



February 26, 2026

*sent by email: [info@porttheatre.com](mailto:info@porttheatre.com)*

Board of Directors  
The Port Theatre Society  
125 Front Street  
Nanaimo, BC V9R 6Z4

Dear Members of the Board,

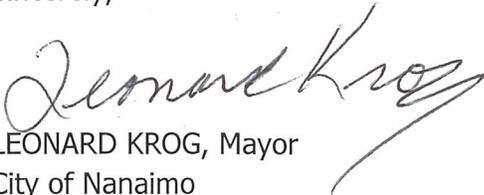
At the Regular Council meeting held on February 23, 2026, Nanaimo City Council passed a motion that I write to the Port Theatre requesting a review of its booking practices to ensure that all performances and events are consistent and fully aligned with the Theatre's stated core values of being accessible, inclusive, and welcoming.

In recent weeks, Council has received several complaints from members of the public regarding the upcoming performance of comedian Ben Bankas scheduled for March 21, 2026, at the Port Theatre. Mr. Bankas has faced significant criticism for the content of his shows which has been described as hateful and abusive.

While we recognize the importance of artistic freedom and the Theatre's responsibility to support a variety of performances, these concerns have highlighted the need to ensure that booking decisions continue to reflect the Theatre's stated values. We recognize and appreciate the Port Theatre's longstanding commitment to serving a diverse public, and we believe a review of booking policies would help reinforce that commitment and strengthen public confidence.

Thank you for your continued contributions to Nanaimo's cultural landscape.

Sincerely,

  
LEONARD KROG, Mayor  
City of Nanaimo