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February 11, 2014

Re: Britannia Streetfront Alternative Program Quest to Climb Kilimanjaro

I write this letter in full support of Britannia Community Secondary School & the Streetfront Alternative Program, who are fundraising toward the goal of travelling to Tanzania to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, and following this to volunteer at a nearby orphanage.

The students enrolled in this program have faced adversity in their young lives, but, with the support of staff, faculty and community partners, continue to show great determination to succeed in their studies. This incredible program offers these inner city students an invaluable learning experience that I believe will have life-long impacts. I have no doubt that this journey will bring stories of hope and significant achievement to the forefront for the students. In fact, I was particularly excited to learn of their plans to climb Mount Kilimanjaro thus giving the students the chance for direct experience in achieving milestones through hard work, determination and self-discipline. Additionally, they will learn about leadership, team building and community spirit, the importance of positive lifestyle choices, and mental and physical fitness.

This once in a life time journey for the students so aptly characterizes the spirit and beliefs embodied in our community; through this experience they will gain a perspective into the wider world, broaden their relationships with the global community and gain the unparalleled learning experience of international exchange.

With a little more than a year to go before the targeted trip date of March 2015, the students & participating staff and faculty are now seeking funding sources that will help meet the cost of this incredible trip. Meeting the cost of this trip will be critical to its success. For many students, they would not otherwise be able to meet the costs of travel to the world outside the downtown core. It is the Program's hope, and mine, that sponsors will be able to assist in ensuring that students have access to this amazing learning opportunity. I know that Britannia's team, with the community's support, has the experience and ability to undertake this venture, and the opportunity that these students have to represent our community and climb Mount Kilimanjaro is unique and life transforming.

I lend my enthusiastic support to this expedition, and urge you to give every consideration to providing funding support for this endeavor. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 604-775-0790. Thank you for your kind attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenny Wai Ching Kwan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jenny Kwan, MLA
Vancouver-Mount Pleasant