



**Building Community;
Hospice Palliative Care in
the Bow Valley**

#202 1080 Railway Avenue
PO Box 40113
Canmore Crossing
Canmore T1W 1P4

August 19, 2020

Letter of Support from:

Julie Hamilton
Chair, Board of Directors
Palliative Care Society of the Bow Valley

To: Lauren Miller
Manager of Planning & Development

Alaric Fish
Senior Planner

Re: Land Use Rezoning Application from Bernie and Jan McCaffery for 3rd Avenue South Land in Canmore

The Palliative Care Society of the Bow Valley (PCSBV) is a not-for-profit society run by a volunteer Board of Directors. Palliative care is a branch of health care for individuals and families who are living with a life-limiting illness that is usually at an advanced stage. The main goal of the PCSBV is to provide comfort and dignity for the person living with the illness as well as the best quality of life for both the patient and his or her family.

While an important objective is the relief of pain and other symptoms, enhancing the overall quality of life is the primary goal. Palliative care meets not only the physical needs but also the psychological, social, cultural, emotional and spiritual needs of each person and family.

Many patients with terminal illness living in the Bow Valley, are choosing to stay at home and consequently, are not receiving the full spectrum of palliative care that is offered in an urban setting such as Calgary. This situation appears to be inconsistent with how Canmore prides itself in the quality of life it offers, and with the reasons many people choose to live in the Bow Valley.

It is for this reason that the PCSBV board of directors is moving forward with construction in Canmore of a 6-bed residential hospice which will also include day hospice palliative care programs. The board determined that the innovative approach being planned will result in a world class rural palliative care model where patients and their families will be able to choose how their palliative end of life care is to be provided. This model will be integrated seamlessly with existing palliative care, long term, cancer and acute care delivery programs based in Canmore and Banff.

In June 2019, Jan and Bernie McCaffery indicated to the PCSBV of their intention to donate 2 acres of their property in south Canmore to be used as the site to build our planned hospice. Having this property donated to the PCSBV will provide enormous benefit to residents of Canmore and the Bow Valley.

Benefits of the hospice in this location include;

- Improving quality of life for families and patients living with terminal illness.
- The full spectrum of health care needs for the Bow Valley's aging population will be met locally.
- Hospice located within proximity of Canmore town centre which avoids having to travel to Calgary for hospice care.



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- Bringing appropriate primary palliative end-of-life care to Canmore residents and other Bow Valley communities.
- Enhancing family centered care.
- Providing important and close links with the Bow Valley Community Cancer Center in the Canmore Hospital.
- Accommodating First Nations cultural needs.
- Allow the use of local contractors and businesses for construction and furnishing of the hospice.

The PCSBV is very appreciative of the donation of this property from McCaffery's and supports their application to the Town of Canmore to Re-Zone the land use of their property so that it can be used for the site for a 6- bed residential hospice. The planned facility is one story and would be designed to blend into the landscape. The location of this property is ideally situated for the purpose of a rural residential hospice with its mountain views and proximity to medical amenities.

On behalf of the PCSBV, I thank the McCaffery's for their generous support of the PCSBV and their transformational gift which not only will improve the experience of people and their families on the end of life journey but also will contribute to making Canmore a leader in rural hospice care.

Respectfully submitted

Julie Hamilton
Chair, PCSBV
403-609-8985
jchamilton52@icloud.com