

Anawim House
Empowered People Embracing Life

23 August 2017

Anawim Companions Society
973 Caledonia Ave
Victoria B.C.
V8T 1E7
www.anawimhouse.com

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT
For Information:

CAO Mayor/Council

RECEIVED: AUG 29 2017

Referred: Anja

For Action For Response COTW
 For Report Council Agenda IC

Mayor and Council
Township of Esquimalt
1229 Esquimalt Road
Esquimalt, BC
V9A 3P1

Dear Mayor and Councillors:

Greater Victoria is experiencing its worst-ever housing and drug crises. Last year, almost 1500 people in the region were homeless, and more than 150 died of drug overdoses. Thousands more live in poverty, often while struggling with mental health and addiction problems.

I am writing to you on behalf of the Anawim Companions Society, a charity that serves the population at the centre of this crisis. Since 1991, we have been providing housing, meals, shower and laundry facilities, and a welcoming family home (Anawim House) for hundreds of our region's poorest and most marginalized members.

At Anawim House, we work to help people help themselves. We offer a substance-free, respectful, and caring environment in which people living in homelessness and poverty can regain a sense of dignity and community connection. In our unique family model, residents, drop-in visitors, volunteers, and staff come together as a family to care for each other and the house. Over our 26-year history, we have seen our model of empowerment change thousands of lives for the better.

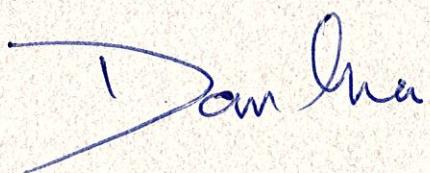
We are currently striving to meet fundraising targets that will allow us to do even more of this important work, including an expanded counselling program and the long-term goal of opening a recovery residence for women.

To this end, we would like the opportunity to have a representative of Anawim House address the Esquimalt Municipal Council in person about our organization and how the Esquimalt community can support our ongoing operations.

Although Anawim House is located in downtown Victoria, the men and women who use our services come from every community in the Greater Victoria region and beyond. The crisis of homelessness is a regional issue. Together, we can address the problem and provide the quality of care that our community's most impoverished and neglected members need in order to improve their lives.

We eagerly await confirmation of a meeting with Esquimalt Municipal Council to talk in more specific terms about our ongoing need for funding from the municipalities of Greater Victoria.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan Greco".

Dan Greco, Chairperson
Anawim Companions Society