



Adam Walker, MLA
Parksville - Qualicum

To Whom it may concern,

RE: Parksville-Qualicum Community Foundation Grant Application

I am writing this letter in full support of the application being put forward by the Parksville Community Centre Society (PCCS) concerning their application to the Parksville-Qualicum Community Foundation Grant. The application will allow the PCCS to establish a community centre at 223 Mills Street in Parksville, which will allow local organizations and individuals to use this space for a variety of community activities and events. Any efforts to create spaces for community connection and accessibility should be celebrated and championed.

The PCCS was founded in 1996 with a mandate to oversee the planning, fundraising, and construction of a community centre, which would replace the previous facility that had been in operation since 1948. A new centre was opened in 2003, with support from the City of Parksville, School District 69, and Vancouver Island University. This facility ran for 18 years, and its operations ended in 2020. This Centre has now been converted to a childcare space, a location to host teen activities, and a support space for young families. In March 2022, the PCCS was able to locate a new space to become the next Parksville Community Centre. This facility will host a broad range of community activities from over 20 local organizations and private individuals, using the space for everything from business meetings to trade shows, from educational seminars to sporting events. By creating this new Centre, the PCCS can support all of these local activities that might otherwise not have a location to operate in and will promote community cooperation and connection through the events held there.

The proposed new site at 223 Mills Street will make available six large rooms between 600 and 850 square feet each, which can be rented and utilized either individually or together for the organizations and individuals using them. There are also eight smaller offices available for hourly, daily, weekly, or monthly rental as required. This building was vacant for two years, but it has been recently upgraded structurally to ensure that it is of good standing. With that being said, this versatile space still needs time, effort, and financial resources to improve the interior of the building, so that it can be a high-quality and functional space ready for all community members. Through this grant, access ramps will be added, fire alarms and sprinklers will be inspected and repaired as necessary, windows will be replaced, and painting will be completed to breathe new life into the facility, while also ensuring that it is a safe and accessible space for all there.

I respectfully support the Parksville Community Centre Society in their application to the Parksville-Qualicum Community Foundation Grant to help fund the upgrades to the 223 Mills Street space. As a former Councillor for Town of Qualicum Beach, and now as the MLA representing this community, I have seen the challenges from both levels of government in efforts to improve our community spaces and services, and by supporting this initiative, our community activities and events will have a new place to call home for years to come. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further elaboration relating to the support of this issue.

Sincerely,

Adam Walker
Member of Legislative Assembly for Parksville-Qualicum

Parksville - Qualicum Constituency Office

A-184 Second Avenue West
Qualicum Beach, B.C. V9K 2T5
T 250.248.2625 | F 250.248.2787
Adam.Walker.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Legislative Office

East Annex, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4
T 250.387.3655 | F 250.387.4860