Cowichan Neighbourhood House Association
Box 457, 9806 Willow St.
Chemainus, BC V0R 1K0
Phone/Fax (250) 246-3203
info@cnha.ca www.cnha.ca

October 26th, 2026

Letter of Intent

To Whom It May Concern:

In abidance to the Assistance to Shelter Act [SBC 2009] Chapter 32, this is a kind request for a temporary use permit for a community-based temporary Extreme Weather Response (EWR) space in Chemainus, BC to address the extreme weather that threatens the health and safety of our 23 neighbours who are experiencing or at-risk of experiencing homelessness in our neighbourhood. Over the several years that our core community volunteers have generously volunteered their time and energy providing safe overnight shelter support for our vulnerable community members during extreme weather events in Chemainus, the frequency and critical need for the emergency response has increased beyond the capacity of which volunteers alone could accommodate.

In the most recent Point in Time Count in October 2026, we identified 32 neighbours who lived in Chemainus for more than 5 years, many of them senior citizens, who are currently unhoused or precariously housed, homeless or at risk of homelessness. As concerned neighbours and citizens who are invested in the dignified treatment of all community members, the decision was made to ensure that our Chemainus/North Cowichan neighbours who are unhoused and imperilled by extreme weather must have safety in the form of a temporary EWR space in their home community. The intent is to partner with BC Housing and community partners to secure an experienced, well trained, well managed support team with proactive oversight.

This permit will support a time-limited temporary seasonal shelter space located at Unit 5- 9806 Willow Street in Chemainus, between the hours of 8:30pm through 7am from November 18th 2026 through April 30th, 2027. This temporary community amenity will be funded by BC Housing under the EWR program in

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partnership with Lookout Housing and Health Society and Cowichan Neighbourhood House Association. During extreme weather, the EWR would provide 23 neighbours/persons at risk with a safe place to dry off, warm up, and rest overnight. The EWR will be fully staffed with 3 employees and supervised, and all EWR services will remain indoors, contained within the unit. The EWR program would be supported by additional core volunteers providing additional comfort through provision of Chemainus Valley made zero-waste foods and site support. When needed, regional bus tickets will be provided to neighbours to help them relocate to other locations of safety or access the site.

We look forward to further serving our community.

Huy tseep q'u
(Thank you)