



Vancouver Public Library

Jan. 19, 2015

Frequently Asked Questions VPL and YWCA joint project

About the project (720 – 730 East Hastings St.)

Q: What are the details of the project?

A: It is a joint initiative of the Vancouver Public Library, the City of Vancouver and YWCA Metro Vancouver and will bring to the community a branch library, community and family programming, and safe, affordable housing for low-income single mothers and their children.

Budget for the project is \$25 million; will be built to LEED gold standard and is expected to open next spring.

VPL's náca?mat ct Strathcona branch

Q: How was the name chosen?

A: VPL asked Vancouver residents to suggest names for the new branch, and submissions were accepted online and offline over a two-month period in December 2013 and January 2014. More than 400 submissions were received, including more than 100 from the branch's immediate neighbourhood.

VPL's selection of náca?mat ct – the name encompasses the idea of 'we are one' in the həŋqəmiñəŋ (Musqueam) language – was inspired by the community suggestion 'Namwayut, which was the theme of the City of Vancouver's Year of Reconciliation activities.

Local First Nations were consulted on the branch name in relation to suggested First Nations names and the use of specific languages.

Q: Why is VPL building a new branch on East Hastings Street?

A: Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, Strathcona and Chinatown are the only neighbourhoods in the city without a full-service library branch, and for several years VPL has been planning a new facility to serve those communities.

Q: What are some of the branch details?

A: VPL's branch will be an estimated 11,000 square feet – one of the largest branches in the VPL system – and will feature a diverse physical collection; creative spaces packed with technology; and flexible meeting, programming, and community-gathering spaces (including after-hours access).

YWCA Cause We Care House

Q: What are some of the details about the development?

A: YWCA housing will include 21 units on four floors in a mix of two-, three- and four-bedroom apartments, which will be long-term supportive housing for low-income single mothers and their children who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. Included will be 3,500 square feet of community and family program space.

Q: Who are the main supporters of Cause We Care House?

A: It's named Cause We Care House in honour of the lead donor, Cause We Care Foundation. Additional support comes from the Province of British Columbia (B.C. Housing), Streethome Foundation, The Ismaili Walk, an initiative of the Ismaili Council for B.C. and other generous YWCA donors.

Q: When can potential residents apply and how much will be the rent be?

A: An application process through the YWCA will be set up six to eight months before construction finishes. Rents will be determined using a pro-rated income-based system where women pay no more than 30 per cent of their income in rent.

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