

District of Squamish provides major support to Centrepont

July 22, 2013

For immediate release

The District of Squamish is supporting efforts to bring more affordable housing and community amenities to town.

In July, the District agreed to undertake a process to grant relief from the development cost charges to Sea to Sky Community Services (1) for Centrepont (2) and contribute \$188,000 from its affordable housing reserve fund, for total support of approximately \$300,000 (3).

"The District of Squamish is pleased to support this beautiful new social services building through grant relief from development fees and a contribution from our existing affordable housing reserve fund," says Mayor Rob Kirkham, District of Squamish. "This beautiful building will help our efforts to revitalize the downtown and make it the hub for Corridor services. Centrepont also perfectly fits our mission to embrace opportunities for enhancing community livability. The building's affordable housing and community rooms will bring benefits to many for a long time to come."

"The District has shown great leadership and vision through its early and strong support of Centrepont. We're pleased to be working with them and very grateful for this financial support. Through Centrepont, we're building a stronger, healthier, more vibrant community," says Owen Carney, who co-chairs the volunteer fundraising team for Centrepont. (4)

Notes to editors

Photographs are available of Mayor Rob Kirkham with Owen Carney at the future site of Centrepont examining the architectural drawings.

(1) Sea to Sky Community Services is one of the largest and most impactful charities in the Corridor, strengthening communities and individuals through an unmatched breadth of vital programs, helping people through a crisis and with everyday challenges. The organization offers more than 40 programs, helping 4,000 people a year, in the areas of childcare, child development, parenting and family development, youth services, Community Living (for children with special needs and adults with developmental disabilities), counselling and assistance, addiction recovery and affordable housing. www.sscs.ca

(2) Centrepont is a planned new building on the corner of Fourth Avenue and Victoria Street in downtown Squamish. The project is a partnership between Sea to Sky Community Services and

Squamish United Church, where the church is donating the land for Centrepont. While this is a collaborative partnership, the two organizations are running separate fundraising campaigns and, once Centrepont is built, will continue to operate separately and run separate programs.

Centrepont will contain a floor of affordable housing (six one-bedroom units and two studios), community rooms, a preschool, programming rooms and office spaces. This project also includes the construction of a new church for Squamish United. An image of Centrepont is available upon request.

(3) The exact amount cannot be finalized until Sea to Sky Community Service applies for a building permit, which is when development cost charges are finalized. However, the \$300,000 total is based on estimates of \$112,000 in development cost charges by District staff who have closely reviewed the architectural plans. \$188,000 will come from the Affordable Housing Reserve Fund.

(4) Sea to Sky Community Services is working to raise \$3 million through the Building Opportunities Capital Campaign in order to build Centrepont. A group of committed community members is leading the fundraising efforts. The team is comprised of co-chairs Owen Carney and Anne Carney, vice-chair Ron Anderson, Paul Lalli, Sonja Lebars, Corinne Lonsdale, Drew Meredith and Jen Schorz. www.buildingopportunities.ca

For more information

Estelle Taylor, Capital Campaign Coordinator,
Sea to Sky Community Services
604 892 5796, ext 279
estelle.taylor@sscs.ca

Christina Moore, Communications Manager,
The District of Squamish
604-815-5025
cmoore@Squamish.ca