

Kwasun Cultural Education Society

March 7, 2025

Kwasun Cultural Education Society
7931 Westholme Road,
Westholme, BC V0R 3C0

Re: SSHRC Connection Grant

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm that Kwasun Cultural Education Society provides this letter of support for the application submitted by Drs. Amanda Wager and Laura Cranmer and their team to the SSHRC Connection Grant.

This applied theatre research project is an invaluable initiative that aligns with the objectives of Calls to Action 65 (CTA 65) and holds immense potential to contribute meaningfully to the advancement of reconciliation in Canada. By supporting research that fosters healing for Indigenous peoples and deepens public understanding of their lived experiences, this project advances the collective effort towards a more just and equitable future for all Canadians.

Theatre is a powerful medium for storytelling, awareness-building, and healing. It creates space for Indigenous voices to be heard, ensuring that history is not only remembered but also honored. By integrating Indigenous languages and cultural expressions into performance, this project promotes greater understanding and respect among both Indigenous and non-Indigenous audiences. Furthermore, it fosters dialogue, engagement, and a shared sense of community, contributing to reconciliation efforts in meaningful and lasting ways.

A crucial aspect of this initiative is its focus on youth engagement. The arts provide a dynamic means for young people to explore critical local issues, including histories that have long been overlooked. By incorporating cultural knowledge and traditions into theatrical performances, students and community members can connect with their heritage, fostering empowerment, self-expression, and collective healing.

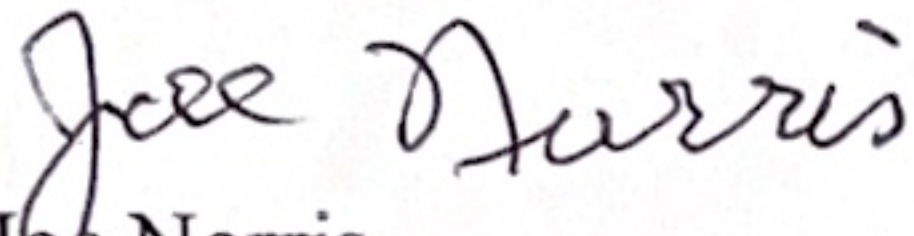
At Kwasun Cultural Education Society, we work closely with educators, youth, community members, facilitators, and partner agencies to design and implement programming that nurtures community connections from the ground up. Our mission is to create inclusive spaces where all individuals feel seen, heard, and valued. Through this work, we prioritize cultural knowledge, wellness, and intergenerational learning, recognizing the importance of fostering environments where Indigenous histories and perspectives are honored.

We are honored to support this project not only through advocacy but also through the direct participation of our elders, who will offer teachings to audience members and workshop participants. Their presence will provide invaluable wisdom, guidance, and a sense of continuity between past and present.

In addition to our direct involvement, we are committed to promoting this project within the community we serve. We will actively encourage our members to attend performances of Scenes from the Nanaimo Indian Hospital and participate in the associated workshops, recognizing the impact of this project in fostering understanding, respect, and reconciliation.

Kwasun Cultural Education Society is proud to endorse this initiative. It embodies the values of cultural diversity, inclusion, and equity that are central to our work. We remain dedicated to supporting community-engaged research that uplifts Indigenous voices and contributes to a more just and equitable society.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Norris".

Joe Norris

Director

Kwasun Cultural Education Society