



Agreement Will Provide Long-term Community Programming in Fernwood Neighbourhood

Date: Friday, August 14, 2009

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – The City of Victoria and the Fernwood Community Association (FCA) have agreed to terms that will ensure the City-owned building at 1923 Fernwood Road, operated by the Fernwood Community Association, complies with the BC Building Code.

“Access to community programs is necessary to building strong communities, and community associations are a key partner in delivering arts and cultural programs,” noted Acting Mayor Charlayne Thornton-Joe. “A shared commitment by all to finding a solution that protected community programming in a safe, accessible facility has brought us to a positive outcome.”

After previous negotiations had stalled last year, the City of Victoria and Fernwood Community Association sought the assistance of a mediator to facilitate a conclusion.

“We’re pleased the City recognizes the Fernwood Community Association’s long-standing dedication to community programming in this building,” added FCA President Tony Sprackett. “We are pleased to renew our commitment to this lease, this building and the Fernwood community.”

The City of Victoria will invest in seismic and fire safety improvements, commencing in September with completion by December 2009 while additional upgrades to programming areas will occur by December 2010. The Fernwood Community Association leases the City-owned building at 1923 Fernwood Road and sub-leases to a variety of businesses and community groups. The current lease, set to expire in 2012, will be extended provided all lease terms are met.

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For More Information:

Acting Mayor Charlayne Thornton-Joe
Cellular: 250.217.0776

Tony Sprackett
President, Fernwood Community Association
250.514.0714