

Executive Committee of Council
City of Burnaby

February 10, 2015

Dear Executive Committee of Council,

The Afghan Women's Sewing and Crafts Co-operative is a grass roots, community-based initiative and is an example of marginalized women finding a safe space to participate economically and socially. Members of the cooperative are a diverse group with a wide range of ethnic backgrounds, languages, religions, ages, education, mental and physical ability, marital and social status and rural and urban experiences. In September 2004, several organizations came together to support the development of the sewing group into a co-operative with the City of Burnaby playing an important role in this development.

In March 2010, Council approved the allocation of Room 206 at the Edmonds Neighbourhood Resource Centre (7355 Canada Way) to the Afghan Women's Sewing and Crafts Co-operative. The group has received a 50% lease grant each year and this grant (which is done internally at City Hall – they don't actually receive the money) reduces their rent by 50%. The pre-grant annual lease rate is \$10,851.84 which is reduced by \$5,425.92. With the reduction their monthly rent is \$452.16 plus GST of \$22.61 for a total of \$474.77 per month.

Due to unforeseen financial hardship the Afghan Women's Sewing and Crafts Co-operative is asking for a three month reprieve from the monthly rental costs of \$474.77. This arrangement would last between February 2015-April 2015.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Najiba Ahmadzai
Afghan Women's Sewing and Craft Co-Operative
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