



Leonard Krog, MLA
Nanaimo

August 15, 2018

Chair Bill Veenhof
Regional District of Nanaimo
6300 Hammond Bay Rd
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6N2

RE: Nanaimo Search and Rescue

Dear Chair Veenhof,

I had the pleasure recently of meeting with Derek Balderston and Duane Young of Nanaimo Search and Rescue, and a donor who I believe both of you are aware of who wishes to remain anonymous but who is still prepared to contribute \$1,000,000.00 to the construction of an appropriate, modern facility for this extremely important community organization.

I am instructed that plans have been prepared for a two story building which would consist of six bays on the main floor and on the second floor room for training, administrative space, a kitchen, meeting room, additional storage etc. The construction costs and additional soft costs would indicate that an ideal building of this size would be in the range of 2-2.4 million dollars. Certainly I understand that other alternatives have been discussed including moving to existing City premises on the site that is occupied by Parks and Recreation staff, but the complications around timetable, where that staff would go, and other issues all lead to the conclusion that the most expeditious and logical proposal is the construction of a brand new facility on that property.

One could reduce the cost of the building which would obviously lead to further delays and the construction of even a basic box without windows would exceed the current funding available. Presently, the Nanaimo Search and Rescue occupies the premises on 4th street of which Nanaimo Council and RDN Board are both well aware. Possibly there may be some provincial funding available as well, but the reason I am motivated to write to you is that I met briefly with the Donor and then again formally with Mr. Balderston, Mr. Young, and the donor and they have all made it clear to me and I am certainly authorized to advise that this donor is not prepared to wait indefinitely. Indeed it is quite possible, indeed probable that the million dollar donation that the donor is prepared to make could and would disappear into another project not necessarily in our community. I cannot imagine the difficulties of trying to explain to anyone why, when someone is offering you a million dollars you can't find the political will to provide an almost equal amount that would enable this very important organization which enjoys such incredible community support and performs an essential community function, should not be funded. I certainly believe that the community would step forward with fundraising, there is possibilities of SAR groups obtaining provincial funding, the possibility of local contractors providing their services, materials etc. at cost, but surely now is the time to move.

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There is no question that over time a facility of this nature will have to be built, and in the future and with tax-funded dollars and community donations but there will not be a million dollars on the table as there is now. I certainly support moving this project up the agenda for both the City and the Regional District, and would hope that the enthusiasm the donor has brought to this project, is an enthusiasm that could and should be shared by everyone. The community cannot function without Nanaimo Search And Rescue. It provides an absolutely essential public service.

I would be happy to meet with the two of you to discuss this matter further, but in the meantime given what I have heard already I suspect the City and the Board are probably supportive of this and I know that both the City and the RDN have been extremely supportive in terms of providing and covering ongoing costs, and there is enthusiasm amongst staff. Hopefully we can move forward.

Yours truly,



Leonard Krog, MLA
Nanaimo

CC: Mayor Bill McKay, City of Nanaimo

LK/prc