



RE: qCJ "Independence"/Strategic Planning

June 14, 2022

To the qCJ Steering Committee,

As we continue on our strategic planning journey, I would like to give a last opportunity for dissent re: pursuing society status independent of Lift. This is not to say the decision cannot be reversed further down the line (i.e. we give up our society status). It is simply to confirm that the Steering Committee feels information gathered from the strategic planning process thus far leads us to believe society status is beneficial.

I would like to make it clear that pursuing society status in no way represents a dissatisfaction with the incredible support Lift has provided qCJ these last few years. The financial, operational and HR support that Lift provides to us has been, and continues to be, an integral part of our success. Lift continues to demonstrate their commitment to our program and has assured us of continued support whether we pursue independence further (ex. Charity status) or continue as a Lift "umbrella service" in the Community Development Department.

The benefit of society status is a clear delineation to community and funders that qCJ is its own entity with its own mandate, policies, procedures and governance structures; a sign that we are administratively supported by Lift, but not governed by it. It also represents a necessary step towards pursuing charity status, which may increase our funding stability. Again, the decision to become a charity independent from Lift is not the same as the decision to pursue society status, it simply opens the door to that possibility. Research, operational planning and Steering discussions continue surrounding the pros and cons of charitable status. Regardless of that decision, qCJ and Lift are committed to a strong working relationship in the years to come. Please refer to this link <https://qathetj.org/strategic-planning-main/> for our strategic planning history & findings to date.

Members of the Steering Committee present at the June 14th Special Meeting have requested members who were *not* present be given a last opportunity to express dissent before I move forward with pursuing society status. Please contact Jane@qathetCJ.org before June 20th if you see any issues with this path forward **and/or if you are willing to become a Director of the first Society Board.** If there is no opposition, I will connect with potential Directors and apply for society status following the June 30th Steering Committee meeting.

Thank you for your continued support of this program,

Siobhan Brown
Program Coordinator
qathet Community Justice (qCJ)



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