

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 30, 2018

## **First Credit Union Pledges \$20,000 towards Hospice House**

POWELL RIVER. First Credit Union has pledged \$20,000 to the Powell River Hospice Society towards the building of a four-bed Hospice House.

The Powell River Hospice Society 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. It is estimated that the project will be completed by the end of 2019 or early 2020.

First Credit Union Board Chair, Guy Chartier, is “delighted that we are able to support fundraising efforts to build a Home for Hospice. The Powell River Hospice Society is an important resource for the community and we are pleased to support its growth.”

The Powell River Hospice Society, a community-based, non-profit organization, offers social, emotional and spiritual support to individuals at the end of their life. A Hospice House will help to ensure that people in Powell River has compassionate end-of-life care.

“This is something that our community needs,” said Powell River Hospice Society president, Heather Baldwin. “There are many people who don’t have enough support to be able to stay at home; that’s where most people prefer to die. For people who don’t have that option, hospice is the next best thing. We are grateful to the First Credit Union for recognizing the importance of a facility like this in our community and for being early supporters of our fundraising campaign.”

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 will be kicking off a campaign to raise the remainder of the funds with a Gala this fall.

“We are a community-based organization, and our profits are given back locally in the form of patronage, sponsorships, scholarships, and donations,” Chartier explained. “First Credit Union has served Powell River for over 75 years – this donation is possible because of our members and honors our legacy of investing in our community.”

**About First Credit Union**

First Credit Union is the longest running credit union in BC, incorporated in 1939. With five insurance branches, five credit union branches, over \$380 million in credit union assets, and \$145 million in wealth management assets, the organization's 140 employees serve over 51,000 clients and members across five coastal communities.

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