

First Credit Union secures \$25,000 grant on behalf of Powell River Hospice Society

Grant helps fundraising efforts to build a four-bed Hospice House

Powell River, BC, May 15, 2018: First Credit Union is pleased to announce that it has secured a \$25,000 grant on behalf of the Powell River Hospice Society (PRHS). Offered by credit union partner, Concentra, First Credit Union was awarded one of seventeen nationally-offered *Empowering Your Community* grants. Concentra gives \$200,000 annually to bolster the efforts of credit unions across Canada as powerful, positive influencers within their local communities. First Credit Union's grant will go towards fundraising efforts to build a four-bed Hospice House in Powell River.

The Powell River Hospice Society offers social, emotional and spiritual support to individuals at the end of their lives. PRHS is currently working with the Powell River Regional Hospital District and Vancouver Coastal Health to design and build a four-bed Hospice House that will be attached to Willingdon Creek Village, a residential care facility in Powell River. It is estimated that the project will be completed by early 2020.

News of the grant was met with excitement from the Powell River Hospice Society. "A Hospice House is something that our community needs," said PRHS president, Heather Baldwin. "There are many people who don't have enough support to be able to stay at home, which is where most people prefer to die. For people who don't have that option, hospice is the next best thing."

The approximate cost for construction is \$3 million with additional costs for furnishing. The Powell River Hospice Society received a \$400,000 grant from the BC Centre for Palliative Care in May 2016, and \$20,000 donation from First Credit Union in December 2017. They will be kicking off a campaign to raise the remainder of the funds this fall.

"As a cooperative financial institution, we look for ways to support and invest in our communities," says First Credit Union CEO, Linda Bowyer. "We recognize the importance of a Hospice House in Powell River and are pleased that we are able to contribute to making this vision a reality."

About First Credit Union

First Credit Union is the longest running credit union in BC, incorporated in 1939. With five credit union branches, over \$380 million in credit union and \$145 million in wealth management assets, the organization serves over 11,000 members in five coastal communities.

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