

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT**

### **525 ELLICE STREET**

#### **What will the development include?**

The site will be developed for approximately 80 shelter beds, 24 self-contained supportive housing units, plus space for support and transition services, which can be converted into an additional 20 temporary beds for extreme weather conditions.

The building will be designed so it can be converted into permanent, supportive housing.

#### **Who will operate Ellice Street?**

Victoria Cool Aid Society will be the non-profit operator of the Ellice Street site. Cool Aid will be moving their Streetlink emergency shelter services, currently located on Swift Street, to this new location better able to accommodate its expanded needs.

#### **Who will live in the new development?**

The emergency shelter will be used by Victoria's homeless people. The self-contained supportive housing units will be used by people transitioning from living on the street. Staff will be on site at all times.

When converted to supportive housing, the residents will be a similar population to those living in the existing supportive housing units.

#### **What services/supports will the clientele receive?**

The shelter component will offer a wider range of services than the existing downtown shelter. Besides basic essential services to address issues of nutrition and hygiene, there will be services designed to provide links to more permanent housing, and other types of assistance to provide opportunities designed to help people regain their independence, such as counselling and employment assistance.

In the supportive housing component, in addition to the housing, residents will receive a range of supports including meals, counselling, life-skills training and employment and education programs.

#### **Is this a 24/7 Emergency Shelter?**

The component with 80 shelter beds will operate as a 24/7 emergency shelter. Staff will be on-site at all times.

### **Why is Streetlink being relocated to Ellice Street?**

The existing Streetlink operation has outgrown the current location. Concerns related to line-ups to enter the shelter, loitering, and homeless being denied access because the shelter is full, will be addressed through building design and an improved support service model at the Ellice Street location.

Relocating Streetlink to Ellice Street will provide approximately 80 shelter beds, 24 self-contained supportive housing units, space for 20 additional shelter beds in extreme weather conditions, plus support and transition services, and the design will address the operational challenges faced in the current downtown location.

There will also be an improvement in services offered at the new location designed to link people to more permanent housing and to help them regain their independence.

### **What is planned for the Streetlink site once Ellice Street is operational?**

The Streetlink facility will be converted to approximately 15 new supportive housing apartments, expanding on the adjoining 26 units at Swift House.

### **What is the Good Neighbour Agreement?**

Good Neighbour Agreements are documents outlining the relationship between a housing development and the local neighbourhood, and could include business groups, neighbourhood associations, and the police, for example. These agreements address issues such as support service operations, security and staffing, rules and regulations, property maintenance, and who to contact in the event of an emergency. These will be developed by the non-profit housing provider in consultation with the local community, and are usually signed by representatives of all the participating groups.

### **When will development start? Be completed?**

Construction is estimated to begin towards the end of 2008, with completion by the spring of 2010.

The proposed milestone development dates are as follows:

Consultant Selections	December 2007/January 2008
Design and Specifications	January - August 2008
Municipal Approvals (OCP, rezoning)	April - September 2008
Permits/Final Approvals	October 2008
Construction	November 2008 – March 2010

**I thought park space was protected?**

It is rare that park designation is removed, however, this under-utilized land will be of greater benefit to the community when used to provide shelter and necessary support services to homeless persons in Victoria. At the same time, the City of Victoria recognizes the value of green space within neighbourhoods and will be working with the Burnside Gorge Community Association to identify other community improvements that might be considered in response to this transfer of green space.