

Ginny Gemmell

From: Rob Douglas
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 8:35 AM
To: Dominic Rockall; Council
Subject: RE: Clements Centre for Families visit

Hi Dominic,

Thank you for inviting North Cowichan Council to the Clements Centre for Families to learn more about the critical services your organization provides to individuals and families in our community. I appreciated hearing about the challenges some of your clients face, particularly those experiencing homelessness and the important work the Clements Centre is doing to connect these folks to services. This is an aspect of the housing crisis that many of us weren't very familiar with.

I would be happy advocate to the Province on following through on the commitments as outlined in the Pathway to Hope initiative and the Ministry for Children and Family Development 2023 budget. I will work with municipal staff to include this as a discussion item in the next Council meeting, and would envision writing to the appropriate minister(s) as a first step.

During our meeting there was discussion of North Cowichan developing a "Health and Social Wellbeing Strategy" and of the Clements Centre contributing to this. I wanted to let you know that last week Council provided municipal staff with direction on an implementation plan for our new Official Community, and the Health and Social Wellbeing was among the 18 projects listed. We still need to sort out possible timing, resources, scope, etc., for this project (unfortunately we have many competing priorities and limited resources) but will keep you updated.

Thanks again,
Rob

Rob Douglas, Mayor
Municipality of North Cowichan
Ph: 250 710-0593

From: Dominic Rockall <drockall@clementscentre.org>
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2023 3:58 PM
To: Council <council@northcowichan.ca>
Subject: Clements Centre for Families visit

Dear Mayor and Council,

On behalf of Clements Centre for Families, I am writing to extend our deepest appreciation for the visit you made to Clements Centre. Your presence meant a great deal to us, and we are honored to have had the opportunity to share with you some of the significant challenges faced by the individuals and families we serve in our community.

Your willingness to engage with us and actively listen to the stories and experiences of those we assist was very much appreciated. Your commitment to understanding the issues they encounter daily demonstrates the genuine care and concern you have for the well-being of our community's most vulnerable members.

Moreover, we deeply appreciate the thoughtful questions and suggestions offered during the meeting. We are eager to collaborate with the municipality to develop innovative solutions that can further empower and uplift the marginalized members of our community.

I have attached two documents as we discussed at the meeting:

1. One is the Pathway to Hope initiative that was launched in 2019. On pages 18 and 19 there are references made to enhancing services at child development centres. This has not happened yet.
2. The other is an outline of the Ministry for Children and Family Development 2023 budget. At the bottom of page 4 it describes progress on the Pathway to Hope initiative. Despite all the funding they indicate has gone into this initiative we have not seen any changes or improvements for mental health supports at child development centres in BC. There has been no growth in MCFD funded early years mental health programs at child development centres . On page 5 it talks about an additional 90 foundational program therapists. This has not happened yet either.

Any advocacy that you can provide to advance the government plans would be very much appreciated. The introduction of infant mental health services to child development centres would be a great benefit for families. Plus, the waitlist for therapists for individual therapy is 12-18 months so we need the 90 fte funding to roll out ASAP.

Once again, thank you for your visit and for taking the time to understand the work we do. We are incredibly grateful for your dedication to public service and the compassion you demonstrate towards the needs of our community.

If there is anything else we can provide or if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We eagerly anticipate the opportunity to collaborate with you in making our community a better place for all.

With sincere gratitude and warmest regards,

Dominic Rockall

Dominic Rockall (he, him)

Chief Executive Officer

drockall@clementscentre.org

T: 250-746-4135 ext. 222



 Think before you print #

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We feel grateful and honoured to provide our services on the traditional and unceded territories of the Lyackson, Stz'uminus, Penelakut, Halalt, Dididaht, Pacheedaht, Quw'utsun, Malahat, and Ts'iibaa-asatuz people.

We are dedicated to building an inclusive community that comprises individuals who have an array of identities, abilities, backgrounds, cultures, skills, perspectives, and experiences that are representative of the current and evolving population.

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