

Delegation: Holly Carnegie Letcher, Darwin Fraser, Co-chairs of Universal Access Qualicum Beach, RE: Universally Accessible Fitness and Wellness Facility

Summary: Universal Access Qualicum Beach and Accessible Oceanside Association have identified an urgent need for a fitness and wellness centre in District 69 that is accessible for all. We have already garnered support for this from a wide range of individuals and groups in District 69.

Fitness is important to maintain health and wellness for everyone, including older adults and those with disabilities, thus any fitness and wellness facility needs to be universally accessible. This is particularly significant in District 69, given our demographics. There is no universally accessible fitness and wellness centre in District 69 to meet this identified need.

Our group has already raised funds to purchase one piece of specialized fitness equipment, but we lack a space to house and use it. We have generated interest in donating toward the purchase of other pieces of specialized equipment, but donors need to know that we have a place for it to be used.

Recreation is a mandate of the Regional District, and we believe collaboration would meet both our needs. We offer experience and contacts related to accessible fitness, and would be open to lending or donating specialized fitness equipment. We have started to circulate a needs assessment and already have over 80 individuals interested in an accessible exercise facility. We understand that the Region has existing under-utilized space (The Pond at Oceanside Place) that could potentially be dedicated to a fitness and wellness facility in the short term, particularly given that a fitness facility has been removed from plans for upgrading Ravensong until a new facility is built.

We believe that with collaboration between ourselves and the RON, District 69 can become a leader in providing universally accessible fitness and wellness.

Action Requested: For the RDN and its Recreation Committee to collaborate with us in developing a universally accessible fitness and wellness centre in District 69.