

To Langley Township Mayor and Council

October 4, 2016

Dear Mayor Froese and Council members,

Since the report of a proposed Rainbow Crosswalk and the resulting discussion on council, there has been a groundswell of support for this project. With the understanding that the project could only proceed using contracted out services, and price tags of either \$50,000.00 or \$12,000.00, I began my own fund-raising efforts which have since somehow snowballed into a community cause

I have started a Langley Rainbow Crosswalk Go Fund me campaign – to date I have raised \$2300.00 and donations are still coming in. Although most donations have been from local residents, there have also been donations coming from as far away as Hawaii and Massachusetts.

A group of local artists have donated their work for an Art Auction. So far, on-line bids are over \$2000.00 with bids coming from as far away as Toronto!

I actually have people coming to my door delivering private cheques in support of this project.

I have high schools calling me to come speak to their Gay/Straight Alliance clubs. Students are eager to know what they can do to see help this project happen.

This Friday, Oct. 7, is the grand finale of the Art Auction at the Fort Gallery. By that time, we hope to have met or surpassed \$6000.00 needed which would be half the cost of the smaller crosswalk mentioned in the report.

If Langley Township was the first city center to have a Rainbow Crosswalk proposed, I can understand the reticence of council to embrace this seemingly radical idea. But – since Langley Township is in fact, one of the last city centers to have a Rainbow Crosswalk, especially one that the local community members are willing to fund on their own, is it not time to address the Rainbow Elephant in the room?

Please understand, it was never my desire or intention to be the representative for gay rights in the Fraser Valley. My initial proposal was a response to do something positive after the Orlando shootings last June. I am a proud mother of a LGBTQ child, and I believe it is time for Langley to join most other city centers in having this symbol of love, unity and support. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Elaine Brewer-White