

AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT made this day of , 2023.

BETWEEN:

Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD)
770 Harmston Avenue, Courtenay, B.C, V9N 0GB

City of Courtenay
830 Cliffe Avenue Courtenay, BC V9N 2J7

Town of Comox
1809 Beaufort Avenue Comox, BC V9M 1R9

Village of Cumberland
2673 Dunsmuir Avenue Cumberland BC V0R 1S0

AND:

Comox Valley Social Planning Society
c/o Lewis Centre 489 Old Island Highway Courtenay, BC V9N 3P5

hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Parties"

WHEREAS:

- A. The Comox Valley local governments are responsible for providing local government regional and community services and infrastructure and include:
 - The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD);
 - The City of Courtenay;
 - The Town of Comox; and
 - The Village of Cumberland;

- B. The Comox Valley Social Planning Society is a registered non-profit society in the Province of British Columbia formed to provide information to individuals, organizations and policymakers to advocate for and guide the development of social planning strategies throughout the Comox Valley;

- C. The CVRD Board, at its sole discretion, has provided funding to the Comox Valley Social Planning Society to, in part, administer an Accessibility Committee that works to increase accessibility and social inclusion to make the Comox Valley a place for everyone to belong;

- D. The Accessibility British Columbia Act (the "Act") requires that all local governments develop an accessibility plan, establish an accessibility committee and provide for public feedback to the plan;

- E. In recognition of the importance of clear roles, responsibilities and expectations to drive successful outcomes, the Parties wish to formalize a collaborative arrangement whereby annual financial support for the administration of the Accessibility Committee is maintained under certain terms and conditions that enable the CVRD and its member jurisdictions to meet their obligations under the Accessibility British Columbia Act for the establishment of an accessibility committee.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and the mutual covenants and conditions herein contained, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

1. The CVRD shall provide funding to the Comox Valley Social Planning Society in the amount of \$20,000 per annum during the term of this agreement to, in part, administer and support the operation and functioning of the Accessibility Committee in accordance with the agreement.
2. The Accessibility Committee shall act as a resource and provide advice to the CVRD and its member municipalities to support the advancement of accessibility and inclusion within the Comox Valley in accordance with, and in the spirit of, the Accessible British Columbia Act.
3. The CVRD and its member municipalities shall be entitled to meet regularly with the Accessibility Committee according to a mutually agreed schedule to support the development and implementation of an accessibility framework.
4. The Parties recognize that the accessibility framework is intended to be an overarching guidance document for Comox Valley local governments that:
 - a) is developed through the full participation of the CVRD, Village of Cumberland, City of Courtenay, Town of Comox and the Accessibility Committee;
 - b) includes, and gives consideration to, the guiding principles of inclusion, adaptability, diversity, collaboration, self-determination, and universal design; and
 - c) guides the development of further assessments or action plans by the individual jurisdictions that may identify barriers in employment, service delivery, built environment, information and communications, transportation, health, education and procurement.
5. The Accessibility Committee shall establish and maintain a terms of reference which, amongst others, provides for membership expectations, standards of conducts and committee composition which, to the extent possible, strives for the following in accordance with Section 9 of the Act:
 - a) at least half of the members are:
 - i. persons with disabilities, or
 - ii. individuals who support, or are from organizations that support, persons with disabilities;

- b) the members described in paragraph (a) reflect the diversity of persons with disabilities in British Columbia;
 - c) at least one of the members is an Indigenous person;
 - d) the committee reflects the diversity of persons in British Columbia.
6. The Accessibility Committee shall:
 - a) Serve as one method of public feedback on accessibility and inclusion in the Comox Valley;
 - b) Use their networks to solicit additional feedback / participation, where appropriate as part of its work with CVRD and its member municipalities;
 - c) Engage with accessibility and inclusion-related community organizations and groups; and
 - d) Consider opportunities for further collaboration amongst all local government entities.
7. As a public body, the CVRD must comply with statutory obligations under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act concerning personal information and providing access to information under its control. The Comox Valley Social Planning Society acknowledges and agrees to provide reasonable assistance to the CVRD in complying with its statutory obligations under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.
8. This Agreement shall remain in full force and effect from the date of execution until December 31, 2023.
9. In entering into this Agreement, the Parties also express their intention to enter into a subsequent three-year agreement with consideration to a review of the accessibility framework and the other related work of the Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed by their duly authorized officers as follows:

COMOX VALLEY SOCIAL PLANNING SOCIETY Signed by: _____ Date: _____
CITY OF COURTENAY Signed by: _____ Date: _____
TOWN OF COMOX Signed by: _____ Date: _____
VILLAGE OF CUMBERLAND Signed by: _____ Date: _____
COMOX VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT Signed by: _____ Date: _____