



**Cranbrook & District
Community Foundation**

Investing in Community For Good and For Ever

August 31, 2015

RE: Update East Kootenay Housing First Project

Cranbrook and District Community Foundation (CDCF) has been actively involved in the Salvation Army Housing First project since its inception. We have been an active fundraiser, collaborator and administrative supporter. We have worked extensively with Bentsen Homes Development Consultants to re-develop a Housing First facility (BC Housing Project No. 93559).

CDCF has raised over \$346,000 for pre-development and soft costs. We have also secured a \$260,000 commitment from the Regional District of East Kootenay for soft costs to be allocated over a two year period. Communities of Cranbrook, Kimberley, Elkford, Invermere and Sparwood have all provided funding for this project. In addition Regional District of East Kootenay electoral areas A, B, C and F have also provided funding to this project.

The redeveloped Pro Forma and Fact sheet are attached to this letter will be going forward for review by BC Housing the week of September 1, 2015.

We are contacting you today to provide an update, assure the integrity of the project going forward; communicate the capacity of the Salvation Army to provide quality services and the ability of Cranbrook and District Community Foundation to accelerate fundraising once a commitment from BC Housing has been made.

There is a significant amount of support in our area for a Housing First project that will provide transitional housing for our area's most vulnerable citizens. Currently Canadian Mental Health Association Kootenays (CMHA) is an excellent leader in the development of long-term low income housing for single people with mental and physical disabilities; seniors with moderate to low income; housing for low income families and transitional housing for women and their children fleeing domestic violence.

Our goal is to not replicate those services, our goal is to provide transitional housing for low income people in an immediate housing crisis. We do aim to provide a short term housing facility that complies with public health and safety standards and is accessible to all levels of ability. This facility will better equip people to secure stable and permanent housing, and develop and strengthen their skills and connections to set them up for ongoing success.

Sincerely,

Riley Wilcox,
Executive Director