



## SHACKAN INDIAN BAND

PO Box 1360

2099 Granite Avenue

Merritt, B.C. V1K 1M9

Phone: 250-378-5410 Fax: 250-378-5219

[www.shackan.ca](http://www.shackan.ca)

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To Mayor & City Council:

Re: New Rental Housing Units under Building BC Community Housing Fund

Please consider this a letter of support for the application from Nicola Native Lodge Society to construct 46 units of inter-generational affordable housing at 2640 Spring Bank Avenue, Merritt.

This project will help to close the gaps identified in the Aboriginal Housing Management Associations report *Closing the Gap, Housing Needs and Priorities of B.C.'s Urban Aboriginal People*.

The Calls to Action on Truth and Reconciliation speak to recognizing and providing culturally appropriate health, education and language opportunities to those Aboriginals not living on reserves. The Calls to Action also recognize that *"iv. The preservation, revitalization, and strengthening of Aboriginal languages and cultures are best managed by Aboriginal people and communities"* (Calls to Action, 14(iv) ). Living in a centralized location will provide greater access to these culturally appropriate opportunities.

Sincerely,

Chief Jordan Joe

# CONAYT FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

2164 Quilchena Avenue, Box 189, Merritt, B.C. V1K 1B8

Phone (250) 378-5107

Email: [ed@conayt.com](mailto:ed@conayt.com)

2021 January 18<sup>th</sup>,

**To:**

Mayor Linda Brown & City Council  
City of Merritt  
PO Box 189  
2185 Voght Street  
Merritt, BC, V1K 1B8

**To Whomever it may concern:**

Conayt Friendship Society has built a community image to improve holistically the quality of life, cultural distinctiveness, and strengthening friendship and cooperation between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal members in our community. In 1975, under the Societies Act, the Province of British Columbia recognized the Nicola Valley Friendship and Counselling Society as a non-profit community-based organization. Today that community-based organization is now Conayt Friendship Society and we continue to help Indigenous people in the community of Merritt.

We, at Conayt Friendship Society, understand that the Nicola Native Lodge Society is applying to rezone their property located at 2640 Spring Bank Ave, Merritt. Once rezoned the proposal is to construct a multi-family inter-generational project for Elder and families. This is very encouraging to both Conayt Friendship Society and the people that we support in the Merritt community. This much-needed project demonstrates that supporting a broad range of housing options is a noted priority for the City of Merritt.

We, at Conayt Friendship Society, support the rezoning and proposed housing project which would provide much needed housing for elders and families who are currently struggling to find safe, secure, and affordable housing. The proposed housing will enhance and foster a broader sense of community with the City of Merritt.

In good spirit,



Kelly L'Hirondelle  
Executive Director  
*Conayt Friendship Society*



January 14, 2021

To Mayor & Merritt City Council

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology [NVIT] is BC's Indigenous Public Post-Secondary Institute. Founded in 1983 by the five bands of the Nicola Valley, NVIT was created to provide a place for Indigenous people to study in a supportive environment. NVIT is governed by a First Nations Board of Governors with representatives from the five founding bands. NVIT is supported by an Elders Council with representatives from each of the founding bands as well as additional First Nation's and Metis representatives. Our Elders provide cultural support through smudging, prayers, cultural activities and social events for our learners. The Elders are a source of pride and comfort for NVIT.

I understand that the Nicola Native Lodge Society is applying to rezone their property located at 2640 Spring Bank Ave, Merritt. Once rezoned the proposal is to construct a multi-family inter-generational project for Elders and families. The property has been owned by Nicola Native Lodge Society since 2004 and was purchased to provide long term, stable and affordable community housing. Encouraging and supporting a broad range of housing options is a noted priority for the City of Merritt.

I fully support the rezoning and proposed housing project which would provide much needed housing for elders and families who are currently struggling to find safe, secure and affordable housing. The proposed housing will enhance and foster a broader sense of community within the City of Merritt.

Sincerely,

Ken Tourand  
President & CEO  
NVIT

**NICOLA VALLEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**

**MERRITT CAMPUS:**  
4155 Belshaw St,  
Merritt, BC, V1K 1R1

**TOLL FREE: 1.877.682.3300**  
**WEBSITE: [nvit.ca](http://nvit.ca)**



**VANCOUVER CAMPUS:**  
200-4355 Mathissi Place  
Burnaby, BC, V5G 4S8

2196 Quilchena Avenue  
P.O. Box 697  
Merritt, BC V1K 1B8  
(250) 315.0098  
[www.askwellness.ca](http://www.askwellness.ca)



**Wellness Society**

ASKWELLNESS.CA

**Streets→ Homes→ Health→ Employment**

**Kamloops / Merritt / Penticton**

January 15, 2021

Dear Chief Jordan Joe:

ASK Wellness enthusiastically expresses our support to the Nicola Native Lodge Society's application for the development of a 47-unit affordable housing project on their property located at 2640 Spring Bank Avenue, Merritt.

As a city and region, we are facing a housing affordability crisis, and one of the most important actions we can take to address this crisis is to build more geographically diverse affordable housing options in the Nicola Valley. After almost 15 years of ASK providing housing services to our community, it is evident that we have many families and seniors in our community teetering on the brink of homelessness due to the lack of accessible, safe, affordable housing options.

Housing is a basic human right. We as a community have a responsibility to work together to create inclusive neighborhoods where all those living in our great city have access to affordable housing.

In Support,

**Keri Cooke**  
Director of Merritt Operations  
ASK Wellness Society

**Neil Menard**  
Board of Director  
ASK Wellness Society

**ASK Wellness Society Mission: To provide outreach, housing, health, education, employment and emotional support services for the marginalized and persons at risk.**



# *Scw'exmx Child and Family Services Society*

*Our children, Our responsibility*

2975 Clapperton Ave • Merritt, BC • V1K 1G2

Tel: (250) 378-2771 Fax: (250) 378-2799 Tel Toll Free: (877) 378-2773

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January 19, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

Scw'exmx Child and Family Services Society understands that the Nicola Native Lodge Society is applying to rezone their property located at 2640 Spring Bank Ave, Merritt.

Once rezoned the proposal is to construct a multi-family inter-generational project for elders and families. The property has been owned by Nicola Native Lodge Society since 2004 and was purchased to provide long term, stable and affordable community housing. Encouraging and supporting a broad range of housing options is a noted priority for the City of Merritt.

I Lisa Post, Executive Director of Scw'exmx Child and Family Services Society support the rezoning and proposed housing project which would provide much needed housing for elders and families who are currently struggling to find safe, secure and affordable housing. The proposed housing will enhance and foster a broader sense of community with the City of Merritt.

If you have any questions regarding this support, please email me at [Lisa.Post@scwexmx.com](mailto:Lisa.Post@scwexmx.com) or call me at (250) 378-2771.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Post', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Lisa Post  
Executive Director





# *Scw'exmx Child and Family Services Society*

*Our children, Our responsibility*

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Tel: (250) 378-2771 Fax: (250) 378-2799 Tel Toll Free: (877) 378-2773

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January 19, 2021

BC Housing Management Commission  
#1701 4555 Kingsway  
Burnaby, BC  
V5H 4V8

To Whom it May Concern:

Re: New Rental Housing Units under Building BC Community Housing Fund

Please consider this a letter of support for the application from Nicola Native Lodge Society to construct 46 units of inter-generational affordable housing at 2640 Spring Bank Avenue, Merritt.

This project will help to close the gaps identified in the Aboriginal Housing Management Associations report Closing the Gap, Housing Needs and Priorities of B.C.'s Urban Aboriginal People.

The Calls to Action on Truth and Reconciliation speak to recognizing and providing culturally appropriate health, education and language opportunities to those Aboriginals not living on reserves. The Calls to Action also recognize that "iv. The preservation, revitalization, and strengthening of Aboriginal languages and cultures are best managed by Aboriginal people and communities" (Calls to Action, 14(iv) ). Living in a centralized location will provide greater access to these culturally appropriate opportunities.

If you have any questions regarding this support, please email me at [Lisa.Post@scwexmx.com](mailto:Lisa.Post@scwexmx.com) or call me at (250) 378-2771.

Sincerely,

A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to be 'Lisa Post', with a large, flowing loop extending to the right.

Lisa Post  
Executive Director



**Aboriginal Housing Management Association**

## **Letter of Support**

January 18, 2021

**To:**

Mayor Linda Brown & City Council  
PO Box 189  
2185 Voght Street,  
Merritt, BC, V1K 1B8

On behalf of the Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA), please accept this letter of support for Nicola Native Lodge Society (NNLS).

AHMA is an umbrella organization composed of 41 Indigenous housing and service providers who serve over 5000 Indigenous families across BC. We are direct partners with Provincial government, and our mission is to advance the housing rights for all Indigenous Peoples living in BC.

Nicola Native Lodge Society is applying to rezone their property located at 2640 Spring Bank Avenue in Merritt. Once rezoned, the proposal is to construct a multi-family inter-generational project for Elders and families. The property has been owned by Nicola Native Lodge Society since 2004 and was purchased to provide long term, stable and affordable housing. Encouraging and supporting a broad range of housing options is a noted priority for the City of Merritt. AHMA is confident that NNLS's proposed housing will enhance and foster a broader sense of community with the City of Merritt.

There remains significant uncertainty and lack of acknowledgement for Indigenous-specific housing needs and strategies in British Columbia. Through the delivery of culturally appropriate housing, the NNLS will not only help fill these gaps but ultimately strengthen and empower Indigenous community members in Merritt and throughout the Okanagan.

AHMA is committed to the development of this new project as it will offer innovative and indigenized solutions that will provide desperately needed housing for elders and families who are currently struggling to find safe, secure, and affordable housing.

All my relations,

Margaret Pfoh  
Chief Executive Officer, AHMA



## **SCW'EXMX COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES SOCIETY**

#103 – 2090 Coutlee Avenue  
P.O. Box 3090 Merritt, BC V1K 1B8  
Telephone: (250) 378-9745  
Fax: (250) 378-4962  
E-mail: [reception@schss.com](mailto:reception@schss.com)

January 15, 2021

To Whom it May Concern:

Scw'exmx Community Health Services Society (SCHSS) understands that the Nicola Native Lodge Society is applying to rezone their property located at 2640 Spring Bank Ave, Merritt.

Once rezoned the proposal is to construct a multi-family inter-generational project for Elder and families. The property has been owned by Nicola Native Lodge Society since 2004 and was purchased to provide long term, stable and affordable community housing. Encouraging and supporting a board range of housing options is a noted priority for the City of Merritt.

SCHSS supports the rezoning and proposed housing project which would provide much needed housing for elders and families who are currently struggling to find safe, secure and affordable housing. The proposed housing will enhance and foster a broader sense of community with the City of Merritt.

Yours,

Jim Adams, CGA, CAFM, MBA  
Executive Director  
Scw'exmx Community Health Services Society  
250-315-3224 (C)





## SCW'EXMX COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES SOCIETY

#103 – 2090 Coutlee Avenue  
P.O. Box 3090 Merritt, BC V1K 1B8  
Telephone: (250) 378-9745  
Fax: (250) 378-4962  
E-mail: reception@schss.com

January 15, 2021

BC Housing Management Commission  
#1701 4555 Kingsway  
Burnaby, BC  
V5H 4V8

To Whom it May Concern:

Re: New Rental Housing Units under Building BC Community Housing Fund

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Yours,

Jim Adams, CGA, CAFM, MBA  
Executive Director  
Scw'exmx Community Health Services Society  
250-315-3224 (C)