

**CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT**

**LOCAL GRANT APPLICATION** For Year: 2021

Name of Organization: Connections Place Society

Address of Organization: 3375 Oak Street, Victoria BC V8X 1R2

Phone: 250-483-3748 Fax: 250-483-6412 email: chris.forester@connectionsplace.org

Contact Person: Chris Forester

Position(s) with Organization: Executive Director Phone: 250-858-0895

Amount Requested: \$ 4,770.00 CDN Total Project Budget: \$ 50,085.00 CDN

Have you applied before? No When? N/A Grant Received: \$ N/A

If yes, have you submitted a final report for previous year funding? Yes [ ] No [X]  
(note: report must be submitted to receive consideration for further funding)

Fiscal year of organization: From April 1 To March 31

Are you currently receiving benefit from a Property Tax Exemption from the Township of Esquimalt? Yes [ ] No [X]

Incorporation number and date of incorporation: S-0065961 ; September 8, 2016

Registered Canadian Charitable Organization number: 752143925RR0001  
(Applicants must be not-for-profit organizations or be otherwise publicly accountable)

Is your organization based in Esquimalt Yes [ ] No [X]

Is the project for which you are requesting funding based in Esquimalt? Yes [ ] No [X]

If yes, please provide the location/address: N/A

Describe your organization, its mandate and program(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Please see attached ESQUIMALT FUNDING PROPOSAL 2021 document and/or

email body for organization description.

Describe the project for which funds are being sought. What other sources of funding are being pursued? Please indicate why you think it should receive municipal funding. Feel free to use additional sheets of paper.

Project Description (including date and location): \_\_\_\_\_

Please see attached ESQUIMALT FUNDING PROPOSAL 2021 document and/or

email body for project description.

Purpose of this project: \_\_\_\_\_

Please see attached ESQUIMALT FUNDING PROPOSAL 2021 document and/or

email body regarding the purpose of our Work-Ordered Day project.

The names of those involved in carrying out the project: \_\_\_\_\_

Connections Place Society staff and members will ultimately be the ones carrying out this project.

As an egalitarian organization that relies upon members input and contributions, this is truly a

team effort being headed by Executive Director Chris Forester.

Green Event Initiatives: N/A

Benefit to Esquimalt: \_\_\_\_\_

Please see attached ESQUIMALT FUNDING PROPOSAL 2021 document and/or

email body regarding the various benefits to the Township of Esquimalt and other participating districts.

# PROJECT BUDGET

Please give details on revenue and expenditure projections. Indicate which revenue is secure and which is speculative. (note: Expenditures must NOT exceed Revenues)

REVENUE (Please state source)		EXPENDITURE (Please itemize)	
Description	Amount	Description	Amount
SECURE			
District of Saanich	\$ 18,815		
Subtotal			
SPECULATIVE			
City of Langford	\$ 4,770		
City of Victoria	\$ 21,730		
Township of Esquimalt	\$ 4,770		
Subtotal			
TOTAL	\$ 50,085	TOTAL	

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: July 26, 2021

Please enclose your last annual report and financial statements, if applicable. Include any supporting material that would assist in the assessment of your project.

Please mail or fax this application to:

Director of Financial Services  
Corporation of the Township of Esquimalt  
1229 Esquimalt Road  
Esquimalt, BC  
V9A 3P1

Phone: 250-414-7141  
Fax: 250-414-7111

Connections Place Society - Work Ordered Day Program Budget 2020 -2021		Program Budget
Budget Item	Description	2020 - 2021 64% of Ops Budget
Revenue		
Restricted Funding		
Island Health	Core Funding	\$ -
Grants		
FirstWest	Assets and Materials for Kitchen	\$ 10,000.00
Pacific Blue Cross	Expansion of Work Ordered Day	
United Way	Outreach program - ECSF FUNDING	\$ -
Victoria Foundation	Expansion of Work Ordered Day	\$ -
CRD	COVID Asset's ( Laptops,PPE, etc.)	\$ -
Municipal Appeal: Esquimalt, Victoria, Lad	Operations	\$ 50,000.00
Other grants	Coast Capital, KPMG, Sarah Spencer	\$ 15,000.00
Sisters of Saint Anne	Grant	\$ 50,000.00
Non Restricted Funding		
Investment Account	TD Waterhouse	\$ 60,500.00
Grants		
Rapid Relief Fund	COVID shortfall and program funding	\$ 23,680.00
Vic Foundation	Operational Recovery fund	\$ 19,200.00
Donations		
Private	Canada Helps and direct donations	\$ 19,200.00
In-Kind		\$ -
Corporate		
Events	Projected for Mental health Week	\$ -
Other		
Social Media	Facebook fundraising	\$ 1,280.00
Other Revenue		
Investments		
Endowment fund	Vic Foundation matching Fund interest	\$ 576.00
Bank Interest Revenue		
TD Waterhouse	Investment Interest	\$ 950.00

Donor Advised Fund	Esther's Dream Fund	\$	15,365.00
Program Revenue	Kitchen Sales	\$	4,500.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>		\$	270,251.00
<b>Expenses</b>			
Insurance and Liabilities	Director insurance, liability insurance, vehicle	\$	11,530.00
Maintenance and Repair	Facility management and janitorial	\$	3,500.00
Equipment Costs	Assets	\$	1,600.00
Facility Costs	Rent, property and strata fee's	\$	43,000.00
Utilities	Cable, internet, custodial	\$	8,000.00
Wages/Benefits		\$	156,648.00
Program Costs	Kitchen expenses, food, Supplies	\$	12,500.00
Financial costs	Accounting, bookkeeping, bank fee's	\$	10,000.00
Professional Fee's	Clubhouse Intl. membership/Society fee's/Bus	\$	1,000.00
Events/Marketing	Promotional materials and event costs	\$	4,000.00
Consultant Fee's	Grant writer fee's/Business consultant fee's/L	\$	7,500.00
Admin	Technology costs/Office supplies/other	\$	10,000.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>		\$	269,278.00
<b>Net Income (+surplus/-deficit)</b>		\$	973.00

Good afternoon Mayor and Council,

Please find the attached documents as an application for funding to be reviewed by Township of Esquimalt Department of Finance and Director of Finance Ian Irvine.

I am happy to announce in response to our ask for municipal regional funding support Saanich Council has approved a two-year of funding cycle for Connections Place Society. Saanich's funding commitment reflects the 'per program participant' cost allocated to their municipality and outlined in the attached Municipal Appeal letter.

We ask the Township of Esquimalt to consider contributing financially to support the ongoing operations of Vancouver Island's only Clubhouse serving the mental health needs of our shared community.

Connections Place has not only survived through the pandemic but thrived as our membership base has grown substantially as have our partnerships and collaborations with agencies like Umbrella Society, creating projects that will attend to the growing need of those seeking services and being discharged from Psychiatric Emergency Services and into the community.

Please find the following documents included in this application:

1. Completed Application form
  - *This has also been copied into the body of this email (below) for convenient viewing*
2. Project (Work-Ordered Day) 2021 Budget
3. Connections Place 2021 audited financials
4. Connections Place Board List (June 2021)
5. Letters of support from: VICPD; SPD; Island Health Exec and & Clinical Educator; Umbrella Society; Saanich MLA Rob Fleming; Clubhouse Member
6. World Health Organization document showcasing Community Based Mental Health Services – highlights Clubhouse Model (May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021) [attached only via email to save paper]

Please contact me for further details and discussion. I look forward to hearing from you!



**Connections  
Place**

Gavin Meek (he/him)  
Reach-Out & Development Coordinator  
Connections Place  
3375 Oak Street, Victoria, BC V8X 1R2  
P: 250-483-3746 | C: 250-882-4321  
[www.connectionsplace.org](http://www.connectionsplace.org)

*Located on Traditional and Unceded territory of the WSÁNEĆ (Saanich) and  
Lekwungen (Songhees/Esquimalt) nations.*



**Clubhouse International**  
Creating Community. Changing the World of Mental Health

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## PROPOSAL

### **ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION: CONNECTIONS PLACE SOCIETY**

The mission of Connections Place is to provide people whose lives have been disrupted by mental health challenges the opportunity to recover meaningful and productive lives through reintegration within the workplace and the community. Our Vision is to provide the community with a Clubhouse that is a vibrant,

innovative, and collaborative space dedicated to creating opportunity and purpose for those with mental health challenges. We do this by offering the community a range of programs and services including employment programs, wellness programming (such as Music, Mindful Movement, Art Therapy, TEDTalks and much more) and community outreach. The Work-Ordered Day is at the heart of the operations of the Clubhouse – a program that allows Connections Place to meet members where they are at. The Clubhouse is dedicated to nurturing respect, equality, and dignity for all.

Connections Place utilizes the evidence-based Clubhouse International Model, which was built on the principle that people with mental health challenges want, can, and do lead healthy, productive lives. Following a psycho-social rehabilitation model, the first Clubhouse opened in 1948. Currently there are almost 300 Clubhouses in over 30 countries use it to serve over 100,000 people living with mental health challenges.

What makes the Clubhouse Model unique is the focus on creating a restorative and inclusive environment where members provide and receive support from their peers. This includes people who have lived experiences like their own. Connections Place empowers members by providing equal access to opportunities to rejoin the worlds of relationships, family, employment, and education. The Clubhouse is a comprehensive resource hub that offers the many services and supports they may need to continue their recovery.

The Clubhouse is fully accessible. Our diverse membership includes seniors, women and men, First Nations, people of colour, and folk from the LGBTQI2S community. Because the only other Clubhouse on Vancouver Island is in Port Alberni, we do not restrict membership geographically. CPS welcomes members from rural and under-served areas on South and Central Vancouver Island.

#### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION (INCLUDING DATE AND LOCATION): THE WORK-ORDERED DAY**

The Work-Ordered Day is a flexible, dynamic program that provides members with many ways to become involved with the work of the Clubhouse. It is voluntary, strengths-based, and helps members regain self-worth and purpose. This program takes place at the Connections Place Clubhouse (3375 Oak Street, Victoria BC, V8X 1R2) which currently operates a schedule from 9:00am-3:30pm Monday through Friday. Our fiscal year runs from April 1 – March 31 annually.

Confidence is built by providing the opportunity to develop existing skills and learn new ones in a restorative environment that is inclusive, supportive, stigma-free, and promotes resilience. What is unique and powerful about this program is members know the work they contribute is real and meaningful. It arises from the needs of the members and the operations of the Clubhouse.

Each morning, members and staff plan the work required for that day. As a horizontal organization, all tasks and decisions are made by consensus. Members participate in one of three Work-Ordered Day teams (much like departments of a company): Culinary Team, Membership & Outreach team, and the Maintenance Team.

Within these teams, members engage in work alongside peers and staff that includes (but is not limited to):

#### **CULINARY TEAM - PLANNING AND EXECUTING CULINARY DUTIES INCLUDING:**

- Food provision for meal service
- Meal preparation and cooking \$1.00 breakfasts and \$2.00 lunches
- Barista: making/serving coffee, accepting payment/handling cash, running cash register, serving breakfasts and lunches
- Cleanup (dishwashing, sanitizing, mopping etc. in a commercial kitchen)

#### **MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH TEAM - ADMINISTRATIVE AND OUTREACH DUTIES INCLUDING:**

- Reception: answering phones, conducting data entry, organizing Clubhouse entry
- Managing social media
- Writing and editing the quarterly newsletter

- Planning and preparing for events
- Organizing and leading Clubhouse tours
- Performing new member intake
- Outreach to existing and lapsed members

**MAINTENANCE TEAM** - MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR DUTIES SUCH AS MAINTAINING AND CLEANING THE INDOOR AND OUTDOOR PREMISES OF THE CLUBHOUSE INCLUDING:

- Cleaning bathrooms
- Sanitizing floors, tables, door handles and other high-contact areas
- Organizing garbage/compost/recycling bins; proper disposal outside Clubhouse
- Laundry
- Plant care

What makes the Work-Ordered Day unique and innovative is that it meets the participant where they are at. A member can participate as much or as little as they are able, and all contributions are valued.

By giving space for members to contribute as they can, Connections Place creates a stress- and stigma- free environment where members feel free to visit whether they participate in activities or not. For members who do not feel ready to participate or need to stop, this makes all the difference: simply attending reduces their isolation, begins to build their resilience, and gives them access to a peer support network. Connections Place programs accommodate everyone.

As members begin to participate more actively, they make marked improvements in their ability to care for themselves and their family members. They learn new skills and discover they have the strength to be more self-sufficient. Members are needed and wanted; they understand the work is meaningful and contributes to the day-to-day operation of the Clubhouse. This sense of belonging and meaning is powerful and helps members to increase their self-esteem and confidence.

The goal of Connections Place is to disrupt isolation, loneliness, and mental struggles in our members' lives. Through supportive staff and structured, friendly Work-Ordered Day programming, the CPS Clubhouse offers continued connection and support to our members. Connections Place views the Work-Ordered Day as a cornerstone to achieving its goal of providing increased social inclusion in a safe setting.

#### **PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT:**

The Work-Ordered Day addresses the need of those whose lives have been disrupted by mental illness to have a place where they are needed, wanted, and where they have a meaningful role to play. It also provides steppingstones to re-engage with the world of work and to build skills and confidence prior to re-entering the workforce. The WOD provides vulnerable members of our community opportunities to build meaningful connections. Connections Place programming brings a sense of purpose and belonging, building confidence and resilience, and increases capacity to care for themselves and their families.

The need for the Work-Ordered Day program has not only been evident through direct surveys with Connections Place's members, but also how quickly CPS membership and participation has grown since opening in March 2019. Our membership base continues to grow; currently at 186 members and anticipate 250 by the end of 2021.

Other notable outcomes of the Work-Ordered Day program are:

- Increased access to mental health focused social programming and activities;



- Reduced social isolation;
- Reduced incidents of decompensation and hospitalization.

The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) states that 70 to 90 percent of people with a serious mental illness are unemployed, and for people with depression and anxiety the number is over 30 percent. CMHA's research has found most of these people want to work, but finding employment that matches their abilities, or does not stigmatize them, is very difficult.

The Work-Ordered Day program provides a structure and meaningful work. Research has shown that membership in a clubhouse leads to higher rates of employment, longer job tenure, and higher earnings than traditional programs for people with mental illness<sup>1</sup>. In general, Clubhouses and the Work-Ordered Day program strengthens community resilience. Compared with many popular models for providing services to those with mental health concerns, Clubhouses are significantly more cost-effective<sup>2</sup>.

Membership in a Clubhouse and participation in the Work-Ordered Day significantly reduces hospitalization and incarceration rates<sup>3,4</sup>. Members have shown to be more likely to report close friendships and a network of people they can rely on for help than those receiving traditional services<sup>5</sup>.

Services like Clubhouses, because they offer ongoing social support and enhance mental/physical health by reducing disconnectedness thereby improving resilience and self-sufficiency<sup>6</sup>. In short, Clubhouses keep people out of emergency care and build their resilience by giving them the tools, skills, and confidence to care for themselves and their families.

By using social return on investment as metric, Pathways Clubhouse in Richmond, BC calculates that they have achieved a return of 14:1. This means that for every \$1.00 invested in Pathways, the City of Richmond saves \$14.00 in reduced service costs. By extension, this means municipalities and services have more money to spend on other services.

The Work-Ordered Day is a direct path towards a supportive community and employment opportunities for people experiencing mental health challenges. At its foundation, the Work-Ordered Day helps people to stabilize their lives by providing a structure that reduces social isolation, builds connections, and creates a personal sense of well-being. This is derived from the opportunity to participate in a like-minded community of peers and the meaningful work of operating the Clubhouse.

## References:

<sup>1</sup>Macias, Cathaleene, Ronald Kinney, and Charles Rodican. "Transitional Employment: an evaluative description of Fountain House practice." *Journal of vocational Rehabilitation* 5.2 (1995): 151-157.

<sup>2</sup>McKay, Colleen E., Brian T. Yates, and Matthew Johnsen. "Costs of Clubhouses: an international perspective." *Administration and Policy in Mental Health and Mental Health Services Research* 34.1 (2007): 62-72.

<sup>3</sup>Masso, Josephine Di, Tamara Avi-Itzhak, and Doris Richard Obler. "The Clubhouse Model: an outcome study on attendance, work attainment and status, and hospitalization recidivism." *Work* 17.1 (2001): 23-30.

<sup>4</sup>Johnson, Jay, and Scott Hickey. "Arrests and incarcerations after psychosocial program involvement: Clubhouse vs. Jailhouse." *Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal* 23.1 (1999): 66.

<sup>5</sup>Warner, Richard, Peter Huxley, and Terry Berg. "An evaluation of the impact of clubhouse membership on quality of life and treatment utilization." *International Journal of Social Psychiatry* 45.4 (1999): 310-320.

<sup>6</sup>Leff, H. Stephen, et al. "Effects of job development and job support on competitive employment of persons with severe mental illness." *Psychiatric Services* 56.10 (2005): 1237-1244.

## **THE NAMES OF THOSE INVOLVED IN CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT:**

Connections Place Society staff and members will ultimately be the ones carrying out this project. As an egalitarian organization that relies upon members input and contributions, this is truly a team effort being headed by Executive Director Chris Forester.

#### **GREEN EVENT INITIATIVES:**

N/A – please see attached letter of recommendation from Saanich Mayor Fred Haynes and others regarding this active funding request. Connections Place has recently been approved for The District of Corporation of Saanich's portion and is excited to extend this proposal to the Township of Esquimalt, City of Langford, and City of Victoria.

#### **BENEFIT TO ESQUIMALT:**

##### **MENTAL HEALTH**

The Canadian Mental Health Association states that 1 in 5 in people in Canada will experience a mental health condition in any given year. This statistic alone accounts for 20% of the Canadian population. For residents of Greater Victoria, this means approximately 84,000 people in our community struggle with their mental health at any given time.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated our community's experience of social isolation. It simultaneously reduced access to the very supports and services people have come to rely on to find the help they need. With experiences of anxiety and depression on the rise, the need for mental health services is greater than ever before.

##### **CONNECTIONS PLACE SOCIETY**

Connections Place Society understands the importance of having reliable, accessible, and effective mental health programming and services available to meet the needs of our growing community. The Connections Place Clubhouse follows the internationally practiced and acclaimed Clubhouse Model of PSR (Psychosocial Rehabilitation). This evidence-based model originated in New York City in 1948 and now has an established mental health service provider in over 30 countries. Globally, there are nearly 350 Clubhouses in operation.

Connections Place offers access to **community** and **opportunity** for people whose lives have been profoundly impacted by mental illness. Clubhouses provide a community of peers to all members, which helps find a sense of belonging and the opportunity to build meaningful relationships. Unique wellness and employment-focused programming is encouraged but never mandated to members. Voluntary participation is regarded as foundational to Clubhouse culture.

The Clubhouse Model offers a viable solution to our community's mental health challenges that are both financially viable and truly life-changing for people utilizing the services.

Membership is free and for life to any adults aged 18 and over. For more information please visit our website at [www.connectionsplace.org](http://www.connectionsplace.org)

##### **STATS**

- 189 current Connections Place members from across the CRD
- 2027 meals provided 1930 member visits recorded in 2020

##### **COMMUNITY NEEDS**

With ever-growing numbers of people experiencing homelessness and addiction in every municipality across the CRD, often accompanied by pre-existing mental conditions, our mental health service system and housing efforts are beyond overwhelmed.

Clubhouses offer those in need a comprehensive hub of services that build wellness into their lives through community. Connections Place Clubhouse helps to make change through connection and opportunity, and helps people maintain housing and recovery when they eventually find it. For a successful example of an established Clubhouse in the community of Richmond please see the 'Pathways' Clubhouse [here](#).

#### **FUNDING & SUPPORT NEEDS**

This year, more so than any other, organizations throughout Canada have been challenged to meet their funding needs to stay operational. Although Connections Place has worked hard to raise necessary funding for which we have been fortunate receive, we are still looking at a shortfall of approximately \$180,000. We continue to actively fundraise, write grants, and approach our donors/funders to secure necessary funding. As part of our strategy, we have decided to reach out to the municipalities in which our members reside to ask for a combined donation of \$50,000. This request extends to the following municipalities, with a program participant cost of \$265 per member (approximately 12.5% of the total annual cost per member):

Victoria: 82 members - \$21,730

Saanich: 71 members - \$18,815

Esquimalt: 18 members - \$4,770

Langford: 18 members - \$4,770

**Total: 189 members - \$50,085**

*\*Member numbers are approximated within reason, due to undocumented member moves etc.*

One option to consider: Given that BC government has released funding to municipal governments through the Strengthening Communities fund that targets community health and safety as well as homelessness, it is our hope that Connections Place can access support through this avenue.

We hope that our local municipalities will see the value in our work consider supporting us to help 189 Victorians create greater mental wellness.

#### **CONNECTIONS PLACE CLUBHOUSE SUSTAINABLE CORE FUNDING**

Annual core funding need: **\$346,000**

Current program participant cost (189 members): **\$2,000**

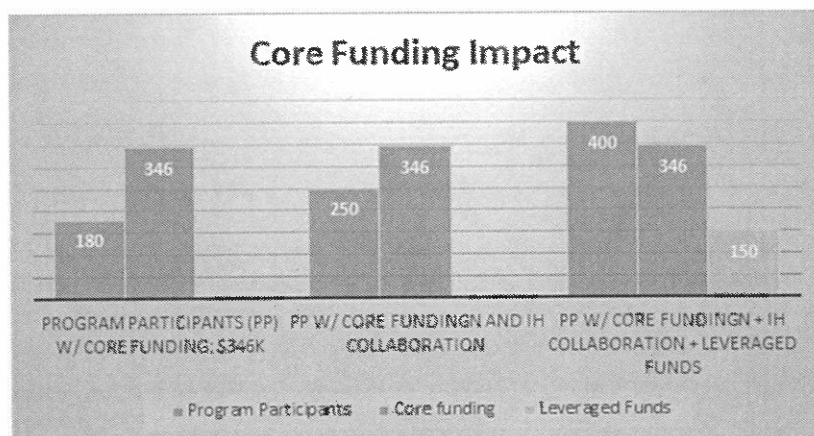
Projected Program participant cost with partnerships (250 members): **\$1,385**

By securing our annual funding need of **\$346,000**

Connections Place Society can leverage its yearly Fund Development capacity of **\$150,000 +**

To provide an annual Operational budget and services of approximately: **\$500,000**

Program participant cost with \$500,000 budget (400 members): **\$1,250**



### **THREE-YEAR PLAN:**

As we work towards the achievement of our two 'Focus Areas' – sustainable core funding and increased membership/programming – the Clubhouse will look to fulfill the following goals in the next three years:

1. Open Clubhouse 365 days per year (Y1)
2. Increase membership from 180 to 250 (Y1); and to then 400 members (Y2)
3. Find larger space for Connections Place to accommodate growing membership base (Y2)
4. Achieve Clubhouse International Accreditation with Clubhouse International (Q4: Y1)
5. Continue to build 'In-reach' and Outreach capacity to boost accessibility in the community while partnering with housing/support agencies and Island Health (Y1)
6. Launch Social Enterprise (Q4: Y1)
7. Create cultural support partnerships with diversity serving agencies (Y1)
8. Open 2<sup>nd</sup> Clubhouse in Westshore in partnership with external stakeholders (Y2-3)

Thank you for the time and consideration on this application. We are very excited to present this to the Township of Esquimalt via Ian Irvine, Director of Finance.

For further information or questions regarding this application please contact:

#### **CHRIS FORESTER**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – CONNECTIONS PLACE SOCIETY  
CHRIS.FORESTER@CONNECTIONSPPLACE.ORG  
250-858-0895

#### **GAVIN MEEK**

REACH-OUT & DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR – CONNECTIONS PLACE SOCIETY  
GAVIN.MEEK@CONNECTIONSPPLACE.ORG  
250-882-4321



**List of Board of Directors  
June 2021**

Ashby, Alexandra (Secretary)  
5217 Beryl Road  
Victoria, BC V8Y 2MB  
Employer: Pearson Professional Center  
Occupation: Test Administrator (Part time).  
Employer: Camosun College Center for Accessible Learning  
Occupation: Invigilator (Contract).  
Self-Employed Artist  
Phone: 250-514-5983  
Joined Board: At Inception (September 2016)  
DOB: January 30, 1990

Brown, Cherry Lynn  
667 Goyette Road  
Victoria, BC V8Z 3J5  
Retired/Caregiver  
Last Occupation: Social Worker  
Last Employer: Self Employed  
Phone: 250-661-0106  
Joined Board: At Inception (September 2016)  
DOB: July 29, 1950

Culham, Christine  
6659 Wallace Drive  
Brentwood Bay, BC V8M 1A2  
Employer: District of Central Saanich  
Occupation: CAO - Chief Administrative Officer  
Phone: 250-880-1609  
Joined Board: February 17, 2021  
DOB: May 19, 1971

Eggleston, Darcy  
310-1635 Cook Street  
Victoria, BC V8T 3N9  
Employer: Ministry of Attorney General  
Occupation: Retired  
Last Occupation: Province of BC, Superintendent, Sheriff Service, Vancouver Island Region )  
Phone: 778-350-5132  
Joined Board: February 2020  
DOB: July 10, 1959

McManus, Sandra  
5098 Lakeridge Pl  
Victoria, BC V8Y 1W7  
Employer: Self-Employed  
Occupation: Realtor  
Phone: 250-858-6711  
Joined Board: At Inception (September 2016)  
DOB: February 6, 1957

Powell, Jackie (Chair)  
2063 Renfrew Road  
Victoria, BC V8P 1S3  
Retired  
Employer: Buckingham Manor  
Occupation: Property Management  
Phone: 250-812-0922  
Joined Board: At Inception (September 2016)  
DOB: September 30, 1955

Shiple, Jeany Lucy (Treasurer)  
2451 Sutton Road  
Victoria, BC V8N 1J1  
Employer: Province of BC, Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD)  
Occupation: Accountant (CPA, CGA)  
Phone: 250-514-7432  
Joined Board: October, 2019  
DOB: June 13, 1971



# OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

850 CALEDONIA AVENUE VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA V8T 5J8 T: 250.995.7217

May 26, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

**Re: VicPD Support for Connections Place**

The Victoria Police Department is a proud supporter of Connections Place and I am extremely proud of the uninterrupted services they have been able to provide throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is estimated that there are over 80,000 people living in the Greater Victoria area with a mental illness which can lead to loneliness, isolation, and poverty. Statistics also indicate that 1 in 4 adults will experience mental illness in their lifetime and 1 in 25 will experience a serious mental illness such as bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and major depression. These individuals are often in critical need of receiving services that they are unable to obtain despite there being numerous agencies within our city that assist with these circumstances in some capacity. The inability to access mental health services and supports is one of the biggest factors that contributes to more calls for police. I believe that a holistic community approach remains essential which is why VicPD wholly supports the critical services provided by Connections Place.

Connections Place opened their doors in March 2019 and now has 190 members. They are Victoria's only Clubhouse and are part of a network of over 330 Clubhouse models worldwide which are evidence based, scientifically proven models of rehabilitation, and recognized by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) USA. The Clubhouse model is based on 37 international standards that promote strong recovery outcomes and provide opportunities for friendships, employment, education, and housing in one location for those experiencing serious and persistent mental illness. Despite the unique challenges created by COVID-19, Connections Place has continued to offer these important services and collaboration remains ongoing with various employment and social programming agencies.

Connections Place continues to strive for sustainable funding to ensure they will be able to provide this meaningful and valuable community-based program. Their goal is to follow all 37 international standards and VicPD is pleased to advocate for this rehabilitation program. It provides the skills and resources necessary for persons with mental health challenges to live productive and independent lives which will inevitably lead to a healthier communities and result in fewer police contacts.

Yours truly,

Del Manak



# SAANICH POLICE

*.....keeping Saanich safe since 1906*

SCOTT GREEN  
CHIEF CONSTABLE

March 31, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

**Re: Saanich Police Department Support for Connections Place**

The purpose of this letter is to convey our support for Connections Place in relation to their goal of achieving a sustainable funding model for program delivery and related expenses.

Connections Place offers individuals living with mental illness opportunities for friendship, employment, housing, education, and access to medical and psychiatric services in a safe environment assisting them to recover and fully participate as valued and respected members of society.

I recently visited Connections Place and was very impressed with the Clubhouse Model and their scientifically validated, evidence-based, proven approach to recovery from mental illness. I believe this program will assist in reducing calls for service for police, and, more importantly, provide the much-needed level of support and care that those living with mental health issues deserve.

Connections Place has the full support of the Saanich Police Department in their efforts to establish sustainable funding for their programs through Island Health and the province.

Sincerely,

Scott Greer, M.O.M., MPA  
Chief Constable

SG/kbt





Excellent care, for everyone,  
everywhere, every time.



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Victoria Mental Health Centre  
2328 Trent Street  
Victoria, BC V8R 4Z3

May 31, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Victoria Mental Health Centre in support of Connection Place Clubhouse. During my time at VMHC, I have come to know the direct and significant impact that Connection Place has had on our client's lives. I have come to know this service as an extremely accessible and low barrier program, of which is dearly needed in our community; a population that is often stigmatized. This Clubhouse is a tremendous service to the community in which it functions and I would urge you to consider this as a valuable asset in which to support.

Thank you for your consideration,

Carly Koeppen, BScN  
Clinical Nurse Educator, Victoria Mental Health Centre  
[Carly.koeppen@viha.ca](mailto:Carly.koeppen@viha.ca)  
250-519-7700 ext 13112



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
of BRITISH COLUMBIA



Rob Fleming, MLA  
Victoria-Swan Lake

June 15th, 2021

Connections Place  
3375 Oak Street  
Victoria BC V8X 1R2

Dear community partner,

I want to express my enthusiastic support for Connections Place Society as Vancouver Island's only community mental health focused agency providing the Clubhouse International model of Psycho Social Rehabilitation in their applications for core sustainable funding.

Many members in our region have had a positive impact from the supports given by Connections Place. The clubhouse represents 'community and opportunity.' Through a sense of community and belonging, the building of meaningful relationships with staff and members alike, and the opportunity to take part in employment and social programming, clubhouse 'members' are able to build and experience greater levels of personal wellness, stability and societal integration.

The population of Saanich is growing fast, and our residents in Victoria-Swan Lake need more community-based support programs to respond to the needs of our community. Core sustainable funding will allow Connections Place to expand its programming while increasing its membership. Connections Place believe that they and their clubhouse model are positioned well to not only collaborate with existing services to create new and innovative programming but also scale up to meet the need of the Greater Victoria Region, and I certainly agree.

Thank you too all of those who have been working on the frontlines and spearheading these important programs in our community. My appreciation to them, along with my wholehearted support.

Sincerely,

Rob Fleming, MLA

June 1, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the PSR Collaborative, I am pleased to provide this letter of support. Connections Place is the realization of years of dedicated effort by volunteers, staff and funders that has garnered broad community support. There are many gaps in mental health services being addressed by community based non-profit organizations. Connections Place addresses one of those gaps by providing an environment where people with mental health challenges can find friendship and meaning to support their journey of recovery.

Connections Place also serves an important role as a member of the Greater Victoria Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR) Collaborative which includes 8 organizations in Greater Victoria dedicated to enhancing community-based mental health services across the region. The Connections Place Clubhouse is a significant contribution to the goals of the Collaborative.

The PSR Collaborative is pleased to support Connections Place Society's bid for funding. It is laudable that Saanich Council recognize the important role non-profit mental health service providers play in contributing to the overall well-being of our community.



Lori Ferguson  
Victoria Cool Aid Society  
Co-Chair, PSR Collaborative



Ben Kangasniemi  
Family Voices for Mental Wellness  
Co-Chair, PSR Collaborative

PSR Collaborative member organizations:

Canadian Mental Health Association, BC Division  
Connections Place  
Victoria Cool Aid Society, REES Program  
Family Voices for Mental Wellness  
Island Community Mental Health Association  
Island Health, Mental Health & Substance Use  
Mental Health Recovery Partners (formally BCSS, Victoria)

## Chris Forester

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**From:** Rob Rose Art <robroseart@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** June 11, 2021 9:26 AM  
**To:** Chris Forester  
**Subject:** Connections Letter

Hello. I'm an active member of Connections Place. I am so fortunate and grateful to have found Connections Place when I needed a supportive environment the most. Because of my mental health condition, I often feel isolated and alone. I strongly believe that while coping with my condition, isolation is the enemy and that connection is everything. I often isolate when life gets tough. I realize that everyone needs and benefits from making connections - especially with other individuals with lived mental health experience.

That's what brought me to Connections Place. I love that it's a calm environment where all of the members there are trying to be well. I get to see others trying and it inspires me to keep trying. That's really important to me.

I see Connections Place as a truly special inclusive environment that offers so many fun activities and starts important conversations with fellow members and staff.

In closing, I will add that I am feeling a strong sense of mental wellness these days. Connections Place is one of the main reasons I am thriving these days.

Thank you.  
-Robbie