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October 12, 2018

Hannah King Superintendent of Recreation Program Services Regional District of Nanaimo 830 Island Highway Parksville, B.C. V9P 2X4

Dear Ms. King

As requested, I am providing a separate letter requesting a budget increase of \$8,000 for the Gabriola Recreation Society (GRS) for the 2019 budget year.

To my knowledge the GRS has not requested a budget increase of this nature in the past. The request for \$8,000 increase in funding from the RDN is for our senior summer student coordinator. We have found, in recent years, that the funding provided through the Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) program is not sufficient to be able to recruit a senior summer coordinator without redirecting core funding from within our budget. This has the domino effect of reducing our ability to fund priority areas of low income access to recreation programs and support for various community events. The work load of the summer student coordinator is such that an additional entry level summer student assistant at the high school level and funded through CSJ along with this increase in core funding would be adequate and enable us to better provide the services we are attempting to deliver. Summers have become so busy at the GRS that we require both a senior (college/university) student position as well as an entry level high school position.

By adding the \$8,000 to our core budget, we remove it from the uncertainty and restrictions of the CSJ grants, and create a meaningful job the would be recruited through competition to hire the most capable person available. Our community is sorely in need of more good jobs. At this pay rate we would be able to pay a rate similar to the RDN rather than continuing the same low rate we have paid for many years. Our wage rate is no longer enticing for the type of experienced candidate we require.

If I can be of further assistance in the explanation of this budget increase please contact me at (250) 325-2251 or at kyle.clifford@shaw.ca.

Kyle Clifford
President
Gabriola Recreation Society

cc Howard Houle GRS members Virginia Ebbles