Phase 1 Housing Plan Proposed
GPC Steering Committee agrees on approach

Planning is progressing to replace the 114 units at the George Pearson Centre (GPC) with the equivalent number of housing units with supports in the new, integrated community being created on the Pearson Dogwood Lands. This work has involved consultation with various stakeholder groups, with guidance from the George Pearson Centre Steering Committee (GPCSC).

The GPCSC includes representation from residents, the advocacy community (Disability Alliance BC, Community and Residents Mentors Association, and the City of Vancouver Persons with Disability Advisory Committee) as well as representatives from Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) and Onni, the project developer. After months of discussion, the GPCSC reached agreement on the location and configuration for the first 50 units scheduled for the Phase 1 development.

“This process has been challenging at times, but I am pleased with the outcome of the discussions. I especially like the fact that we have maximized our options for ground level units and are offering a housing design that accommodates a larger group of residents to live together,” said Joy Kjellbotn, GPC resident. “We want to stay connected to each other and to the community.” Joy’s comments were echoed by Mumtaz Pirbhai and Heather Morrison who are also members of the GPC Steering Committee.

This agreement is a milestone in project planning, and an example of the collaborative and inclusive process that has unfolded. The Project Team was sent back to the “drawing board” more than once to rework designs that better meet stakeholder needs.

“Different stakeholders have different priorities,” said Joy Parsons, Clinical Project Manager for the Pearson Dogwood Redevelopment Project. “For residents, this is their home and they want to preserve the community they have created at George Pearson Centre. For the disability advocacy community this is an opportunity for change and integration. We’ve tried to balance these priorities with consideration to budget, timeline and regulations. This agreement reflects thoughtful input, compromise and collaboration.”

The next phase of planning will focus on the model of care, to ensure all residents have access to the clinical and other supports required to live safely and independently. Then a functional program will be developed outlining the facility requirements to support the model of care.

For more information: http://pearsondogwood.vchnews.ca/

At a Glance
The Pearson Dogwood Redevelopment Project replaces two older residential care facilities: George Pearson Centre and Dogwood Lodge, as well as the relocation and integration of a number of community programs and services serving South Vancouver.

Key elements of Phase 1
Housing with Supports
Fifty housing units with supports will open in the first construction phase of the Pearson Dogwood Project, targeted for completion in 2020. This Phase includes a combination of group housing and single units located in three buildings on the south/east corner of the site.

The majority of the units are located on the first four floors of each building and integrated with market housing, with the ground floor units accessed from the main lobby. This includes:
- 10 single units
- 4 group units, each supporting six residents
- 4 group units each supporting four residents

Residents currently living in the George Pearson Centre will transition to the new units with supports when they are available. Lessons learned from their experience will inform future planning for the next phases of the project.