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September 19, 2023

Board of Directors  
Comox Valley Regional District Board  
770 Harmston Avenue  
Courtenay BC V9N 0G8

I am writing to you on behalf of the Comox Valley Social Planning Society and the Comox Valley Accessibility Committee in support of the Comox Valley Local Governments Accessibility Framework that is coming before you on Sept 26, 2023.

The Comox Valley Social Planning Society works in the Valley to provide support to local governments and to the community in areas of equity, accessibility, living wage and increasing supports for marginalized populations. The Comox Valley Accessibility Committee is a community-based committee that has served as a resource to local governments and the broader community for 25 years. The two groups are collaborating to improve accessibility in the Comox Valley.

Earlier this year, CVRD staff came to both groups to ask if the Accessibility Committee would consider taking on the role of the regional Accessibility Committee required under the *Accessible British Columbia Act*. Both groups were pleased with this invite and extremely supportive of having one committee for the 3 municipalities and regional district instead of each local government forming their own committee. Since then, CVRD staff have met several times with the Accessibility Committee requesting feedback on the drafts of the Local Governments Accessibility Framework. CVRD staff have incorporated the feedback into the document you have today, including the suggestion to have a plain language expert review the document to make it as accessible as possible. We see this as an example of already collaborating on accessibility in the Valley and we look forward to much more.

We are therefore in full support of this Framework and are excited about our ongoing collaboration to implement it and move to action to make the Comox Valley more and more accessible over the coming years.

Sincerely,

Betty Tate  
President, Comox Valley Social Planning Society  
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