

## Facilities Development Update – Nov 30/11

The purpose of this note is to provide an update on the status of our facility development and future activity for you to be aware of.

A small subset of individuals from the congregation (Rev. Karen Millard, Peter Gordon, Ken Tanner, Louise Martin and Bert Ionson) are meeting every other week with individuals from Sea to Sky Community Services Society (Lois Wynne, Tracey Kliesch, Sean Jones and Liz Wood) as well as the architect Don Nicolson. The focus of the group's work for the past couple of months has been the preparation of material for the rezoning. There are a number of steps the District requires prior to a rezoning application being accepted and then moved on to Council; this involves the submitting of surveys and general design elements along with specific engineering elements (water requirements, sewage etc to ensure District infrastructure is sufficient to support our new development). In addition, other topics under discussion are design modifications to meet our space requirements, agreeing to necessary surveys and technical requirements, specific communication strategies and approaches to fund raising to avoid unnecessary duplication. Following rezoning, we will turn our attention to more of the specific design elements to get a better handle on costs. The current plans can be viewed at the back of the church.

One of the topics recently agreed upon was the name of the project – the name “The Caring Place” – a collaborative project being undertaken by Squamish United Church and Sea to Sky Community Services Society. In our view it speaks to an overall philosophy of SSCSS caring for the physical/emotional element of those in need and our caring for the spiritual side. It was important to give the project a title to prevent others from putting a name that reflected their perception – i.e. at one point the newspaper referred to it as the “United Church Project”.

The housing component (which will be the responsibility of SSCSS) is still very much under discussion. Our zoning application will provide for housing. The reason for this is we don't want to not include it for this element of the process, only to have to return for a rezoning amendment if funding is found prior to construction starting. SSCSS representatives are engaged in discussions with the Province (BC Housing) and VanCity Credit Union and while there is a strong desire to support housing, whether or not it happens and the extent of it (1 vs 2 floors) will be dependant on government support. A decision on this point is expected shortly.

As expected, as we respond to different pressures, our timeline for completion continues to be adjusted. Our “best guess” timeline for the time being is as follows:

### November 2011 – February 2012

Formal public information meeting  
First and Second Readings (public hearing referral)

### March/April 2012

Budget review  
Finalization of by-laws  
Public Hearing/Third Reading

May/June, 2012

Associate architects confirmed  
Commence contract documentation  
Fourth Reading and Final Adoption of by-laws

July/August 2012

Coordination of consultants  
Cost confirmation  
Contract documents 95% complete

September/October 2012

Complete construction documents  
Building permits applications  
Contractor appointed  
Construction commences

October 2013

Construction completed  
Commissioning and occupancy

On the fundraising front, we have completed the first couple of elements in our plan; specifically the initial interviews and the every person visitation. In all, 81 visits were conducted and 53 pledges have been received totaling \$288,000. While this was somewhat short of our goal of \$300,000, it is an impressive level of givings that we can move forward with. Our thanks to all of you; we are very appreciative of the level of sacrificial giving to this project. Obviously this will have to be augmented with fundraising activities that will be starting in the spring. In addition, we have started to apply for grants from different organizations that we hope will assist us in this regard.

In summary, we are working toward our objectives. While our progress so far has been satisfactory, much more work needs to be done. In that regard the Facilities Development Team will continue with its activities in working our partners in this project and the Fund Raising Team will continue its work in developing new and fun ways to raise funds to our goal. Your continued participation and support of these endeavors is very much appreciated.