

## Papadopoulos, Nikki OHCS:EX

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**From:** OHCS Correspondence Unit OHCS:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2016 1:03 PM  
**To:** Wilson, Jennifer L OHCS:EX  
**Cc:** OHCS Correspondence Unit OHCS:EX  
**Subject:** FW: 10 more people signed "Rich Coleman : Victoria Courthouse Lawn Playground"

Info file for HPB please.

Thanks

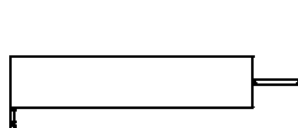
Nikki

**From:** Minister, MNGD MNGD:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2016 9:54 AM  
**To:** OHCS Correspondence Unit OHCS:EX  
**Subject:** FW: 10 more people signed "Rich Coleman : Victoria Courthouse Lawn Playground"

Please infofile  
Thank-you

**From:** Coleman.MLA, Rich [mailto:Rich.Coleman.MLA@leg.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2016 11:15 AM  
**To:** Minister, MNGD MNGD:EX  
**Subject:** FW: 10 more people signed "Rich Coleman : Victoria Courthouse Lawn Playground"

**From:** mail@changemail.org [mailto:mail@changemail.org]  
**Sent:** August 22, 2016 2:28 PM  
**To:** Coleman.MLA, Rich <Rich.Coleman.MLA@leg.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** 10 more people signed "Rich Coleman : Victoria Courthouse Lawn Playground"



**Rich Coleman** – This petition addressed to you on Change.org has new activity. See progress and respond to the campaign's supporters.

Rich Coleman : Victoria Courthouse Lawn Playground

**10 more people signed**

in the last 8 hours

[View petition activity](#)

☐ **Bronwynn Jones**

A child friendly neighborhood. A lovely idea.

☐ **Craig Burkitt**

I think families need more inner city recreation facilities.

☐ **Sheri Peterson**

I think this is absolutely wonderful idea. If I'm correct, Beacon Hill park is the closest playground. Having one at this site would allow for downtown parents and grandparents to have a playground within walking distance. Fabulous for Y families as well.

☐ **Mike and Jan Stanger**

We think it will make it impossible for a similar encampment to recur. Also it is adjacent to the "Y" and will be a good addition to children there as well as in the neighborhood and the school. Mike and Jan.

☐ **Ashley Hall**

||

[View all 10 supporters](#)

||

On Change.org, decision makers like you connect directly with people around the world to resolve issues. Respond to let the people petitioning you know you're listening, say whether you agree with their call to action, or ask them for more information. [Learn more.](#)

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[response](#)

[post a](#)

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## **Papadopoulos, Nikki OHCS:EX**

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**From:** Rotgans, Trudy OHCS:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:45 AM  
**To:** Rotgans, Trudy OHCS:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Victoria Courthouse Greenspace

**From:** Rotgans, Trudy OHCS:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 22, 2016 12:44 PM  
**To:** Sykes, Graeme MTIC:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Victoria Courthouse Greenspace

Thanks Graeme. I hope you have a great holiday!

Best regards,

Trudy Rotgans, Architect AIBC, RPP  
Executive Director

Housing Policy Branch  
Office of Housing and Construction Standards  
Ministry of Natural Gas Development and Responsible for Housing  
Cell: 250-888-0591



**From:** Sykes, Graeme MTIC:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 20, 2016 10:53 AM  
**To:** Rotgans, Trudy OHCS:EX; Holden, Virginia OHCS:EX  
**Subject:** Victoria Courthouse Greenspace

Hi Trudy and Ginnie

What a wild year at Tent City! I'm so appreciative of all the contributions you made on behalf of OHCS and the Province. You have my eternal gratitude☺

In the spirit of giving, I thought you may like an early preview of playground/memorial vision. This may all become public knowledge in January, but for now please hold in confidence. We're hoping for some more positive press when this goes public. Fingers crossed...

Since Greg is ADM now, I wasn't sure if he has an interest in seeing this. Feel free to share with him if you deem appropriate.

Enjoy your holidays!

**Graeme Sykes**

**Real Estate Manager, Asset Portfolio**

Real Property Division | Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

(250) 217-3027

Page 06 to/à Page 09

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.14

## **Papadopoulos, Nikki OHCS:EX**

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**From:** Rotgans, Trudy OHCS:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:46 AM  
**To:** Rotgans, Trudy OHCS:EX  
**Subject:** FW: September court date

**From:** Holden, Virginia OHCS:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2016 11:21 AM  
**To:** Platts, Robin GCPE:EX; Rotgans, Trudy OHCS:EX  
**Subject:** RE: September court date

I will get some clarity on that but I think it just pertains to the site.

**From:** Platts, Robin GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2016 11:15 AM  
**To:** Holden, Virginia OHCS:EX; Rotgans, Trudy OHCS:EX  
**Subject:** RE: September court date

Ah, okay. What would the September trial achieve – would it be to determine whether camping is ever to be allowed on that site, or would the ruling apply to all provincial lands?

Please keep me posted.

Robin Platts  
Government Communications and Public Engagement  
Ministry of Natural Gas Development and Responsible for Housing  
250-387-1373

**From:** Holden, Virginia OHCS:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2016 10:55 AM  
**To:** Platts, Robin GCPE:EX; Rotgans, Trudy OHCS:EX  
**Subject:** RE: September court date

Trudy spoke to <sup>s.13,s.14</sup>

**From:** Platts, Robin GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2016 10:47 AM  
**To:** Rotgans, Trudy OHCS:EX; Holden, Virginia OHCS:EX  
**Subject:** September court date

Hi

I understood the planned September court hearing around permanent injunction for the courthouse site wasn't happening anymore, but some folks seem to think it still is. (TC letter below) Can you confirm with legal?

Consultation needed on courthouse lawn

By Shelley Campbell

While walking through Cridge Park on Friday, I saw young children laughing and playing in the shade, a person on a bench quietly reading and tourists photographing the quintessential Victoria scene of lawn bowlers in white on the old CPR green, ringed by blooming multi-coloured roses. Joy for all ages! No overnight sheltering allowed!

On Saturday, I walked around the remnants of the courthouse green space, distressed trees and shrubs, no grass, rats burrowed in, continuing stench, but at least the pervading sense of menace had dissipated and I felt safe.

We have a unique opportunity to plan rejuvenation of this space to return joy to residents of all ages. So, where is the consultation with the local residents and other park users who are hearing everything from children's playground to parking lot to a continuation of camping?

There was ongoing consultation with tent-city residents while neighbours were ignored, hence the toilets, water, gravel, etc. Now we again sit without consultation.

As a good first step - for health, safety and security reasons - neighbours would expect the courthouse park to be designated as "No Camping." If the city can prohibit camping in certain parks, surely the province can, in spite of the Sept. 7 trial date on the constitutional right to camp on provincial land.

Robin Platts  
Government Communications and Public Engagement  
Ministry of Natural Gas Development and Responsible for Housing  
250-387-1373



## **Papadopoulos, Nikki OHCS:EX**

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**From:** Rotgans, Trudy OHCS:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 26, 2016 4:12 PM  
**To:** Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Holden, Virginia OHCS:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Q&A on the Courthouse remediation  
**Attachments:** QA\_Courthouse Park Remediation\_25-Oct-2016\_V2.docx

Hi Darren,  
These seem like unusual questions. I haven't had any discussion on these topics.

My thoughts highlighted below. Thanks.

Best regards,  
Trudy

**From:** Harbord, Darren GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 26, 2016 11:59 AM  
**To:** Holden, Virginia OHCS:EX  
**Cc:** Rotgans, Trudy OHCS:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Q&A on the Courthouse remediation

Hi Ginnie, MTICS is pulling together and IB and QA on the remediation plans for the courthouse lands – and they are looking for our help to develop responses for the following questions:

Not sure how best to answer the last 2 questions – are you aware of any discussions to do so?

Thanks  
Darren

### **1. Why not build social housing for the homeless in this space?**

**When we look at providing housing for those in need, we first look at cost effective solutions that will maximize the amount of housing we can provide with limited funds. In general, we can generate more housing by reusing existing buildings for the purpose. We can also generate housing more quickly when we reuse existing buildings. That's what we did though the purchase of the former Central Care Home and the former Super 8 hotel.**

Since November 2015, the Province has invested approximately \$26 million to create more than 400 new units of shelter and transitional housing (includes 51 units at the former Super 8 hotel, which has not yet opened).

That's in addition to the \$13 million that was provided in the community last year to support close to 990 housing units for the homeless.

### **2. Will you be dedicating the site to the homeless?**

**This site has been used as a park for many years and is now being transformed into an amenity that offers enjoyment to all segments of society, including the homeless. We support an approach that is inclusive.**

**3. Will you consider putting a plaque on the site to commemorate the homeless that lived there?**

We always look to support those who are homeless through providing housing and services. Our focus is on supporting individuals.

**Questions and Answers**  
**Victoria Courthouse Park Remediation**  
**October 25, 2016**

**1. What is being announced today?**

- Design plans are underway to transform the Victoria courthouse site into a new playground.
- A playground on the site emerged as the most popular choice during discussions with neighbours.
- The playground will be accessible to children of all ages and abilities.
- The site will also include components geared towards adults and seniors, including chess tables, benches and space for the practice of tai chi.

**2. Is the remediation of the site complete?**

- The removal of waste materials and rodents is complete.
- A finalized remediation and redevelopment plan is expected in the coming weeks.

**Comment [TRG1]:** What new planting is being considered for the site?

**3. What contaminants did you find in the soil?**

- Testing of soil samples determined several contaminants, including gasoline, petroleum and trace amounts of methamphetamines.

As a result of these findings, the top 1.5 feet of soil will be removed and disposed of and new soil will be added to the site.

**4. Who will be removing the soil?**

- The Ministry has retained the services of Pinchin, one of Canada's largest environmental, engineering, health and safety consulting firms.
- Pinchin and its subcontractors will be responsible for removing and disposing of the soil appropriately.

**5. What can you tell me about pest control on the site?**

- Pest control is complete with good results.
- The rat population has been reduced significantly, allowing us to move into the remediation phase.

**If asked if there are still rats on the site:**

- We haven't seen any rats trapped in recent weeks, which tells us that their eradication has been a success.
- It's important to keep in mind that rats exist all over the downtown of Victoria and will never be completely eradicated.

**6. Who was consulted on building a playground on the site?**

- Four separate discussions were held with various neighbours of the site.

- Discussions have also been held with the YMCA, the Christ Church Cathedral and the Christ Church Cathedral School.
- In addition, design input will be sought by students who attend schools in the neighbourhood, including Christ Church Cathedral School and South Park Elementary School.

**7. How much will the playground cost?**

- The design of the playground is still in early stages, and final costs have not yet been determined.

**8. How is the playground being funded?**

- We are in discussions about how best to fund the playground and will have more to say about that in the coming weeks.
- We are also in discussions with the City of Victoria about upkeep and maintenance of the site.

**9. Is a courthouse really the best place for a playground?**

- We are working with the Victoria Police Department to ensure the playground is designed with security in mind – for instance, there will be clear sightlines and no hedges.
- There are many courthouses in the province that are near community facilities and we are confident in the security mechanisms in place at the courthouse.

**10. Who will be responsible for maintaining the property?**

- The Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services will retain ownership of the site.
- The province is in discussions with the City of Victoria regarding upkeep and maintenance of the site.

**11. Can you give me a timeline on when all of this stuff will be done – remediation and construction of the playground?**

**12. What other uses were suggested for the site?**

**13. How many neighbours were consulted?**

**14. Why not build social housing for the homeless in this space?**

**15. Will you be dedicating the site to the homeless?**

**16. Will you consider putting a plaque on the site to commemorate the homeless that lived there?**

**17. How much money has the Province spent on this site since the homeless camp went up?**

## **Diacu, Raz MNGD:EX**

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**From:** Diacu, Raz MNGD:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 16, 2016 5:45 PM  
**To:** Mills, Shane PREM:EX  
**Subject:** Media requests

Hi Shane,

These were our media requests and responses today:

**Reporter:** Cassidy Olivier, Vancouver Sun and The Province

**Request:** Opposition MLA Jodie Wickens is holding a press conference at 11:30 this morning to highlight a Canadian family whose real estate transaction has fallen through due to a domino effect of a foreign buyer pulling out. Reporter wasn't sure about the details as the press conference hasn't happened yet. Is government tracking the statistics on how many sales collapse as a result of the add'l PTT or is industry?

**Reporter:** Geordan Omand, Canadian Press

**Request:** Reporter is working on a story about the Canadian family whose real estate transaction is falling through transaction due to a foreign buyer pulling out. Can the government/ Ministry Responsible for Housing comment on this?

**Deadline:** Aug. 16 @ 4pm

**Response:** "The B.C. government believes British Columbians who live and work in Metro Vancouver should be able access affordable housing, whether that is through ownership or renting. "The decision to implement the additional property transfer tax is not one that government took lightly. We believe the tax will have the intended effect of reducing demand from foreign investors until supply catches up to meet local needs. But we also understand that during this initial adjustment period, some British Columbians who were in the midst of a purchase or sale are seeing those transactions disrupted. "This transition period is expected to be short-lived, and over the long term the additional property transfer tax will help to ensure British Columbians can continue to raise their families in Metro Vancouver communities."

**Reporter:** Frances Bula, State of Vancouver Blog

**Request:** The reporter would like to speak to Minister Coleman on the announcement made by the City of Vancouver this morning about 400 new affordable rental homes. The city has said it is going ahead with four housing projects, but saying that they need provincial help to attain real affordability for them. What is the status? I know the province is looking at applications for the first round of \$50 million from the housing fund. Wondering how this all fits in. Any response, if the minister isn't available, would be good.

**BC Housing Response:** The City has applied for funding for some of the sites announced today through the Provincial Investment in Affordable Housing (PIAH) initiative. All applications are currently being evaluated. All PIAH applications will be evaluated based on the identified non-profit's experience, ability, financial standing, and suitability for each project. Successful proponents will be announced on September 26, 2016.

**Reporter:** Martin MacMahon, News 1130

**Request:** Reporter is working on a story on BC Hydro and the potential impact of fracking on its dams. He would like to speak with the minister or the ministry about this issue.

**GCPE Response (along with a copy of MRC's Op Ed):** British Columbia has strong regulations in place to protect public safety and the environment. These regulations are continually reviewed and updated as technology and new studies require. There are zones in place to isolate hydraulic fracturing operations across various areas of the province. The Province has established a 5 kilometer buffer area around the WAC Bennett, Peace Canyon and proposed Site C dams. Both the WAC Bennett dam and the Peace Canyon dam fall outside of the Montney play. As a result, unconventional development is not expected to take place near infrastructure.

**Reporter:** April Lawrence, CHEK News

**Request:** Reporter looking to wrap up her coverage of tent city; with a few questions for the ministry. What is the final total cost for tent city? Including the cost of the two injunction hearings? What are the plans/ timeline for the land now? Is the cost estimate still \$300,000? Is the soil going to be tested for contamination? Are there any plans for the property yet? Residents have suggested a playground, water fountain, etc. Will the province allow overnight camping again?

**GCPE Response:** It's too early yet to talk about what will happen to this site in the future. The focus right now is on starting to get it cleaned up cleaned up, which will take some time to do. It's also too early to provide a final figure for the various costs associated with managing and closing the encampment. The Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services is managing the site cleanup, landscaping and soil remediation. We will provide more details regarding site transition as they become available. We will continue to work hard to ensure those who need housing are directed to the appropriate resources. Part of the restoration process will be to consider what the best design and future use of the site will be. The Victoria courthouse lands are owned by the Province. The Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services is responsible for management of the site.

**Reporter:** Jason Hallman, CTV VI

**Request:** Producer would like to know what is happening at the courthouse. They can see large scale digging and ripping up going on and are curious to know about the sample taking. What is the soil being tested for? Where the soil is going to be taken for testing? How long will results take?

**Response:** The Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services is managing the site cleanup, landscaping and soil remediation. We will provide more details regarding site transition as they become available. Part of the restoration process will be to consider what the best design

and future use of the site will be. The Victoria courthouse lands are owned by the Province. The Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services is responsible for management of the site.

**Reporter:** Kerry Gold, BC Business Magazine

**Request:** Reporter following up on questions related to NPAT. Specifically, wants to know where the PIAH funding will go. Is the housing referred to in the answer below affordable housing for low income groups as opposed to supportive housing or homeless housing? The reporter is looking for housing that is for low income families, such as the ones that lived at Little Mountain. Where will this housing be located? Are locations determined? Or is this simply funding that has been put aside?

**Deadline:** Aug. 16, end of day

**BC Housing Response:** The housing developed under the Provincial Investment in Affordable Housing (PIAH) program funding will be affordable rental housing for those with low to moderate incomes. The PIAH proposal call closed June 15th and projects are currently being evaluated. The announcement of the successful proponents will be made on September 26, 2016 after which time more details will be known. The Provincial Investment in Affordable Housing (PIAH) call for submissions was province-wide, and we have received proposals from all areas of the Province. The location of the developments will be determined once the project proposals have been evaluated.





## **Diacu, Raz MNGD:EX**

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**From:** Diacu, Raz MNGD:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2016 8:08 AM  
**To:** Coleman, Rich MEM:EX  
**Subject:** Fwd: TNO: A playground for tent city site? - Katherine Dedyna - Times Colonist (Victoria)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** <tno@gov.bc.ca>  
**Date:** August 19, 2016 at 5:28:28 AM PDT  
**To:** Undisclosed recipients;;  
**Subject:** TNO: A playground for tent city site? - Katherine Dedyna - Times Colonist (Victoria)

### **A playground for tent city site?**

Times Colonist (Victoria)

19-Aug-2016

Page A04

By Katherine Dedyna

First pest control.

Then remediation - estimated at \$350,000 - will get underway on the Victoria courthouse lawn recently vacated by tent city residents.

Mayor Lisa Helps has already come out swinging in favour of the province putting a playground on the site.

"We're seeing lots of young families living downtown, and we don't have a playground downtown," she said. "The downtown population is growing and people are having kids, and they're not able to afford a single-family dwelling in Fairfield."

Helps said she has watched B.C. Housing Minister Rich Coleman suggest on TV newscasts that a playground is an option and calls it a "brilliant" idea.

"Put a playground there and everybody will be happy."

One of the benefits would be putting to rest the possibility of camping allowed on the provincially owned land.

"If there's a playground, there is no camping overnight," Helps said. "That is what our bylaw says."

The city would be interested in having some kind of maintenance arrangement to ensure such a playground would be kept in good repair, she added.

Coleman told an Aug. 12 news conference that whatever goes on the site will be "a credit to the local community, rather than some passive space," but made only an passing allusion to a playground at that time.

Issues related to remediation or future plans for the site will be handled by the B.C. Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services.

"While cleanup was occurring, it was determined that pest control is required before any remediation should begin," said a statement from the ministry Thursday. "Beginning next week, the ministry will proceed with controlling the pests, before undertaking remediation work."

The ministry will consider the best design and future use for the site "in discussion with the City of Victoria and area neighbours" as part of the remediation process.

"That process will unfold in the coming weeks. Once a site plan is determined, remediation, which will include soil removal and testing, will get underway," the statement said.

Meanwhile, the parking lot adjacent to the lawn has been cleaned and stall lines will be repainted.

Fencing will continue to surround the site and be staffed by security around the clock.

[kdedyna@timescolonist.com](mailto:kdedyna@timescolonist.com)

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## Diacu, Raz MNGD:EX

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**From:** noreply.newsondemand@gov.bc.ca  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 2, 2016 10:33 AM  
**To:** Diacu, Raz MNGD:EX  
**Subject:** BC Gov News - New playground to enhance family recreation at courthouse property



### **New playground to enhance family recreation at courthouse property**

Families will have a new playground in Victoria's downtown core as design plans are underway to transform the lawn at Victoria's courthouse.

► **READ MORE**

Services, Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

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Please do not respond to this message



## **Diacu, Raz MNGD:EX**

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**From:** Facey, Nick MTIC:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 29, 2016 12:12 PM  
**To:** Diacu, Raz MNGD:EX  
**Subject:** Fwd: Victoria Courthouse - memorial

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Categories:** Red Category

Hey Raz,

Quick clarification , the idea here is to announce in January the intention to install a memorial at the playground site and reference the fact that the society is fundraising...rather than pushing the fundraising angle solely.

Let us know if there is an any concern/appetite to announce this. The society has a public website.

I believe MRC is the liason with veterans?

Thanks,

**From:** Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 21, 2016 9:23 AM  
**To:** Facey, Nick MTIC:EX; Reddy, Brandon MTIC:EX  
**Cc:** Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Victoria Courthouse - memorial

Hey guys – This needs to be run up the flag pole...not sure how appropriate this is for us to be pushing fundraising efforts. Would suggest it's best left to the society itself.

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**From:** Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 14, 2016 4:05 PM  
**To:** Facey, Nick MTIC:EX; Reddy, Brandon MTIC:EX  
**Subject:** Victoria Courthouse - memorial

Hi there – staff have been working with two reps from a group called the Greater Victoria Afghanistan Memorial Project Society with plans to set up a memorial <https://vicaafghanistanmemorial.ca/> for fallen soldiers at the Victoria Courthouse site (timing tbc but likely before Remembrance Day 2017). Sounds like the group have been doing very well in terms of fundraising for the project and are interested in doing more in January. Would MO be interested if I were to reach out to the individuals involved to see what they might be open to? Maybe a news release and some media/social media outreach to announce their intentions and work with them on an unveiling event when the memorial is ready for installation?

Info from staff below ...

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Hi Jo

You can see the memorial on the website <https://vicaafghanistanmemorial.ca/>

- Joseph (Larry) Gollner – Retired Brigadier General Canadian Armed forces – Chair of Greater Victoria Afghanistan Memorial Project (GVAMP) Society - [pacwavecorp@telus.net](mailto:pacwavecorp@telus.net)
- Michael Heppell – Retired Brigadier General Canadian Armed forces & Victoria Fire Chief – GVAMP volunteer - s.22

The society is well connected locally, with support from the City, Veterans affairs, the Premiers office, and members of the local business community.

They've asked for communications support in the Spring, as they want to announce public fundraising in January. The City of Victoria has also offered some communications support (social media). Of course I'm happy to continue my support on behalf of MTIC's, over and above being the project sponsor for the greenspace restoration project. And if the Minister wants to be involved...