

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

Oct 10, 2024

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 continues to be the best if not the only options while we await the completion of the new purpose-built shelter on Braidwood.

For the winter season we have proposed to BC Housing we add an additional 6 EWR mats to accommodate a few more individuals to shelter from the cold.

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 in the Connect program for stabilizing folks, saving lives and supporting access to necessary community supports including permanent housing.

I hope that despite the visible challenges you recognize that the alternative to no Connect service would be more harmful and create added discomfort and stress on the community. We are working closely with the City and other partners to improve the outdoor space including storage and the addition of client washrooms and additional amenity space for Connect staff and health services.

CVTS requests the extension of the Connect lease for one additional year, Nov 1, 2024, to Oct 31, 2025.

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

Sincerely,

Heather Ney
Executive Director
Comox Valley Transition Society

