

# Media Release



## City awarded \$1 Million Accessibility Grant for Crystal Pool and Wellness Centre Replacement Project

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – The City of Victoria has been awarded \$1 Million from the Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities towards the Crystal Pool and Wellness Centre Replacement Project.

As part of Jumpstart's Play Finds A Way movement, a \$50-million fundraising commitment to removing accessibility barriers to sport and play, Jumpstart Accessibility Grants support capital costs of construction and renovations to improve physical accessibility to and inclusivity in recreation facilities. Eligible organizations include municipalities and public recreation centres and facilities, schools and community organizations with publically accessible facilities, and public recreation spaces owned and operated by private foundations.

"This is wonderful news as we are building the new facility to be truly inclusive and to increase access to recreation and wellness activities for residents of all abilities," said Mayor Lisa Helps.

City Council approved \$69.4 million for the new facility, towards which the City has committed \$10 million. The project has also received \$6 million from the Federal Gas Tax Fund through the Union of B.C. Municipalities.

"This investment from Jumpstart will be applied to features such as lifts for pool tanks, fully accessible change areas, as well as adaptive sport and fitness equipment," said Thomas Soulliere, Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities.

The new inclusive facility is projected to result in a 35 percent increase in visitation.

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