



LEARNING INITIATIVES

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November 13, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of establishing a Clubhouse International resource in Greater Victoria to support those 18 years and older living in the community with mental health issues. With over 400 of these facilities worldwide (18 in Canada), these accredited, evidence-based and effective models can address the needs of those youth and adults in our community who are impacted by mental health issues.

The Clubhouse International model seeks to provide a proactive program to provide long-term support to our most vulnerable members of our society. While assistance is provided to our developmentally disabled youth and adults as they finish in the public school system, it would be impactful to provide similar community support structures for our youth affected by mental health issues to help them with healthy living initiatives, post-secondary counseling and/ or employment training. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, mental health issues are most likely to emerge between ages 18 - 24 years as youth end their education in public schools and plan to embark on post-secondary or employment endeavors. Therefore, it would be wonderful to offer a proactive support model in the community which allows young adults to heal and have purpose in their lives as they work to get well.

According to the 2013 BC Adolescent Health Survey, 1 in 5 children and youth self-identify as having some type of mental health issue or diagnosis, and 1 in 5 adults are impacted by mental health issues at some point in their lifetime. As youth leave our school system, we support this community-based Clubhouse International initiative that could provide a long-term mental health support system to promote wellness and healthy living for everyone.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janine Roy".

Janine Roy, M.Ed.

District Principal of Learning Initiatives