

Office of Mayor George V. Harvie City of Delta



April 13, 2022

The Honourable John Horgan Premier of British Columbia PO Box 9041, Stn Prov Govt Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Dear Premier,

Re: Delta Hospice Society Control of Community Assets

At their recent annual general meeting, the Delta Hospice Society voted to re-elect its current Board, and approved amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws to preclude the provision of Medical Assistance in Dying. Online voting is now also allowed at all future meetings.

Unfortunately, this means that Delta Hospice Society retains control of the charity shop in Tsawwassen – a \$3 million community asset run by community volunteers that generates hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenue each year to support hospice services.

The Delta Hospice Society does not represent the interests of the Delta community. The Board has been actively recruiting members who are sympathetic to their religious and pro-life beliefs. Of the 13,518 voting members, only 2,919 are from Delta. The rest are from other parts of Canada or outside the country.

The Tsawwassen thrift store was created using community funds for the purpose of generating income to support services at the Irene Thomas Hospice. Instead, the revenue generated by the Tsawwassen thrift store is now being used by Delta Hospice Society to support a national 1-800 palliative care help line.

We greatly appreciate the actions you have taken to date to restore the management of the Irene Thomas Hospice to Fraser Health Authority. Nevertheless, I would urge you to take whatever steps you can to ensure that thrift store assets and revenue are restored to the Irene Thomas Hospice as originally intended by the Delta community.

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Yours truly,

George V. Harvie

Mayor

cc: The Hon. Adrian Dix, Minister of Health

The Hon. Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion

The Hon. Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation Ian Paton, MLA Delta South

Delta Council

Sean McGill, City Manager

Mel Cheesman, Director of Corporate Services