



Squamish Savings makes major donation towards Centrepoint

- Announcement made at company's annual members event

UNDER EMBARGO until May 29, 2013, 8pm

Squamish Savings (1) has donated \$250,000 to Sea to Sky Community Services (2) to help it build Centrepoint (3). Sameer Kajani, chair of the Squamish Savings Partners Board, announced the donation at Squamish Savings' Celebrating Our Community event on May 29.

"We are proud to support Centrepoint by providing funds from our Legacy Fund to support the great work and vital programs offered by Sea to Sky Community Services that assist so many people and organizations," said Mr Kajani. "We can only truly prosper as individuals when we are connected to a vibrant community and this initiative is a great example of how we can work together to build a strong, healthy community."

Sea to Sky Community Services expressed its gratitude for the donation. "With Centrepoint we'll be able to better help people and to help more people. Stronger individuals, stronger communities; that's the point. And with this incredible donation today, we are one step closer," said Lois Wynne, the executive director of Sea to Sky Community Services.

"From the beginning, the work to create Centrepoint has been a community initiative. This wonderful donation from a community business really supports that. We're very grateful for this legacy donation to a legacy project," said Anne Carney, who co-chairs the volunteer fundraising team for Centrepoint.

- Ends -

Notes to editors

(1) Squamish Savings was the first financial institution in Squamish, forming in 1944. After a 2005 merger, Squamish Savings became a proud division of Vancity. www.vancity.com/Squamish

The donation comes from the credit union's Legacy Fund. The Legacy Fund was established at the time of the merger with Vancity to commemorate the rich sixty-year history of the Squamish Credit Union and the loyalty of the many members who contributed to its success.

(2) 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 formed in 1978 to provide social services programming at a grassroots, local level. Today it 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

(3) 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 will continue to operate separately and run separate programs.

Centrepont will contain community rooms, programming and office spaces and affordable housing. This project also includes the construction of a new church for Squamish United. An image of Centrepont is available upon request.

Sea to Sky Community Services is working to raise \$3 million through a capital campaign in order to build Centrepont. The organization hopes to reach its goal by winter 2014. A group of committed community members is leading the fundraising efforts. That team is comprised of Owen Carney (co-chair), Anne Carney (co-chair), Ron Anderson (vice-chair), Paul Lalli, Sonja Lebens, Corinne Lonsdale, Drew Meredith and Jen Schorz.

For more information

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