

City of Courtenay
830 Cliffe Ave.
Courtenay, BC V9N 2J7

July 29, 2025

Dear Mayor and Council,

The Comox Valley Transition Society (CVTS) writes this letter to request the extension of the lease of 685 Cliffe Ave for the purpose of the continued operation of Connect, a temporary shelter. We are requesting that the lease be extended until such time as the program is closed which is anticipated to be in mid-late 2027 when the new Braidwood shelter has opened and is fully operational. While the location and facility continue to be challenging at times, we are grateful for the improvements that have been completed over the past 6 months. CVTS believes Connect continues to provide a vital service to some of those who are unhoused in our community.

CVTS and specifically the Connect program continue to be active partners with the City of Courtenay, including by-law, the RCMP, the DCBIA and other health and community services to mitigate the challenges homelessness creates for the community, while at the same time providing support to those who are experiencing homelessness and its impact on them. I can't stress enough the value of the Connect program for stabilizing folks, saving lives and supporting access to necessary community supports including permanent housing.

The current lease agreement between the City and CVTS requires CVTS to hold regular Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings. This has been a challenge for us to implement and maintain for a number of reasons including a number of changes in personnel. As part of the lease renewal CVTS is requesting that the requirement for formal CAC meetings be removed. We currently engage regularly with the community, surrounding businesses and other stakeholders. CVTS believes that what we are doing fulfills the objective of monthly CAC meetings and proposes that we continue to engage in all the ways we have been, which include: management meeting including CVTS, City staff, by-law services and RCMP; CVTS Executive Director participation as a director on the DCBIA board; regular and responsive engagement with local businesses one on one; daily engagement with by-law and RCMP; and attendance and participation in ad hoc meetings as requested. We believe our efforts as described above fulfill the purpose of a CAC more effectively.

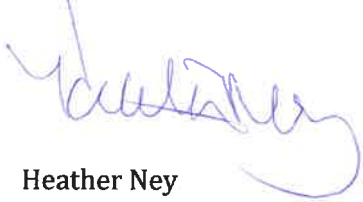


I hope that despite some the challenges associated with Connect you recognize that the alternative to no Connect service would be more harmful and create added discomfort and stress on the community.

CVTS requests the renewal and extension of the Connect lease for two additional years from Nov 1, 2025, to October 31, 2027, with the option to continue on a month to month basis if required based on the progress of the Braidwood shelter and supportive housing development.

If you require any further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Heather Ney
Executive Director
Comox Valley Transition Society

