

Dear City of Port Moody Mayor and Council,

Over the past couple of years, the GoHere Washroom Access Program gained significant media attention as well as support from members of the public and businesses. Currently, the doors to over 3,000 washrooms located across the country have been opened to the public due to the participation of businesses, organizations and government locations in the GoHere program. There are 300,000 Canadians live with Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis, the two main forms of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). For these patients, improved washroom access in our communities is extremely important.

Volunteers with Crohn's and Colitis Canada are looking to expand the program in British Columbia.

Today, we are inviting the City of Port Moody to join the GoHere Washroom Access Program.

The Opportunity

To raise awareness and increase washroom access, Crohn's and Colitis Canada launched the GoHere Washroom Access Program. Crohn's and Colitis Canada is the only national, volunteer-based charity focused on finding cures for Crohn's and colitis as well as improving the lives of people affected by these chronic diseases. The GoHere program seeks to partner with organizations, businesses and governments to increase washroom access for people who live with medical conditions related to incontinence, such as Crohn's or colitis.

The GoHere program is comprised of three key components that enable people to locate nearby washrooms when and where they need them. The three key components include:

- 1. GoHere Washroom Locator App:** The GoHere Washroom Locator App helps identify the closest available washrooms anywhere across Canada. You can plan a route, making it easy to locate washrooms along the way. The GoHere app is available on iPhone and Android.
- 2. GoHere Washroom Access Cards:** A special feature of the GoHere program is the virtual GoHere Washroom Access Card which people can use to show proof of medical need when trying to access a washroom. The card acts as a safeguard for people facing emergencies and needing access to a location which has yet to join the GoHere program.
- 3. GoHere Decal (optional):** Participating locations are identified by members of the public due to the placement of the optional GoHere decal on public-facing windows. The decal signals to people with incontinence that the location's washrooms are open and available for use, no questions asked.

Often, Crohn's and colitis patients sadly report being turned away from organizations in times of washroom emergency or are required to buy something before being able to use a washroom. The GoHere App's goal is to identify washrooms in our communities that can be used, no questions asked.

How You Can Support

Municipal facilities have been identified as locations that can be added to the GoHere App. Most city facilities, like recreation centres, libraries and certain parks are already known to have public washrooms. It is just a matter of putting these locations onto the App, so those requiring a washroom, especially those travelling into areas in the city they are not familiar with, can locate the closest available washroom. We would like to seek permission from cities to make these additions to the GoHere Washroom Access Program.

www.crohnsandcolitis.ca | www.crohnnetcolite.ca

Crohn's and Colitis Canada, 2110-439 University Avenue, Toronto, ON M5G 1Y8

Registered charity number 11883 1486 RR 0001 © Crohn's and Colitis Canada

No d'enregistrement d'organisme de bienfaisance 11883 1486 RR 0001 © Crohn et Colite Canada



Today, I'm asking whether the City of Port Moody would be willing to approve our request and provide a list of facilities that we can add to the App. Attached to the email is an excel file with 4 columns of information we would require: Location name, address, comments, and hours of operation.

The GoHere Washroom Access Program has had success with government partnerships across the country. (See media links below). In February 2023, the City of Coquitlam became the first city in BC to join the initiative. In 2015, former Mayor Naheed Nenshi joined the campaign and added municipal facilities in Calgary to the GoHere washroom app. In 2016, Mississauga became the first city in Ontario to officially participate. Several other Canadian municipalities have joined, while encouraging their local business communities with accessible washrooms to also join the program. In 2018, Crohn's and Colitis Canada partnered with the Government of Canada to add 20 locations to the app, and in 2020, expanded that partnership to 74 federal government buildings.

Over 33,000 British Columbians live with IBD, but the app is not necessarily just for these individuals. Anyone requiring frequent and urgent need of a washroom that lives with gastrointestinal, bladder, or other medical conditions (like neurological disorders and certain forms of cancer) can also benefit from the GoHere program.

Your participation will enable people living with Crohn's or colitis and other incontinence issues to break free from the anxiety, fear and stress they face when leaving their homes. We look forward to hearing from you. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Matthew Sebastiani
President, Vancouver Chapter
Crohn's and Colitis Canada
vancouverchapter@crohnsandcolitis.ca

Media Links:

Coquitlam Becomes First City in B.C. to Support Crohn's and Colitis Canada's GoHere Washroom App

February 23, 2023

<https://www.coquitlam.ca/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1201>

"The City has provided the charity the locations of 36 municipal washroom facilities, which have been added to the GoHere App. The locations include washrooms in parks, recreation centres and other City-owned facilities."

(Calgary) GoHere: Campaign to open bathrooms to Crohn's, colitis patients

June 25, 2015

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/gohere-campaign-to-open-bathrooms-to-crohn-s-colitis-patients-1.2440617>

"Mawani (former President of Crohn's and Colitis Canada) was in Calgary on Thursday to launch the campaign with Mayor Naheed Nenshi, who announced municipal buildings will take part."

Mississauga First Municipality in Ontario to Support Crohn's & Colitis GoHere App

<https://www.mississauga.ca/city-of-mississauga-news/news/mississauga-first-municipality-in-ontario-to-support-crohns-colitis-gohere-app/>

April 5, 2016

"The City of Mississauga is committed to making its facilities accessible and comfortable for everyone who visits. That is why the City has partnered with Crohn's and Colitis Canada to supply all facility washroom locations for its GoHere Washroom Finder App, making it the first municipality in Ontario to do so."

Government of Canada Expands Partnership in Crohn's and Colitis Canada's GoHere Program

<https://crohnsandcolitis.ca/News-Events/News-Releases/Government-of-Canada-Expands-Participation-in-Croh>

November 24, 2020

"The locations of all 74 registered buildings are viewable through the GoHere washroom locator app, which helps people find the nearest publicly available washrooms anywhere in Canada."

GoHere

WASHROOM ACCESS PROGRAM

A SMALL ACTION WITH BIG IMPACT



Imagine living with abdominal pain, fatigue, severe cramping, and frequent and urgent bowel movements, in some cases over 20 times a day. These are only a few of the life-altering symptoms individuals taking on Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis, the two main forms of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), experience on a daily basis. Currently 270,000 Canadians live

with IBD, and the scientific community expects this number to rise to 400,000 by 2030. Recognized as chronic and invisible diseases as symptoms are not readily noticeable, we are working hard to break down barriers affecting quality of life.

A primary concern for individuals living with IBD or other health conditions that cause incontinence is washroom access, which is why we created the GoHere Washroom Access Program. Through partnerships with organizations, both large and small, we are working to improve accessibility in communities from coast to coast by ensuring washroom facilities are readily available.



An initiative proudly supported
by the Government of Canada



Over 3,000 washrooms currently
on GoHere across Canada



A program supporting 270,000
Canadians living with Crohn's
disease or ulcerative colitis



GoHere Community Ambassadors
actively recruiting businesses,
organizations, and municipalities



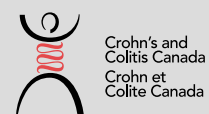
Over 10 program partnerships

To know you are welcome to use washroom facilities in businesses registered with the GoHere program, even if you're not a paying customer, relieves a lot of the stress and anxiety associated with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

EMMA, P.E.I.

Get involved today.

crohnsandcolitis.ca/gohere



OUR GOHERE PROGRAM FEATURES THREE COMPONENTS:



- **GoHere Decal:** The window decal indicates the washroom facilities at your location are available for use.
- **GoHere Washroom Locator App:** Available on Apple, Android and BlackBerry World, the free app allows individuals to easily identify registered locations along a mapped route or quickly locate your organization when needed.
- **GoHere Washroom Access Card:** Available in print or digital format, the personalized card enables individuals to show proof of medical need when requesting access to washroom facilities at your organization.

One small gesture, opening the doors to washroom facilities at your organization, will make a big impact on the lives of individuals living in or visiting your community.

Today, we invite you to help us make a difference.

Visit crohnsandcolitis.ca/gohere to register for our GoHere program.

ABOUT CROHN'S AND COLITIS CANADA

Crohn's and Colitis Canada is the only national, volunteer-based charity focused on finding the cures for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis and improving the lives of everyone impacted by inflammatory bowel disease. We are the world's second largest health charity funder of Crohn's and colitis research,

and our patient programs and advocacy efforts support the people affected by these chronic autoimmune diseases, which cause the body to attack healthy tissue, leading to the inflammation of all or part of the gastrointestinal tract. Visit crohnsandcolitis.ca for more information.



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To donate now please call 1-800-387-1479 or visit

crohnsandcolitis.ca

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Registered Charity I #11883 1486 RR 0001



The Standards
Program Trustmark
is a mark of Imagine
Canada used under
licence by Crohn's
and Colitis Canada.