

Replacing the Stan Stronge Therapy Pool

- *Consultation with pool users guides planning process*

As part of the Pearson Dogwood Redevelopment Project, Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) will replace the current Stan Stronge Therapy Pool with a new pool to be located on the Pearson Dogwood site. The current pool serves approximately 40 residents from both George Pearson Centre and approximately 800 community pool users.

For the past several years, pool planning has been in partnership with the YMCA, as part of a larger aquatic facility on the site that would include the warm water therapy pool. In spring 2017, the YMCA announced that their strategy had changed and they would no longer build their facility on the Pearson Dogwood lands. This has created a last minute planning dilemma for VCH and raised concerns among pool users for the future of this facility.

New Therapy Pool Planned for Pearson Dogwood Site

The partnership with the YMCA, as part of a larger recreational facility, presented an opportunity to share resources and infrastructure to create a bigger pool with more amenities. With the YMCA's withdrawal from the project, meetings with the Therapy Pool Working Group resumed and options were considered. The Therapy Pool Working Group includes representatives from VCH, Lower Mainland Facilities and the pool users.

VCH will move forward with plans to build a replacement pool facility on the Pearson Dogwood site without a partner. This requires a new pool design.

VCH Budget Confirmed

VCH has a confirmed budget that will enable construction of a replacement pool comparable in size to the Stan Stronge Therapy Pool. Funding for staff currently working at the Stan Stronge Pool will be transferred to the replacement facility. This will enable programming similar to the current pool. VCH will continue to engage with the Therapy Pool Working Group and other stakeholders regarding design over the next few months.

Next Steps

The Therapy Pool Working Group will continue to meet and inform this planning process. The City of Vancouver is holding a Public Hearing on July 20 to determine if the rezoning application for the Pearson Dogwood Redevelopment Project will be approved. Replacing the Stan Stronge Therapy Pool is a requirement for this approval. If approval is granted, work will focus on a new pool design to have plans ready to present for building permit approval in the fall. There is a lot of work to be done in a short period of time, requiring a collaborative, and productive planning approach. The Therapy Pool Working Group will continue to inform this process.