

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

Sept 4, 2023

Dear Mayor and Council,

The Comox Valley Transition Society writes this letter to request the extension of the lease of 685 Cliffe Ave for a further year to accommodate the operations of Connect.

While the location is challenging at times, we believe it is the best interim location while BC Housing searches for a permanent purpose-built location for the additional shelter spaces required to serve the community.

The additional space and the addition of a fire safety system has made it possible to accommodate 33 individuals at night. Since January 2023 Connect has sheltered on average 26 people per night. Additionally, we were successful in securing a contract for year-round shelter operations. Operationally this has been very positive for both staff and clients. To further ensure the success of the homeless and supportive housing programs, CVTS has hired a manager, who starts on Sept 11th, to support the program coordinators and community engagement activities for Connect and The Lodge.

CVTS and specifically the Connect program are committed to being 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 impacts on them. I can't stress enough the value in the Connect program for stabilizing folks, saving lives and supporting access to necessary community supports.



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

CVTS requests the extension of Connect lease for one additional year. If you require any further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Heather Ney
Executive Director

