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To whom it may concern:

Re: Hockey Education Reaching Out Society (HEROS)

I am writing this letter in support of HEROS' application for Charitable Organization status.

As one of Canada's leading researchers in child development I want to make clear that HEROS is the sort of program that has the capacity to make a significant positive impact on child development. I have included five maps from our work on child development in Vancouver to help make that point.

Please look at the map called "EDI: Proportion of children living in each neighbourhood that scored in the bottom 10% on one or more scales." It shows three 'blue' neighbourhoods in Vancouver. These are the neighbourhoods where children are at highest risk in terms of their physical, social, and intellectual development. The other four maps show that these are also the neighbourhoods in Vancouver with the poorest families, the highest proportion of single parent families, the lowest level of parental education, and the highest crime rates.

Of most importance here, these are also the neighbourhoods that the HEROS program serves. The HEROS program is significant in that, although the primary focus is on physical activity, it also has a strong social development component, and an intellectual development component as well. In other words, it addresses each of the dimensions of child development that are at high risk in the neighbourhoods it serves.