

#### 4. East Fraser Lands Official Development Plan and Public Amenity Financial Plan and Strategy: 10-year Review and Update

Date Received	Time Created	Subject	Position	Content	Name	Organization	Contact Info	Neighbourhood	Attachment
02/18/2021	09:10	PH2 - 4. East Fraser Lands Official Development Plan and Public Amenity Financial Plan and Strategy: 10-year Review and Update	Support	To the Councilors and Mayor of Vancouver: My name is Ghazal Kalkbrenner and I am a nurse from Children's hospital. My family and I have been living in the Fraserlands since May 2018. My husband and I migrated here from central Vancouver in order to buy an affordable home. Initially I felt isolated down here especially right after my son was born in September 2018. One day we passed by a dad walking his daughter on the trail of NE Kent Avenue and he told me about the Family Place run out of a Westgroup property next to Romer's Burgers. My son (6mo at that point) and I went there and it was instantly comfortable, warm and welcoming. The staff, all the family counsellors and teachers from Fraserview neighbourhood house were lovely and kind and they provided coffee and conversation and after feeling isolated for so long it felt like I had found a community. My son and I continued to go every week and there we met many friends for him and myself. There were toys and a circle time and a fantastic way to spend a morning. This past year has been really tough (for us and of course many others) with the pandemic. The family place closed and I delivered a baby girl at the start of the lockdown. During my maternity leave, my son (now 2), my daughter (10months) and I continue to go to an outdoor space where the family counsellors and teachers from Fraserlands family place have adapted to an undercover area to meet in the morning. We sing songs and they help support families like mine in what feels like a long Covid struggle. We would love a permanent indoor space close to home that we can use as a community centre to engage with our neighbours rain or shine. Our neighbourhood is diverse in socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds in a tapestry that just works. I am hoping the city of Vancouver can support our budding neighbourhood so we can continue to grow and support each other effectively. Thank you for your consideration, Ghazal Kalkbrenner	Ghazal Kalkbrenner		s.22(1) Personal and Confidential	Unknown	No web attachments.
02/18/2021	09:24	PH2 - 4. East Fraser Lands Official Development Plan and Public Amenity Financial Plan and Strategy: 10-year Review and Update	Support	Dear Councillors and Mayor, I am the principal of David Oppenheimer Elementary School, that presently educates the children of families living on the south slope, including the area south of Marine Drive and West of Kerr Street. Over the past few years, a larger and larger percentage of our kindergarteners live below Marine Drive. This last year we had again maintained three Kindergarten classrooms, which reflects the number of young families that are choosing to live and raise their children south of Marine Drive. This is a section of Vancouver that young families are choosing to live in and I would like to strongly encourage the City to take steps to make the build of the community center a reality. Our families need a year-round indoor venue to exercise, congregate and make new connections. The demographic of this community has been changing over the past few years. When I arrived at Oppenheimer 3 years ago, there were only 16 language groups and a modest amount of English Language Learners. Now, we have 29 different language groups and a fairly high number of ELL students. The overall socio-economic level is decreasing. For the first time at Oppenheimer, we now have 25 students accessing the free VSB lunch program. Also, South Vancouver Neighbourhood House provides Food Bank supplies for 35 local families in need. Our families need a place where their children can attend extra-curricular programs and other supports, with the option to receive subsidy if there are financial barriers. A community center would offer them exactly that. During the pandemic, we have become increasingly aware of the needs of many families in our catchment. Presently, they do not have easy access to many basic services and supports. A community center would allow them a point of information and referral and outreach. Presently, south of Marine there are no indoor options for service providers to deliver workshops, provide information sessions or provide outreach opportunities. This community is long overdue for a hub where this can take place. The school serves this function in many ways from September to June, but who helps and supports these families over July and August? Who provides an accessible continuum of care over Christmas holidays and March break? As a community we are calling on the City to deliver on its mandate: To create a great city of communities that cares about our people, our environment, and our opportunities to live, work, and prosper. At the present moment South Vancouver represents 1/6 of the area of Vancouver. By looking at a map, it is clear that this area is long overdue for an indoor hub to build community for those of us living south of Marine Drive. Westgroup is willing to commission the build and as a school we support the City taking steps to expedite the construction of the community center in East Fraserlands. It would be walkable for so many of our families and would be a safe place for our children to walk, bik	Hope Sterling			Unknown	Appendix A
02/18/2021	13:24	PH2 - 4. East Fraser Lands Official Development Plan and Public Amenity Financial Plan and Strategy: 10-year Review and Update	Support	Please see enclosed letter on behalf of the South Vancouver Family Place.	Julio Bello			Unknown	Appendix B
02/20/2021	11:55	PH2 - 4. East Fraser Lands Official Development	Support	I am writing in support of the City building a community centre in the Riverlands District. I have two children 10 and 12. We'd love to have a local community centre within walking distance so we don't have to drive and add to congestion and/or climate change. <a href="https://www.flipsnack.com/eastfraserlandsamenities/efl-flipsnack-2.html">https://www.flipsnack.com/eastfraserlandsamenities/efl-flipsnack-2.html</a>	Otto Lim			Victoria-Fraserview	No web attachments.

#### 4. East Fraser Lands Official Development Plan and Public Amenity Financial Plan and Strategy: 10-year Review and Update

02/20/2021	12:46	PH2 - 4. East Fraser Lands Official Development Plan and Public Amenity Financial Plan and Strategy: 10-	Support	The City needs to build a community centre in the River District before 2027 as originally promised. The bus service is limited to East-West, and Killarney and Champlain community centres are at the top of a very steep/long hill that requires crossing a busy highway with no pedestrian overpass. This area is now home to a number of vulnerable single moms, First Nations, black people and other visible minorities due to the construction of nearby social housing. I believe that black lives matter just as much as the rich white lives in more prominent Vancouver neighbourhoods with much better access to amenities and services. I hope that this City administration chooses to "walk the walk" instead of just talking about how much they value all races and classes, thereby leaving a lasting legacy behind rather than catering to the elites.	Shane McLaughlin		s.22(1) Personal and Confidential	Victoria-Fraserview	No web attachments.
02/20/2021	19:22	PH2 - 4. East Fraser Lands Official Development Plan and Public Amenity Financial Plan and Strategy: 10-year Review and Update	Support	Dear Councilors & Mayor, We have a community that is in need of an indoor gathering space, that is accessible by foot and/or bike. We support the city's vision to create a GREAT city of COMMUNITIES that cares about our people and our environment. We are calling on our elected representatives to honor the following values they have made a commitment to uphold: Responsiveness: we are responsive to the needs of our citizens and our colleagues. Integrity: we are open and honest, and honour our commitments. Here is why I want the community center: We have lived at the bottom of Victoria Dr. for 5 years and have 3 children in local Vancouver public schools Douglas and Douglas Annex. We and our neighbours need this promised community centre yesterday! Right now we have to drive to Killarney or Sunset or Hillcrest for a decent sized pool! We should be able to walk or bike to a community centre. It is vital to find the money - raise taxes a bit more if you have to. The savings will come in the form of less pollution, less crime from people who are connected to the important services a community centre provides. Why not take a bit out of the police budget? We will be healthier and be less of a burden on Healthcare services the sooner you build this community centre. Thanks for reading this and I hope you decide to make the building of our community centre a top priority. s.22(1) resident living south of marine drive	Jane-Ann Kay			Victoria-Fraserview	Appendix C
02/21/2021	01:09	PH2 - 4. East Fraser Lands Official Development Plan and Public Amenity Financial Plan and Strategy: 10-	Support	https://www.flipsnack.com/eastfraserlandsamenities/efl-flipsnack-2.html	Leila Howatson			Killarney	No web attachments.
02/21/2021	07:34	PH2 - 4. East Fraser Lands Official Development Plan and Public Amenity Financial Plan and Strategy: 10-	Support	I am now a senior, but have lived in the East Fraserlands since 1992. The lack of amenities, especially a community Centre in this area means residents must drive vehicles in order to access amenities given the topography of this community. We need a Community Centre we can walk to.	Wendy G Baker			Victoria-Fraserview	No web attachments.
02/22/2021	09:47	PH2 - 4. East Fraser Lands Official Development Plan and Public Amenity Financial Plan and Strategy: 10-	Support	Thank you for taking the time to read this email, and for opening the attached document which I wrote in 2014. It has been over a decade since the package of public amenities to support growth in our community was approved. I am pleased to hear that Wesgroup and the City are finally coming together on a plan and a timeline to deliver these amenities to our neighbourhood. It has been nearly 5 years since the City launched the Official Development Plan Review. We've had a chance to offer our input as a community and now it's time for these amenities to be delivered. We are ready. We are here. We are waiting. Thank you. Sincerely, (a proud East Fraserlands mother and South East Van Grade One teacher), Jessie Wilkes s.22(1) Vancouver BC s.22(1)	Jessica Wilkes			Jnknown	Appendix D
02/22/2021	09:52	PH2 - 4. East Fraser Lands Official Development Plan and Public Amenity Financial Plan and Strategy: 10-year Review and Update	Support	Dear Honorable Mayor Stewart and other honorable members of Vancouver City Council, I am a working Mom of two elementary aged children. My husband and my two children love living in the River District and enjoy the neighbourhood parks, and some of the newer retail options. However, we are still in need of a community centre to bring the growing River District community together. I have been an active participant in the community, and happily participated in Various neighbourhood presentations prior to the East Fraserlands build. It's has been over a decade since the package of public amenities to support growth in our community was approved. I understand that Wesgroup and the City are finally coming together on a plan and a timeline to deliver these amenities to our neighbourhood, which is appreciated. Further, it has been nearly five years since the City launched the Official Development Plan Review. We've had a chance to offer our input as a community and now it's time for these amenities to be delivered. We'd love to see the promised community centre in our neighbourhood. Further, the neighborhood parks and pathways also need additional drainage, and we would really benefit from a closed dog park for the significant number of neighbourhood dogs to safely play (away from other pedestrians and children). I've attached a previous letter I wrote with respect to the needs of young families in the River District back in 2014 to give you a bigger picture of our commitment to this neighbourhood. As I'm sure you're all very aware, it's hard for young families to survive in Vancouver. Much of the success of this neighbourhood is based on the community and the networks that we create. Please help our neighbourhood solidify itself with the amenities it needs to bring the older and newer members of this community together. I'm happy to discuss our needs in more detail. I can be reached at s.22(1) s.22(1) Thank you for considering my request. Sincerely, Amanda Versteeg s.22(1) Vancouver BC	Amanda Versteeg			Jnknown	Appendix E
02/22/2021	09:59	PH2 - 4. East Fraser Lands Official Development Plan and Public Amenity Financial Plan and Strategy: 10-year Review and Update	Support	To: Vancouver City Council As residents of the East Fraser Lands, we want to see the City move forward with the development of planned amenities for East Fraser Lands in a timely manner. We can't wait to have a new community centre, childcare centre and much-needed outdoor play spaces that suit a variety of ages. While residential development continues to move forward, and our community grows, we still lack the public infrastructure that the City has committed to deliver. It is welcome news that the City is making our neighbourhood a priority and are putting plans in place to build civic and recreational amenities here. We look forward to the coming changes and developments that will meet the needs of the families in the East Fraser Lands. We have been living here for 6 years now with our young family and have been anticipating these coming amenities during this time. Thank you, Christy Shea Brian Taggart Owners living below Marine Drive s.22(1) Personal and Confidential	Christy Shea			Jnknown	Appendix F

#### 4. East Fraser Lands Official Development Plan and Public Amenity Financial Plan and Strategy: 10-year Review and Update

02/22/2021	10:25	PH2 - 4. East Fraser Lands Official Development Plan and Public Amenity Financial Plan and Strategy: 10-year Review and Update	Support	To the City of Vancouver We have lived in the amazing East Fraserlands and River District community for 4 years. My husband Shane is a police officer and I work at lululemon. Our children, Caleb and Avery, are 3 and 6 years old, and have thoroughly enjoyed everything that this bustling community has brought to enrich our lives in Vancouver. We are engaged and dedicated to building this community in every way we can, from participating in community events, to games in the park, to bike rides along the river, to organized sports in the closest vicinity we can. I am writing because, as this community grows exponentially, the infrastructure we were promised would come has not started and we are all anxiously awaiting to hear your proposal for the plan and committed timeline. Those amenities were crucial to our family moving here given that we foresaw the immense growth that would make it such an amazing community for families. The growth of the community has been felt over the past year and it has become very clear that the parks, amenities etc in this area are insufficient. As residents of the East Fraser Lands, we want to see the City move forward with the development of planned amenities for East Fraser Lands in a timely manner. We can't wait to have a new community centre, child care and outdoor play spaces. I look forward to hearing how you'll be committing to these crucial promises that have continuously been brushed under the rug. There are many families awaiting this answer and clarity and I look forward to seeing the plans cemented and committed to before year end. Thank you. Chantelle Murnaghan (East Fraserlands resident) Sean, Caleb Avery Owners living below Marine Drive	Chantelle Murnaghan		s.22(1) Personal and Confidential	Unknown	Appendix G
02/22/2021	10:31	PH2 - 4. East Fraser Lands Official Development Plan and Public Amenity Financial Plan and Strategy: 10-year Review and Update	Support	Dear Vancouver City Council Members, I am a resident of the East Fraser Lands area. We love our neighbourhood and especially enjoy our time outside. It has been over a decade since the package of public amenities to support growth in our community was approved. My family is so pleased to hear that Wesgroup and the City are finally coming together on a plan and a timeline to deliver these amenities to our neighbourhood. It has been a tough year for families with the onset of COVID-19. With social distancing and more time at home, we need parks and outdoor play spaces for our neighbourhood more than ever. As residents of the East Fraser Lands, we want to see the City move forward with the development of planned amenities for East Fraser Lands in a timely manner. We can't wait to have a new community centre, child care, and outdoor play spaces. Sincerely, Tricia, Rob, Robbie and Ciara Listecki Residents living below Marine Drive	Tricia Listecki		s.22(1) Personal and Confidential	Unknown	Appendix H
02/22/2021	11:11	PH2 - 4. East Fraser Lands Official Development Plan and Public Amenity Financial Plan and Strategy: 10-year Review and Update	Support	<del>Confidential</del> <a href="https://www.eastfraserlandsamenities/eff-flipsnack-2.html">https://www.eastfraserlandsamenities/eff-flipsnack-2.html</a> Our family fully supports a community centre being built by Wesgroup. As our community continues to grow we are in desperate need of this along with additional the amenities that were promised to us. As a young (middle income bracket) family we had a tough decision to make about 5 years ago. As our family started to grown we came to the realization that the options to continue to live in Vancouver (the city we love) were shrinking. Housing prices kept rising, and 2- 3 bedroom homes were very limited at our price point. We came across the River District and were sold on the dream of great services and amenities for families. A School, Community Centre, Sports Field, Playgrounds, child care, etc'. At the rate things seem to be going both my children will be in high school before we see any real changes. Its disappointing because they will likely never get to experience what it's like to grow up in a real neighbourhood community and use many of these amenities. Currently there are 2 new parks being developed along Kinross street that I am sure will look nice, but they are essentially more of what we already have. Places to sit around and enjoy the view. We have tons of green space through out the River District area, but I can't seem to understand why we do not have a half decent playground area for kids of all ages' This one seems like a no brainer! The 2 small playgrounds we current have seem to primarily be for show and are only really used by the very young children due to their simple designs. 1 is behind the MODE sales centre and the other is in the middle of a townhouse complex which if you don't do your homework you would assume its for the residents that live in that complex. A community is brought together at places where we can get to know our neighbours like the neighbourhood playground, programs at the local community centre, and attending the same school. Due to the steep hill and lack of transit that goes down Kerr it kind of restricts our ability to easily access other public amenities in the neighbouring areas. My wife is on long term disability which make things even more challenging for us. We have 2 children (ages 7 & 1) who would both greatly benefit from a Community Centre located in the River district. I honestly did not realize the importance of a community centre prior to the birth of our first child. He was lucky enough to be born when we lived in Kitsilano. The kits community centre was almost a second home because he attending so many amazing programs and classes there. I see today how beneficial and important those programs/classes where to his development throughout the years. Again, we made the decision 5 years ago to move to the River District based on promises that don't seem to be happening. It's heartbreaking when you think of it because it's the children of the neighbourhood who are the ones most affected by these delayed amenities.	Ryan Berner		s.22(1) Personal and Confidential	Victoria-Fraserview	No web attachments.
02/22/2021	15:36	PH2 - 4. East Fraser Lands Official Development Plan and Public Amenity Financial Plan and Strategy: 10-year Review and Update	Support	Dear Councilors & Mayor, We live south of Marine Drive in the River District. We enjoy living in this area with its beautiful walking paths and our new town centre. However, the public amenities that were approved to support our growing community a decade ago have not been delivered. We are pleased to hear that Wesgroup and the City are starting to plan on how to deliver these amenities to our neighbourhood. We are particularly interested in the development of a community centre south of Marine Drive. As busy working parents, with children that are hitting an age when they can be more independent, it is important that we have community programs that are accessible by biking or walking. Unfortunately, the steep hill north of River District means other community centers are inaccessible for our children without parental aid. It has now been a decade since the public amenities such as a community centre were approved. We are hoping you are responsive to the needs of our community and honour these commitments. Sincerely, Angela Hern and Dee Jay Randall	Angela Hern		s.22(1) Personal and Confidential	Unknown	No web attachments.

#### 4. East Fraser Lands Official Development Plan and Public Amenity Financial Plan and Strategy: 10-year Review and Update

02/22/2021	15:40	PH2 - 4. East Fraser Lands Official Development Plan and Public Amenity Financial Plan and Strategy: 10-year Review and Update	Support	<p>Dear Mayor Stewart and City Councilors, I am writing about the city's plan to start building amenities in the East Fraser Lands neighbourhood, including play areas, a soccer field, a community centre and a childcare centre. It has been over a decade since the package of public amenities to support growth in our community was approved. We are thrilled about the City's commitment to have these amenities built by 2027. My husband and I have lived in the East Fraser Lands neighbourhood now for more than 8 years and have started our family here. Our two young boys play at the parks every day and we have met so many young families, giving us a real sense of community. However, the only walkable 'community center', located at the visitors' centre by Romer's restaurant, is now closing and any other amenities are only accessible by car. One year, our family had only one car to use, and I found it nearly impossible to get to the library or swimming pool with my three-year old son via public transit. It took around 30 to 40 minutes to reach these destinations, and often had us waiting on very busy streets. How sad for families who due to finances or disability, don't have a car to help them get around. I have watched a neighbor with disabilities trying to cross all four lanes of SE Marine Drive after taking the bus home from Metrotown, one of his few social activities. He couldn't make it to the other side before the traffic light turned green again. More than ever, we need parks and a community centre that people of all ages and abilities can access. Not only would more amenities benefit the diverse group of people who live here, but it would also help us do our part for the environment by helping us decrease our dependency on cars. We really enjoy living in East Fraser Lands but find it can be isolating for individuals and families who cannot drive. My family is so pleased to hear that Wesgroup and the City are finally coming together on a plan and a timeline to deliver these amenities to our neighbourhood. I appreciate all that you do for our city. Thank you for your attention. Sincerely yours, Laura Ubial Owners Living Below Marine Drive</p> <p>s.22(1) Personal and Confidential</p>	Laura Ubial			Unknown	Appendix I
02/22/2021	16:43	PH2 - 4. East Fraser Lands Official Development Plan and Public Amenity Financial Plan	Support	<p>Please deliver, in a timely fashion, the amenities that are contained in the East Fraserlands ODP. If we are to be a walkable community down here by the river then we need, for instance, a community centre. It is unreasonable to expect people to walk up the steep hill to Champlain C.C. or Killarney C.C. The grade is too formidable. NOTE: the web form in which I am sending this info, does not include an option for West Fraserlands, but that is where I live. If city council or staff would like to join me on a walk around of the neighbourhood, I would be happy to host them. A video that explains our predicament: <a href="https://vimeo.com/487321015?ref=em-share">https://vimeo.com/487321015?ref=em-share</a></p> <p>s.22(1) Personal and Confidential</p>	Rob Howatson			Killarney	No web attachments.
02/22/2021	19:21	PH2 - 4. East Fraser Lands Official Development Plan and Public Amenity Financial Plan and Strategy: 10-year Review and Update	Support	<p>We need an accessible community centre here ASAP!! I have lived here for 15 years and had to drive my kids all over the city to get to their activities while my friends in other areas could walk or cycle. Now that the area is bursting with families and more arriving every week, it's even more important to have something that is within walking distance. Climbing the mountain to Champlain Heights or Killarney is not an option for families - the hill is too steep and if you're headed out for a fitness class, you're exhausted by the time you get there. The paths down here by the river are always busy with walkers, runners and cyclists. It's the perfect area to be car free, contributing to the sustainability of our city. Please do not delay this build - we need this now.</p>	Deanna Nielsen			Victoria-Fraserview	No web attachments.
02/23/2021	12:20	Fraser Lands Official Development	Support	<p>Please see attachment.</p>	Michael Turner			Unknown	Appendix J
02/23/2021	15:44	PH2 - 4. East Fraser Lands Official Development Plan and Public Amenity Financial Plan and Strategy: 10-year Review and Update	Support	<p>This neighborhood needs a community centre built now. The hill at Elliott and Kerr Streets are very steep and therefore the community centres that service us are very difficult to get to. If I took transit, it would take 2 buses and nearly 30 minutes for me to arrive! We need a community centre that we can walk or bike to, that offers children's programming and drop in services like South Vancouver Family Place. The SVFP drop in service was invaluable in supporting me during my first years of parenthood. I have two daughters, now ages 7 and 9 who want to be actively engaged in their community. We need a library and a fire hall south of Marine Dr. There are many families moving to this neighborhood, the amenities must be provided. Parents sign up their children for activities in Richmond, New West and Burnaby because there are full classes at the Vancouver centres. Please honor the 2 values that you promised to uphold as a council: responsiveness and integrity. You made the promise for a community centre in this area and we ask you to honor your promise, now. There are so many people out walking and biking and enjoying our beautiful neighborhood. Let's provide our youth with a place to grow and give them a sense of our community, needed now more than ever. Everyone will benefit from this, let's make it happen now.</p>	Lindsey Bogunovic			Victoria-Fraserview	Appendix K

#### 4. East Fraser Lands Official Development Plan and Public Amenity Financial Plan and Strategy: 10-year Review and Update

02/25/2021	09:18	PH2 - 4. East Fraser Lands Official Development Plan and Public Amenity Financial Plan and Strategy: 10-year Review and Update	Support	<p>Stephanie Zeller s.22(1) Personal and Confidential The Promised Community Centre and Desperate Need for Daycare Openings in East Fraserlands Dear Mayor Stewart and City Councilors, My name is Stephanie Zeller and I live with my husband and 18-month-old son just south of SE Marine Drive in the Fraserland community. I am respectfully writing you to request assistance and progress towards creating an indoor community space for the Fraserlands community and for help to get movement towards new child care opportunities in the quickly growing neighbourhood full of young families. There used to be a little community centre on Kerr St. and South Kent Ave. that provided a space for young families to attend essential services such as The Family Place (<a href="http://www.southvancouverfamilyplace.org/">http://www.southvancouverfamilyplace.org/</a>) to build community, support young families, and help the young babies and toddlers grow. Since the pandemic started this indoor community space has been closed, resulting in the young families meeting outside braving all weather conditions to attend The Family Place. This has caused a substantial barrier for families to attend, especially for the young, non-walking babies. For example, these past two weeks the temperature was below zero resulting in us not attending since I didn't want to subject my son to the cold temperatures for too long. The Family Place has been providing excellent educational and developmental opportunities for my child, as well as social connection points that have helped me immensely to journey through motherhood with other families and to combat the loneliness that motherhood can sometimes hold. I have made incredible friendships in the community thanks to The Family Place. Secondly, we need movement towards new affordable child care opportunities in the Fraserlands community. With the large numbers of young families moving into the neighbourhood, we are in desperate need of more child care spaces. The existing neighbourhood is already maxed out and finding child care nearby seems like an impossible task. It sometimes feels like there so much resistance against having a family in Vancouver, we hope this will change in the near future as steps will be taken to create more child care and housing options. Lastly, the playground at Riverfront Park is heavily utilized by all the children in the area and is deteriorated and in need of renovation including the addition of more baby swings. In fact, there is only one baby swing nearby and countless babies and toddlers who are constantly waiting to use it. Thank you so much for your time and all of your hard work! Respectfully, Stephanie Zeller</p>	Stephanie Zeller		s.22(1) Personal and Confidential	nknown	No web attachments.
				Duplicate					
02/28/2021	19:39	PH2 - 4. East Fraser Lands Official Development Plan and Public Amenity Financial Plan and Strategy: 10-year Review and Update	Support	<p>Hello Councilors and Mayor, We continue to campaign to for a commitment from the City to delivery on the promised amenities for East Fraserlands and to give us a timeline on delivery. Today, I sent out an invitation to the 200+ neighbors on my community mailing list to sign up to speak and/or submit comments, to ensure that the Council can feel certain that the promised community center is needed. We are excited to have secured letters of support from the Honorable Harjit Sajjan and MLA George Chow to add to our collection of support letters and will send those to you in the next week. Our community has been supportive of the City's need to address the housing crisis and in the past two years we have welcomed many new renting neighbors to this area below Marine Drive. - 2 and 3 bedroom townhouse complex of 188 units - 2 towers of apartments and mini complex of 2 and 3 bedroom townhouses equalling 418 units In case you were not aware, this area south of Marine drive has already housed the following rental complexes for the past 25+ years: - 2 towers of apartments and two mini-complexes of mini townhouses = 360 units - 2 and 3 bedroom townhouse complex of subsidized homes with the caveat on their site saying, "transportation can be an issue if an applicant doesn't own a car." = 43 units But probably the most important thing for you to visual, is that all the above complexes exist within a 600 m stretch below Marine Drive - all outside of the EFL. And all these renting constituents do not have an accessible, walkable indoor amenity. In the following Flipsnack, we have made a point of capturing the voices of those that often go unheard at Public Hearing's since they are working two jobs and unavailable in the evenings, are single parents juggling their own challenges through the pandemic and their children and have little left to attend these hearings. So we have sought them out, conducted interviews and included a few of their voices here as quotes. IMMIGRANT VOICES FLIPSNACK (see link in attachment - Campaign inventory - item #9) Thank you once again for your time and for all that you do to represent your constituents. We are doing all that we can for you to feel that a vote in support of the motions on March 11th will truly represent the needs of the people living south of Marine Drive. Kindly and in service to my neighbors,</p>	Esther Moreno			ctoria-Fraserview	Appendix L

#### **4. East Fraser Lands Official Development Plan and Public Amenity Financial Plan and Strategy: 10-year Review and Update**

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**DAVID OPPENHEIMER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

2421 Scarboro Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5P 2L5

Tel. 604-713-4570; Fax. 604-713-4572

January 18, 2021

Dear Councillors and Mayor,

I am the principal of David Oppenheimer Elementary School, that presently educates the children of families living on the south slope, including the area south of Marine Drive and West of Kerr Street. Over the past few years, a larger and larger percentage of our kindergarteners live below Marine Drive. This last year we had again maintained three Kindergarten classrooms, which reflects the number of young families that are choosing to live and raise their children south of Marine Drive. This is a section of Vancouver that young families are choosing to live in and I would like to strongly encourage the City to take steps to make the build of the community center a reality. Our families need a year-round indoor venue to exercise, congregate and make new connections.

The demographic of this community has been changing over the past few years. When I arrived at Oppenheimer 3 years ago, there were only 16 language groups and a modest amount of English Language Learners. Now, we have 29 different language groups and a fairly high number of ELL students. The overall socio-economic level is decreasing. For the first time at Oppenheimer, we now have 25 students accessing the free VSB lunch program. Also, South Vancouver Neighbourhood House provides Food Bank supplies for 35 local families in need. Our families need a place where their children can attend extra-curricular programs and other supports, with the option to receive subsidy if there are financial barriers. A community center would offer them exactly that.

During the pandemic, we have become increasingly aware of the needs of many families in our catchment. Presently, they do not have easy access to many basic services and supports. A community center would allow them a point of information and referral and outreach. Presently, south of Marine there are no indoor options for service providers to deliver workshops, provide information sessions or provide outreach opportunities. This community is long overdue for a hub where this can take place. The school serves this function in many ways from September to June, but who helps and supports these families over July and August? Who provides an accessible continuum of care over Christmas holidays and March break? As a community we are calling on the City to deliver on its mandate: To create a great city of communities that cares about our people, our environment, and our opportunities to live, work, and prosper.

At the present moment South Vancouver represents 1/6 of the area of Vancouver. By looking at a map, it is clear that this area is long overdue for an indoor hub to build community for those of us living south of Marine Drive. Wesgroup is willing to commission the build and as a school we support the City taking steps to expedite the construction of the community center in East Fraserlands. It would be walkable for so many of our families and would be a safe place for our children to walk, bike or skateboard to on their own. It would create community and reduce our impact on the environment.

In service to the families in our catchment,

Hope Sterling, Principal

January 4, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I am Julio Bello, the Executive Director for South Vancouver Family Place. I am writing in support of the building of a community center south of Marine.

The South Vancouver Family Place - Fraserlands Drop-In Program in the River District community has been in operation for over nine years since its inception in 2011. The thriving and fast-growing community (City of Vancouver community plans estimates that by 2030 the population will grow to over 14,000). We continue to need services, and we are the only resource for families with children in the River District Neighbourhood. We are grateful for the support from our partners City of Vancouver Wesgroup Development and Wesgroup Capital Savings, which allows us to provide this much-needed preventative resource. However, we are not enough for this diverse community.

As the community grows, we observe a greater need for families, seniors, and single young professionals to connect with others, share parenting experiences and participate in social and physical activities. In a society where extended family is typically far away, people find connection and support from others in their community. The Community Centre programs cultivate these connections between residents and create healthier individuals/families and build healthier communities.

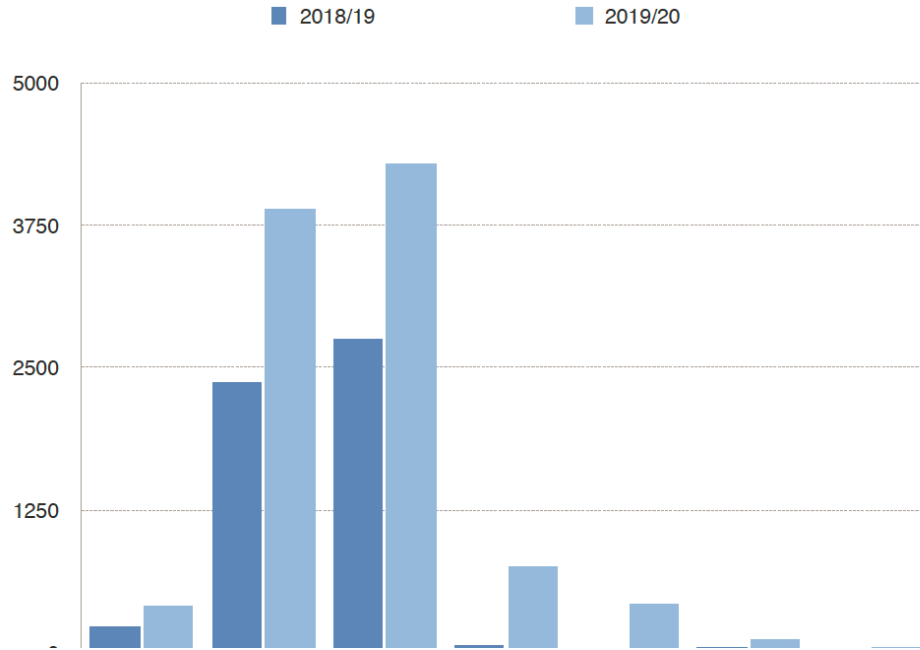
I have provided a snapshot of participation at the Fraserlands Drop-In program.

- We offered 297 hours of service in 2019/2020.
- The program saw 408 individual families accessing the program with 3882 adult visits and 4290 children's visits.
- Out of these numbers, we saw 760 grandparents, 431 fathers, and 120 families who have been in Canada for less than five years.
- Also, in the Drop-In Program, we offered 42 hours of workshops for the families.

Also, we were able to keep the centre open for 197 days that translates to 297 hours of Drop-in program delivery. As stated before, this is not enough.



Below is a Statistical Comparison Chart of 2018/19 fiscal year to 2019/20 fiscal year.



A community centre would be an asset to the whole community; it can adapt to community programming needs more effectively than we currently can and is worthy of community support.

The current community centre plans strike the perfect balance of arts, culture, recreation and a municipal hall. But most importantly, the value of “a gathering place” cannot be overstated. It is essential for a healthy community, literally and figuratively.

Community centres are the galvanizing hub of a town.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, Julio Bello, Executive Director,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Sincerely,

Julio Bello

Executive Director

South Vancouver Family Place



Dear Ms. Anton,

Thank you for listening to what I, and many of my friends, have to say about the need for this service in our neighbourhood. I can easily say that the closest friends I have are those I have met since my children have been born. If it were not for South Vancouver Family Place, I would not have met them. This area of the city needs a hub, a place for moms and families to call our own. SVFP is just that, it is the center and beginning of so many friendships. Friendships, resources, support, friendly faces, all within walking distance for those of us along the river. We have developed a strong network of mothers, strong as individuals (as you can see by our rep Esther!) and even stronger together. You would be amazed at what we can do, and what we have done. Since SVFP started at the river here in 2011, there have been memories made, new families welcomed into our fold, and children who care for their neighbourhood and the adults who keep them safe. We care for each others kids here and impromptu play dates and visits and parties are common. We are proud of this place we call home, please don't forget about us down here by the river!

Most sincerely,    Jessie Wilkes

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



March 12, 2014

Dear Ms. Anton,

My husband, Eric and I were very disappointed to hear that the River District Family Place will be closing. We love Family Place and it's incredibly important to our family that it stays open. We have been regular visitors of the River District Family Place since Summer 2011, when my daughter, Gabriella was born. Almost three years later, we now have a seven month old son, Zachary, and we visit Family Place now more than ever.

The resources at Family Place are incredibly valuable to us. The staff, in particular, are excellent at providing stimulating activities (including circle time and crafts), as well as providing parenting advice. Most recently, I was in need of some advice regarding my daughter's tantrums. Gabriella and Eric had just come home from a trip and she was not herself. I spoke to Rennae (sp?) and she gave me practical advice that I put in place that same day. My daughter is back on track and I believe that Rennae had a large role in that change.

We have also had the opportunity and privilege to meet with other community resources at Family Place such as: community health nurses, speech pathologists etc. They help make sure our children are meeting important developmental milestones and offer follow up when necessary. For example, when my daughter was less than a year, she was behind developmentally in the area of gross motor skills. It's because of Family Place and the experts that they bring in that we were able to get my daughter to where she needed to be.

Also through Family Place, we've had the chance to make friends in our community. We've also participated in various community events including: donating clothes to the clothing drive, momma's nights, community picnic etc.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I hope you can help us to keep our very special Family Place open.

Sincerely,

Amanda Versteeg

s.22(1) Personal and  
Confidential

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

November 15, 2020

To: Vancouver City Council

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



As residents of the East Fraser Lands, we want to see the City move forward with the development of planned amenities for East Fraser Lands in a timely manner. We can't wait to have a new community centre, child care centre and much-needed outdoor play spaces that suit a variety of ages.

While residential development continues to move forward, and our community grows, we still lack the public infrastructure that the City has committed to deliver. It is welcome news that the City is making our neighbourhood a priority and are putting plans in place to build civic and recreational amenities here.

We look forward to the coming changes and developments that will meet the needs of the families in the East Fraser Lands. We have been living here for 6 years now with our young family and have been anticipating these coming amenities during this time.

Thank you,

Christy Shea  
Brian Taggart

Owners living below Marine Drive

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



November 17, 2020

To the City of Vancouver

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

We have lived in the amazing East Fraserlands and River District community for 4 years. My husband Shane is a police officer and I work at lululemon. Our children, Caleb and Avery, are 3 and 6 years old, and have thoroughly enjoyed everything that this bustling community has brought to enrich our lives in Vancouver. We are engaged and dedicated to building this community in every way we can, from participating in community events, to games in the park, to bike rides along the river, to organized sports in the closest vicinity we can.

I am writing because, as this community grows exponentially, the infrastructure we were promised would come has not started and we are all anxiously awaiting to hear your proposal for the plan and committed timeline. Those amenities were crucial to our family moving here given that we foresaw the immense growth that would make it such an amazing community for families. The growth of the community has been felt over the past year and it has become very clear that the parks, amenities etc in this area are insufficient.

As residents of the East Fraser Lands, we want to see the City move forward with the development of planned amenities for East Fraser Lands in a timely manner. We can't wait to have a new community centre, child care and outdoor play spaces.

I look forward to hearing how you'll be committing to these crucial promises that have continuously been brushed under the rug. There are many families awaiting this answer and clarity and I look forward to seeing the plans cemented and committed to before year end.

Thank you.

Chantelle Murnaghan (East Fraserlands resident)  
Sean, Caleb Avery  
Owners living below Marine Drive



## APPENDIX H

November 15, 2020

Dear Vancouver City Council Members,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

I am a resident of the East Fraser Lands area. We love our neighbourhood and especially enjoy our time outside. It has been over a decade since the package of public amenities to support growth in our community was approved. My family is so pleased to hear that Wesgroup and the City are finally coming together on a plan and a timeline to deliver these amenities to our neighbourhood.

It has been a tough year for families with the onset of COVID-19. With social distancing and more time at home, we need parks and outdoor play spaces for our neighbourhood more than ever. As residents of the East Fraser Lands, we want to see the City move forward with the development of planned amenities for East Fraser Lands in a timely manner. We can't wait to have a new community centre, child care, and outdoor play spaces.

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Sincerely,

Tricia, Rob, Robbie and Ciara Listeck

Residents living below Marine Drive

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

His Worship Mayor Stewart  
Vancouver City Councilors

RE: The building of amenities in East Fraser Lands

November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Mayor Stewart and City Councilors,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

I am writing about the city's plan to start building amenities in the East Fraser Lands neighbourhood, including play areas, a soccer field, a community centre and a childcare centre. It has been over a decade since the package of public amenities to support growth in our community was approved. We are thrilled about the City's commitment to have these amenities built by 2027.

My husband and I have lived in the East Fraser Lands neighbourhood now for more than 8 years and have started our family here. Our two young boys play at the parks every day and we have met so many young families, giving us a real sense of community. However, the only walkable "community center", located at the visitors' centre by Romer's restaurant, is now closing and any other amenities are only accessible by car.

One year, our family had only one car to use, and I found it nearly impossible to get to the library or swimming pool with my three-year old son via public transit. It took around 30 to 40 minutes to reach these destinations, and often had us waiting on very busy streets. How sad for families who due to finances or disability, don't have a car to help them get around. I have watched a neighbor with disabilities trying to cross all four lanes of SE Marine Drive after taking the bus home from Metrotown, one of his few social activities. He couldn't make it to the other side before the traffic light turned green again. More than ever, we need parks and a community centre that people of all ages and abilities can access. Not only would more amenities benefit the diverse group of people who live here, but it would also help us do our part for the environment by helping us decrease our dependency on cars.

We really enjoy living in East Fraser Lands but find it can be isolating for individuals and families who cannot drive. My family is so pleased to hear that Wesgroup and the City are finally coming together on a plan and a timeline to deliver these amenities to our neighbourhood.

I appreciate all that you do for our city. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely yours,

Laura Ubial

Owners Living Below Marine Drive

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



Dear Vancouver City Councillors and Mayor Stewart,

## The Moreno -Turner Family

I can't believe we last saw each other in February 2018 where my children and I attended to speak on behalf of our community. And now we are so thrilled to hear that City Staff will be bringing their ideas to Council to help move the EFL amenities forward.

This was us in 2019, as you can see we are a family full of spirit and community. We typically use any event as an excuse to get neighbours together and will the possibility of our City moving forward to make the soccer field, playgrounds for older kids aged 8 - 12 and also the community center a reality - this is definitely an occasion to have our community come together and rally!

Thank you to City staff for your work in trying to make this a reality for all of us that live below Marine Drive and do not have great access to transit to access other amenities available in the City. I hope Council will support your proposal.

I serve on the PAC for the local elementary school that is above Marine Drive (David Oppenheimer). Our PAC worked hard to finance and install these two 8 - 12 year old pieces of play equipment at our school. But sadly to access this my kids and all the kids living below Marine Drive, would need to cross six lanes of traffic to walk to this.

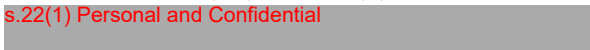
Below Marine Drive the play equipment in the three existing parks are all designed for children aged 8 and under. But we drive them there on the weekends. This was opened Friday, October 30th of this year.

It has been over a decade since the package of public amenities to support growth in our community was approved. My family is so pleased to hear that Wesgroup and the City are coming together on a plan and a timeline to deliver these amenities to our neighbourhood. I am a homeowner, as are the rest that have submitted letters. We pay our taxes and feel it is time for the amenities to be delivered. TransLink has us now on their 10 year plan to address our areas transit needs. We would like the City to do the same and put us in the plans to make the community center and amenities a reality in the next ten years.

We are active contributing Vancouver residents. We coordinate movie nights in the park. We apply for grants. We convert the riverfront pathway into an exercise circuit. We do all this in the interim, hopeful that the City will deliver on their promises.

Kindly, Esther Moreno, Michael Turner, Amelia (10), Max (9)  
Owners living below Marine Drive,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



TO: Mayor Stewart and Council, City of Vancouver

**Delivered via email:** kennedy.stewart@vancouver.ca, CLRdegenova@vancouver.ca, CLRdominato@vancouver.ca, CLRhardwick@vancouver.ca, CLRkirby-yung@vancouver.ca, adriane.carr@vancouver.ca, CLRFry@vancouver.ca, CLRwiebe@vancouver.ca, CLRSwanson@vancouver.ca, [christine.boyle@vancouver.ca](mailto:christine.boyle@vancouver.ca)

**RE: Amenity Delivery in East Fraser Lands**

November 23, 2020

Attention Mayor Stewart and Council,

**We, the undersigned, are writing to share our deep concern on the pace of delivery of public amenities in East Fraser Lands.**

It has been well over a decade since the East Fraser Lands Official Development Plan (2006) and Public Amenity Financial Plan and Strategy (2010) were approved, which outlined a robust package of public amenities to support growth in our community. Yet, these amenities have not been completed and there remains no clear timeline for fulfilment.

As part of the planning program review launched in 2017, and the coinciding City-led community consultation process, residents have received the opportunity to view the plans and offer input. Now, it is time to bring these plans to life.

We understand that the City and Wesgroup are nearing an agreement on a plan and timeline to deliver our amenities. This is welcome news. We have been patient for long enough (many of us have spoken to Council about this), and it is time to make the delivery of public amenities in our neighbourhood a priority.

**Our Ask:** As residents of the East and West Fraser Lands communities, we need the City to come through with a plan, financial commitment and timeline to realize the amenities that have been long committed for our neighbourhood – including a new, permanent community centre, childcare facilities, outdoor play areas, pocket parks, and more. The time is now.

We thank you in advance for your prompt and prudent action on this issue for our community.

Most sincerely,

The Undersigned

1. Esther Moreno, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
2. Yanxia Xu, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
3. Tami Biggar, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
4. Julie Plummer, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
5. Sharlene Steele, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
6. Nadia Clarke, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
7. Laura Ubial, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

8. Deanna Nielsen, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
9. Carolee Macaulay, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
10. Neetu Sharma, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
11. Willem Hoekert, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
12. Hope Sterling, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
13. Barb Smith, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
14. Sally Teich, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
15. Denice Banfield, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
16. Paul Tetrault, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
17. Ann Talbot, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
18. Brenda Dineen, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
19. Sandra Yasin, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
20. Jack VanDenAkker, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
21. David Bird, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
22. Rob Howatson, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
23. Wendy G Baker, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
24. Jane White, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
25. Sophie Dansereau, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
26. Peter Hopkins, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
27. Paul Abbott, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
28. Jane-Ann Kay, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
29. Lina Glass, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
30. David Glass, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
31. Erin Zoney, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
32. Janice Kamke, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
33. Leila Howatson, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
34. Lindsey Bogunovic, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
35. Margaret Bird, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
36. Seana Buchanan, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
37. Lesley Beale, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
38. Megan McKay Hall, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
39. Jasper Hodson, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
40. Freda Tom, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
41. Bruce Maclen, s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



# INVENTORY OF PRODUCTS

All the videos, FlipSnacks sent to council and mayor up to February 27, 2021. All coordinated by Esther Moreno. I am not part of an organization but am an active member of this community. I love this area and support my neighbors in having our collective voices heard.

1. Video – the first version a great one to share with people that don't know what we are asking for and don't know much about the development.

<https://vimeo.com/487321015?ref=em-share>

2. Video of Fraserland voices – all video clips: me, Mike, running guy, Corrie/Seana's mom – really speaks to walkability and then need for a hub and all the amenities

"We're a community not a plan" – Families of East Fraserlands

<https://vimeo.com/487473072>

3. Flipsnack sent in December with five local family letters.

<https://www.flipsnack.com/eastfraserlandsamenities/efl-families.html>

4. Flipsnack – that I made including reference to what our PAC did. Our follow through. This one can be shared on mass with others. (permission from all contributors)

[We Can't Wait by AK - Flipsnack](#)

5. FlipSnack sent in January – the one I made of our community letters from 2014.

[EFL Families - January 2021 by AK - Flipsnack](#)

6. Article done by CBC and released February 7, 2021.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/6-year-old-with-covid-1.5898390>

7. Our form letter with all the 42 names and addresses collected in January when community only given a 3 day turnaround.

See other doc attached.

8. Flipsnack sent in February – the one we made including IMMIGRANT VOICES (referred to in the body of the comment text).

<https://www.flipsnack.com/eastfraserlandsamenities/building-a-welcoming-community-east-fraser-lands.html>



# SOUTH VANCOUVER NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

6470 Victoria Dr., Vancouver, BC V5P 3X7 ph: 604-324-6212 fax: 604-324-6116 website: [www.southvan.org](http://www.southvan.org)

Welcome Bienvenue Chào mừng Quý Vị Bienvenidos 환영합니다 ਜੀ ਆਇਆ ਠੂੰ

December 23, 2020

Vancouver City Council  
C/O: Mayor Kennedy Stewart  
Vancouver City Hall  
453 W 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

Dear Mayor Stewart and Councillors De Genova, Dominato, Hardwick, Kirby-Yung, Carr, Fry, Wiebe, Swanson, and Boyle:

## Re: River District Needs a Community Centre and Neighbourhood House Presence

Happy Holidays! We hope this letter finds you all in excellent health and spirits, as you gear up for what we hope will be a wonderful holiday season. It has been a challenging year, and we appreciate the efforts of City Council to meet the immense needs in the community. COVID was unexpected, and your leadership and quick action has been amazing.

That said, we are writing to advocate for the construction of a community centre in the River District / East Fraserlands area. As you know, neighbourhood houses are community-based organizations that work with local residents to strengthen their neighbourhoods to create meaningful engagement and meaningful change. South Vancouver Neighbourhood House (SVNH) has been in regular contact with City staff over the past few years around the needs of the community in the developing River District area. This stems from concerns brought forward from countless residents in the West and East Fraserlands area who have consistently been raising the issue of a lack of social spaces and amenities in their immediate neighbourhood. People lack places to connect, and much of what has been promised for years has yet to be delivered.

Moreover, SVNH has been conducting research and leading various asset mapping exercises to better understand the landscape across South Vancouver. We know that there has been historic underinvestment in physical infrastructure as well as social services in the neighbourhoods of Sunset, Victoria-Fraserview, and Killarney. Not only do these neighbourhoods consist of over 100,000<sup>1</sup> people – approximately one sixth of the overall population of Vancouver – the demographics include 80%<sup>2</sup> racialized persons, 56% newcomers, and a high density of English-language learners. South Vancouver has a high density of seniors (16% of the population), the largest household sizes (2.9 average vs. 2.2 in CoV overall), and the highest percentage of households with children at home (51% well above the CoV average of 30%) in Vancouver. I cannot think of an area more in need or deserving of spaces to participate in physical recreation, access programs for children, youth and seniors, and overall opportunities for community connection.

<sup>1</sup> According to most recent BC statistics.

<sup>2</sup> All further statistics referenced are according to 2016 Census data.

## Building Better Neighbourhoods Together Since 1977



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UNITED WAY



ASSOCIATION OF  
NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES BC



# SOUTH VANCOUVER NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

6470 Victoria Dr., Vancouver, BC V5P 3X7 ph: 604-324-6212 fax: 604-324-6116 website: [www.southvan.org](http://www.southvan.org)

Welcome Bienvenue Chào mừng Quý Vị Bienvenidos 환영합니다 ਜੀ ਆਇਆ ਨੂੰ

The **community needs the community centre** to be built in the River District area, and they need it soon. There is an influx of new residents moving to the neighbourhood and without adequate support, people are struggling with isolation, mental health challenges, and access to basic essentials. Transportation is a major concern in the East and West Fraserlands, and residents – especially young families and seniors with mobility challenges – cannot be expected to take unreliable transit or walk up a steep hill to access services. The City has a commitment to creating a Healthy City for All. This needs to include residents in the East and West Fraserlands areas.

In addition to a much-needed community centre, the Fraserlands area would greatly benefit from a neighbourhood house presence, which is not included in any of the current development plans. Neighbourhood Houses offer a unique approach to building social connection and strengthening community. Community centres cannot replace neighbourhood houses, nor vice versa. Both types of organizations are essential to create healthy communities, particularly when there is a large influx of new residents, and a need to build relationships between long-term residents and people new to a neighbourhood. Neighbourhood houses help to bridge gaps in language, culture, economic experience, and so much more. They are also designed to be low-barrier and to engage people who struggle to participate in mainstream services. While the burgeoning River District area falls within the catchment area of SVNH, without additional resources and space, SVNH is currently limited in the type of place-making that we can facilitate in this unique neighbourhood. We strongly feel that a separate neighbourhood house, or neighbourhood house annex, is essential for residents in the River District area to thrive in the decades ahead.

Thank you for your kind consideration. While we recognize that the City will have many priorities to deal with in 2021, we strongly advocate for the construction of a new community centre in the River District, and the addition of a neighbourhood house site, to be among your top priorities.

Once more, we appreciate all of your hard work throughout 2020, and wish you the very best over the holidays.

Warm regards,

s.22(1) Personal and  
Confidential

Jonathan Hays  
Board Chair

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Zahra Esmail  
Executive Director

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## Building Better Neighbourhoods Together Since 1977





# SOUTH VANCOUVER NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

6470 Victoria Dr., Vancouver, BC V5P 3X7 ph: 604-324-6212 fax: 604-324-6116 website: [www.southvan.org](http://www.southvan.org)

Welcome Bienvenue Chào mừng Quý Vị Bienvenidos 환영합니다 ਜੀ ਆਇਆਂ ਨੂੰ

March 1, 2021

Vancouver City Council  
C/O: Mayor Kennedy Stewart  
Vancouver City Hall  
453 W 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

Dear Mayor Stewart and Councillors De Genova, Dominato, Hardwick, Kirby-Yung, Carr, Fry, Wiebe, Swanson, and Boyle:

## Re: East Fraserlands ODP

Please accept this letter, on behalf of the staff and Board members at South Vancouver Neighbourhood House, in strong support of the construction of a new community centre in the River District area of South Vancouver. As mentioned in the letter submitted to you dated December 23rd, we strongly feel that there is an immediate need for the construction of a community centre in the River District area. This is based on our understanding of the needs and the barriers of the diverse and growing community in the River District area. Social isolation is a significant concern, which would be alleviated by the development of a new community centre that is easy-to-reach by local residents.

River District residents are cut off from the limited programs currently available in other parts of Victoria-Fraserview or Killarney, largely due to Marine Drive – effectively a highway – which cuts the River District off from other neighbourhoods in the area. Public transit is extremely limited, and geography also causes a challenge: there is a steep hill to climb to reach the nearest community centre, Champlain Heights Community Centre. The steep hill makes it nearly impossible for the people who would most benefit, including seniors, families with young children, and persons with disabilities, to traverse to the other side.

At present, 20/24 (or 83%) of the community centres across Vancouver are located north of 34th Avenue. The remaining community centres, Marpole Oakridge, Sunset, Killarney, and Champlain Heights, are difficult to access by River District residents. Other social amenities such as neighbourhood houses are also not equitably distributed across Vancouver. Of the eleven neighbourhood houses in the City, nine are north of 41st Avenue. There simply are not enough places for community members living across Marpole, Oakridge, Sunset, Victoria-Fraserview, and Killarney to connect. This includes the River District, which will only experience increased density over the next ten years. There is a need for the construction of a Community Centre in the River District with a neighbourhood house presence to ensure engagement and inclusion of community members with barriers to participation.

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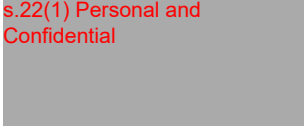
ASSOCIATION OF  
NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES BC

City Council has expressed its commitment to complete neighbourhoods. East Fraserlands ODP is essential to building the foundation for the complete neighbourhood that River District residents were promised – a place that emphasizes good health, balance, well-being, and social connection. With the proposed additions, the River District can be a strong, connected, inclusive and complete neighbourhood.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

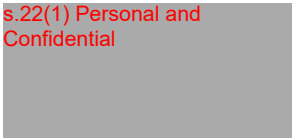
Yours truly,

s.22(1) Personal and  
Confidential



Jonathan Hays, Chair

s.22(1) Personal and  
Confidential



Zahra Esmail, Executive Director