



TO: City of Burnaby Clerks Office

Re: **Request to appear before Executive of Council on November 6th 2019**

From: Antonia Beck

On behalf of the Burnaby Neighbourhood House Board of Directors

Date: October 3, 2019

Dear Executive of Council members,

IT has been suggested by staff that the Burnaby Neighbourhood House board of directors appear before the executive of council to provide an update on the North House and request that a permanent home be considered within a City owned development in North Burnaby.

Highlights from the BNH presentation to council earlier this year:

- The Neighbourhood House is a busy place and is a place where residents of all ages and diverse backgrounds can connect, engage and belong. Both Neighbourhood House storefronts are bustling with low-cost and free programs and we see the increased need for making connections and creating a sense of belonging. Our community hubs are places where residents can drop in, have a coffee and learn about local information.
- The community has embraced the opportunities that our spaces provide and our services have expanded to serve more people in extended hours, programs and opportunities – Last year we recorded over 200 thousand contacts with individuals by staff or volunteers.
- Our growth is really attributed to the involvement of local residents, community partnerships, the support of the city and Burnaby businesses and diverse funders.
- We strive to be responsive to community needs and to make our neighbourhoods great places to live.
- Our work is intentional, and collaborative; with a focus on community engagement and volunteerism – 700+ volunteers who logged close to 23,000 volunteer hours last year.
- We strive to ensure that all Burnaby residents have access to programs and supports and many of our programs address multi-barrier individuals and families.

We acknowledge and thank the city for the change in policy which provided some financial relief with Burnaby Neighbourhood House's high operating costs.

Given that the two Neighbourhood Houses are public community places with low barrier programs, they offer a proven model of community engagement and nimbly responding to local needs, can the City increase support in order to sustain the infrastructure of the Burnaby Neighbourhood Houses? The City is growing and so are the local social needs of our neighbourhoods. The North House is currently very vulnerable to the decisions of private landlords. The \$20,000 increase to the rent was accepted but is not sustainable given the current funding climate. The current lease was renewed for only a 2 year period and will end August 2021.

Our Mission is to make neighbourhoods better places to live.

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Our immediate request to City to the City is twofold:

1. Can the City work with Burnaby Neighbourhood House to find a permanent solution for the North House connected to a City owned facility or a future development. Perhaps connected to the Confederation development. This would provide stability to the infrastructure of the Neighbourhood House and support our growing work in North Burnaby.
2. Can the City consider increasing the financial support available to the Burnaby Neighbourhood House given that we are operating two independent Neighbourhood Houses under one legal entity? BNH was limited to \$25000 that was divided between the two operations. Alternatively, can the city provide increased financial relief to the South House lease which is \$54,000 annually?

We look forward to continuing our conversations and work with you.

Sincerely,



Antonia Beck
Executive Director

Ernie Kashima
BNH Board Chair

Ted Wiens
BNH Strategic Directions Chair

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