

December 20, 2012

Wendy Hansson
Chief Operating Officer
Vancouver Coastal Health
11th Floor, 601 W. Broadway
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4C2

RE: Designation of space at the HOpe Centre for Mental Health

Dear Wendy:

At a recent President's Council Meeting of the North Vancouver School District, we reviewed the attached letter from the West Vancouver Board of Education and partner groups regarding the potential designation of space at the HOpe Centre for Mental Health.

We are in full agreement with the perspective provided by our colleagues and similarly urge you to designate this space for youth in our community and the mental health issues they may be facing. The current arrangement of placing a teenager admitted to Lions Gate Hospital with acute mental health problems in either the adult psychiatric ward or in pediatrics does not serve the best interests of our vulnerable youth.

We also recognize the value of serving our students in their home school and have implemented a number of initiatives to support this direction. The North Vancouver School District has recently established Choices as an intervention within each of our secondary schools to provide increased support for our vulnerable youth within their home school. We have increased our emphasis on Social and Emotional learning for all students and have recently consolidated our Alternate Education programs with the establishment of Mountainside Secondary School.

We recognize the present limitations placed on our community in regards to supporting vulnerable youth who may require hospital intervention. Our current partnership with MCFD and VCH would certainly benefit from increased opportunities for our children and youth to receive needed mental health supports within our community in a dedicated space, and tailored to their specific needs.

We fully endorse the dedication of space within the new HOpe Centre for Mental Health, to support our youth in need.

We appreciate your consideration of this issue, and look forward to working with our community partners on behalf of our youth.

.../2





Sincerely,

NORTH VANCOUVER
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Handwritten signature of John Lewis in black ink.

John Lewis
Superintendent of schools

NORTH VANCOUVER
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Handwritten signature of Franci Stratton in black ink.

Franci Stratton
Board Chair

NORTH VANCOUVER
PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Handwritten signature of David Whitehead in black ink.

David Whitehead
NVPAC Chair

NORTH VANCOUVER
ADMINISTRATORS

Handwritten signature of Mark James in black ink.

Mark James
Co-Chair

NORTH VANCOUVER
ADMINISTRATORS

Handwritten signature of Bill Reid in black ink.

Bill Reid
Co-Chair

CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC
EMPLOYEES (LOCAL 389)

Handwritten signature of Cindy McQueen in black ink.

Cindy McQueen
President

NORTH VANCOUVER
TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Handwritten signature of Daniel Storms in black ink.

Daniel Storms
President

c.c. Dr. David Ostrow, CEO, VCH
Elizabeth Stanger, Coastal Director, MH and Addictions
Yasmin Jetha, Regional Director, MH and Addictions
Cindy Dekker, West Vancouver Board of Education, Board Chair