Summary of Discussion on Nelson House, Saturday June 16th

Members of the Action Committee and the staff were all invited to come to a discussion on Saturday, June 16 about the current situation with Nelson House. Caroline, Marlene, Leighann and Linda were able to get together to go over what’s known and not known at this point and what could/should be done going forward that would reflect the community’s interest in Nelson House..

We were clear about and reaffirm the commitment that brought us all together, for the soonest possible restoration of safe haven for women and children that Nelson House provided. We are committed to continuing to work together with any others committed to the same purpose.

Things have been developing quickly. Of necessity some of the developments could not be shared with everyone. However there is a feeling that some mistrust has arisen that could have been avoided, and that going forward there needs to be a commitment from all to the greatest possible transparency and information sharing.

Our discussion on Saturday raised a lot of questions about how decisions are being made and by whom, about what information is being shared and what is not and why and with whom information is being shared that is not available to all who are committed to this.

The cancellation of the June 14th meeting by the existing board has allowed us all time to consider how we can best move forward together. Based on the assumption that a new interim Board of some kind will come out of the negotiations currently underway, we propose the following as requests and recommendations:

-that before any public announcement is made of whatever agreement may be reached with the current Board of Nelson House, there be a confidential briefing of all staff, all parties to the injunction application including those who signed affidavits in support, and members of the Action Committee. This can be done without breaching any confidentiality agreement provided any public release occurs immediately after the meeting;

-within one week of the conclusion of the injunction negotiations, an interim Board hold an open public meeting to explain everything that has gone on and been agreed to.

-The Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) be formally invited to participate in this meeting and in the AGM

-the interim Board immediately call publicly for nominations and volunteers to be considered for election to the Board at an AGM and/or appointed by the interim Board to fill vacancies with skills the Board will need and clearly define what abilities and experience are needed

-the interim Board work as quickly as possible to hold an AGM with all who are members and those who wish to be and that this be done in full conformity with the Bylaw including public notice, 20 day notice period, and open to the public.

- the interim Board share publicly the risk assessments and the governance review and the financial reports and invite people with the appropriate skills and experience to assist in reviewing those documents and reaching solutions to the problems that led to the closing of Nelson House.