,

I am writing to you today regarding the proposed Mount Edwards low barrier housing project being planned by the Victoria Cool Aid Society at 1002 Vancouver Street in Fairfield. I wrote to the Mayor and councillors several months ago to report that over a dozen people were tenting day and night in Christ church cathedral cemetery and how my husband and I were insulted as we walked by. We are seniors and felt very threatened as we made our way to town. Without going several blocks out of our way as we go regularly on our way to the YMCA and then off to town, our regular and best direct route is to walk from Cook down Rockland to Quadra. We do not feel that we will be safe in our own neighbourhood. After usage time was posted in cemetery park, things improved considerably and since then, with the growth of tent city, things have become progressively difficult on Quadra. I am particularly worried about Mount Edwards being used to house homeless people who are in need of specialized medical assistance and supervision for substance abuse and mental problems. I fear for the safety and security of the children who attend the cathedral school, for the many seniors who live in this community as well as the security of the buildings in which we live. Although we cannot prove the connection, our building on Rockland just off Cook has had four attempted break-ins (two successful) since the establishment of tent city.

I have decided to forward this template letter in support of our community.

Homelessness is a major issue and concern in the City of Victoria and those impacted need to be treated with compassion and provided the proper level of care and support. As a proud Victoria resident, I share and respect the goals of the Cool Aid Society in stepping up to provide needed services for so many vulnerable members of our community and applaud their efforts.

But when it comes to this particular proposal, I am very concerned about what is being put forward and its implications for both the community and the very people we are trying to help.

I cannot image any reasonable person believing that placing 101 high-risk individuals in a low barrier housing facility with minimal staffing directly next to an elementary school without appropriate public consultation is the responsible thing to do.

This is a complex issue, but at the end of the day it is not being treated with the respect and forethought that the community deserves.

I ask for the City's support in encouraging Cool Aid Society to find an alternate location as well as a proposal that is more appropriate in size and scope.

respectfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Rockland Ave Victoria BC [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, February 05, 2016 2:00 PM

To: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Victoria Mayor and Council; Chris Coleman (Councillor);
mngd.minister@gov.bc.ca

Subject: Fwd: Homeless Letter to Lisa Helps

Dear Mayor Lisa Helps

I understand that the City of Victoria and Cool Aid Society are working together to open a **"low barrier" residence** on the corner of Vancouver and Rockland Streets to meet the needs of a large number of homeless persons in our city.

This is within a block of my home at the corner of Rockland and Cook Street. I am very much in support of efforts to end homelessness and provide supportive housing for the homeless. However, I have a number of concerns with the current plan as I understand it. I am also particularly concerned about the lack of consultation with area residents and the fact there has been no opportunity for us to voice our concerns.

I have lived in the Cook Street area for 15 years and love the quiet streets and sense of community. I have felt safe and proud to be a local resident of this area; close to the city core, but not in it.

My sense of living in a safe environment is quickly diminishing. Since the Tent City has been set up encouraging the congregation of homeless people near the courthouse and YMCA, I have been the victim of, and have experienced a number of destructive and undesirable incidents. I also believe that individuals involved in planning this development must also be anticipating that similar incidents and problematic activities will continue should a high occupancy "low barrier residence" be opened on Vancouver Street.

Recent incidents of concern include:

- A week ago my work van was broken into and \$2K worth of personal items and dental equipment/supplies owned by my employer was stolen.
- Two days ago I found a person passed out in our parking lot.
- Many times, in the past three months, the recycling bins for our complex have been tipped over and the contents strewn around the parking lot.

- I regularly find needles when I walk to and from the YMCA.
- On two occasions I interrupted (caught) someone testing the doors and trying to open/break into our building.

I have read the Cool Aid Website's Q&A, CCCS PAC school parents' information paper, the official letter from Christ Church Cathedral Educational Society outlining why they do not support the project, and information/notices put together by Fairfield Community Speak-up. I have also reviewed the city's homelessness initiatives sites. *I am very dismayed and disturbed by what I have read.* Specifically I do not believe *putting 101 persons with mental health and addictions challenges together in one building* in a residential/school area as a **"low barrier" residence**, *is a responsible or ethical action* on the part of the City of Victoria and Cool Aid.

I also believe we, in BC have done a huge disservice to persons with mental health challenges that has resulted in them being displaced and homeless and do not believe a high occupancy, low barrier residence is the appropriate, supportive response.

Given the high level of petty crimes, thefts, break-ins and hazards associated with illicit drug use and people dealing with addictions issues (I think we can reasonably expect that people that require "low barrier" residence to be dealing with substance abuse issues which are a major impediment to their participation in other housing initiatives) I would say that if there must be "low barrier" residence(s), they should be distant from schools and family residential neighbourhoods, and should also be of low occupancy.

When I read on the Cool Aid website that "In the past week, there has been a very positive development for the Mount Edwards proposal, which for reasons of confidentiality, Cool Aid is unable to share at this time. ***We are expecting that a full announcement will be made in the very near future*** so please stay tuned." I am very upset and concerned.

The lack of transparency and consultation with local residents causes me to question the integrity of decision makers in their consideration of the needs and concerns of local residents. I urgently request a full consultation with area residents occur before any further decisions are made.

Thank you for your time,

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Cook Street,

Victoria BC

Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 3:41 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Mayor and Council email



Wow no note back from you regarding my first email and then the big news release. If it were not for the news we would learn nothing about your plan to ram 1002 Vancouver St down our collective throats. A 1 year "temporary plan" is a total joke at best and a full lie at worst. It is obvious that your goal has always been to push through and to do so without all the public process you would afford anyone else.

When crime increases in our neighbourhood you will probably do nothing because you know that the police cannot do much about it and therefore most of the smash and grabs and privacy invasions go unreported and therefore there will be no "data" to support this being a stupid idea.

I only wish that your own hoods would get something like this pushed through but of course we all know that would never happen.

Sad, this process you have foisted on us should be criminal. I wish we had our municipal election votes back for a do-over.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 12:33 PM

To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>

Subject: Re: Cool-Aid Proposal for Mt. Edwards

Dear Monica,

Thank you for your response. As you can imagine, I have been following this fairly closely so I was aware of the move by BC Housing. I am very appreciative of everything that Mayor Helps has sought to do with respect to homelessness in this City thus far. It is certainly a daunting task, on many levels.

I hope that the City will continue to involve itself as much as possible in helping to develop long term solutions. I'm afraid this move by BC Housing, while optically more palatable to many City residents (and, dare I say it, NIMBYs), is really only a band-aid for the larger underlying issues we face as a community. To my understanding, temporary shelter is exactly what the Tent City residents have been protesting against, and that permanent housing solutions are what they advocate for - with good reason. It is my hope that a long-term permanent housing solution (or several) can be developed and implemented in the coming months and years. I will participate in any public processes I can in hopes of fostering a more positive dialogue on these issues than has been evident in the public thus far.

Best regards, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2016 1:37 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: Proposal re. Mount Edward

To The Worshipful Mayor of Victoria: Lisa Helps:

I am an owner of a condo unit in the Chelsea building located at Vancouver Street and Burdett Avenue. I am not resident in Victoria and rent the unit to tenants. We have plans to retire to Victoria and use the condo as our home. It has been brought to my attention that there is a proposal to open a "low barrier" permanent residence at Mount Edward. It has also been brought to my attention that the proposal has not had a fair and full public hearing. There are serious considerations to be taken into account both with regards to the residents of Mount Edward but also for the residents and businesses in the surrounding area.

I question the wisdom of placing such a facility in the midst of a school and the effect it could have on public safety for local residents. I would urge you to slow down the process and consider a public consultation so that all sides can air their concerns.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]