

File: 0540-20

September 12, 2024

To: Chair, Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee

From: Deb Hopkins, Director of Corporate Services, Township of Esquimalt

**Subject:** Request for Letter of Support – Local Community Accessibility Grant Application

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The Township of Esquimalt will be applying to the Local Community Accessibility Grant Program through SPARC BC. This funding stream provides local governments with up to \$25,000 in funding to implement one of the initiatives included in the municipality's Accessibility Plan. The Township will be applying to Stream 1 – Local Government led projects – new to install an inclusive and accessible swing at the Adventure Park (adjacent to the Esquimalt Recreation Centre at 527 Fraser Street). An example of this swing component is illustrated in Figure 1 below.



Figure 1 – We-Go-Swing ([www.habitat-systems.com](http://www.habitat-systems.com))

When replacing playground equipment, Parks and Recreation Staff consider ways to make overall improvements including enhancing and promoting accessibility and inclusion. With the recent removal of a merry-go-round from this location, there is appropriate space for this addition to the Adventure Park. This park is heavily used throughout the year, with significant spikes in number of visitors during the summer season as the waterpark that is also located here is activated. Installation of this component provides an accessible play option in a central location next to the sports field and the recreation centre for families and children in the community. This would be Esquimalt's first accessible play structure specifically designed to accommodate users that does not require a transfer and promotes inclusivity by allowing multiple users to play together.

The Township has received requests via Esquimalt's accessibility feedback mechanism for the installation of accessible playground equipment in local parks, and specifically swings. This project promotes inclusion and social interaction and will help to respond to attitudes and policies relating to accessibility in the community.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deb Hopkins  
Director of Corporate Services