



**Island Kids  
Cancer  
Association**

July 5, 2023

Long Lake Flatwater Training Centre Society  
c/o 2650 Cosgrove Crescent  
Nanaimo BC V9S 3P6

Greetings,

My name is Susan Kerr, Founder and Executive Director for Island Kids Cancer Association (IKCA). We are a rapidly growing, grass roots charitable organization located in Victoria whose mandate is to provide support and outreach to kids, youth and families affected by childhood cancer across Vancouver Island including the Gulf Islands. We are currently supporting just over 200 families in various stages of this journey.

IKCA provides kids, youth and their families with events and outings on a monthly basis, and we have had a strong relationship with the Nanaimo Canoe and Kayak Club for several years. This partnership has been a part of our ongoing strategic plan, providing kids and youth with opportunities to get out and on the water and learn about water safety, having fun at the same time. The introductory paddling clinics have been amazing for our kids. Those special times on the water provide focus on fun and learning, resulting in connections, smiles, laughter and confidence. Key ingredients to quality of life while battling a life threatening and sometimes terminal illness.

IKCA's focus moving forward will be engaging our mid-north island kids and families in a bigger way and I foresee the Nanaimo Canoe and Kayak Club as an integral part of our Strategic Partnership Plan for many years to come. I am pleased to hear the construction of the Long Lake Rowing and Paddling Centre building is scheduled to begin this year. Our kids and families will benefit from a safe and welcoming space, water safety and education and boating skills, and accessible rowing and paddling opportunities for individuals with varied abilities.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on behalf of IKCA in support of the Long Lake Rowing and Paddling Centre Building. This is a truly exciting undertaking benefitting so many individuals and families.

With gratitude,

*Susan Kerr*

Susan Kerr  
Executive Director  
Island Kids Cancer Association  
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