

John Howard

THE JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY OF THE
CENTRAL AND SOUTH OKANAGAN

April 29th, 2010

To Whom It May Concern,

The John Howard Society of Canada is a national, provincial and territorial Society comprised of and governed by people whose goal is to understand and respond to social and health related problems with a focus on criminal justice. The John Howard Society of the Central and South Okanagan (JHSCSO) is a registered charity and an incorporated non-profit association that has been serving the Central Okanagan for over 50 years. JHSCSO has an established history providing innovative program services to the community, including operating social housing under a variety of models.

This letter is written in support of U.K. Trades with whom JHSCSO has worked on two main projects. The first was a renovation project that involved removing and reinstalling multiple windows in a JHSCSO owned/operated Men's Recovery Home. The quality of their work on this project was immediately evident by the improved energy efficiency and livability of the home. The second is through the REnEW Residential Energy Efficiency Works Program, which is a low income energy efficiency job training program provided in partnership between JHSCSO, the provincial utility companies (Terasen Gas, BC Hydro and Fortis BC), Southern Interior Construction Association, Complete Home Energy Ltd. and U.K. Trades. Through this program, individuals who are lacking marketable job skills and work experience are provided with classroom instruction and field training to assist them in becoming employed in construction with a focus on energy efficiency (retrofit and assessment). U.K. Trades provides the field training component of REnEW for JHSCSO and as such, works closely with adults (men and women) with complex health and social issues.

In all our dealings with U.K. Trades, we have found them to be knowledgeable, professional and committed to the highest standard of workmanship including careful adherence to building standards and related code issues. The tradesmen employed by U.K. Trades are extremely skilled and responsive to the needs of JHSCSO. They regularly demonstrate patience and an absolute commitment to detail through the delivery of the REnEW training. While we have a range of contractors we could work with in the ongoing operation of REnEW, we look forward to continuing to work with U.K. Trades on this and other initiatives.

We would not hesitate to recommend U.K. Trades for any residential renovation project for which they may be applying. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at 250-763-1331 or by e-mail at shelley.cook@jhscso.bc.ca

Sincerely,


Shelley Cook, BA, MA

Executive Director