

West Island Cancer Wellness Centre groundbreaking ceremony marks future to move to new location in Kirkland



(Photo left to right: Francis Scarpaleggia, Liberal MP; Michel Gibson, Kirkland Mayor; Debbie Magwood, Founder & Executive Director WICWC; Erik Charton, Co-Chair WICWC Capital Campaign; Shirley Reed, The Tenaquip Foundation; Robert Ferguson, The Eric T. Webster Foundation; Olga Munari Assaly, The Olga and Leonard T. Assaly Family Foundation).

Beaconsfield – April 7, 2016 - The West Island Cancer Wellness Centre (WICWC) held an intimate groundbreaking ceremony yesterday on rue Du Barry in Kirkland where the new location for their future home will reside. It was a monumental moment following a triumphant zoning change (from residential to public) that occurred in early March. Joining Executive Director and Founder Debbie Magwood was Kirkland Mayor Michel Gibson, Kirkland city officials, MP Francis Scarpaleggia, WICWC Board of Directors & Capital Campaign committee, the building's architect Tony Zinno of Zinno Zappitelli Architects, Alfonso Puccio and his team from Triad construction, and staff.

Mayor Gibson addressed attendees "On behalf of the Kirkland Town Council and of all residents of Kirkland, it is an honour and a privilege to welcome you in our fair city and to extend our best wishes for continued success".

In December 2015, the West Island Cancer Wellness Centre officially launched its Capital Campaign after receiving an extremely generous donation of \$1 million dollars from the **Eric T. Webster Foundation**. "I am so honoured to have had Robert Ferguson from the **Eric T. Webster Foundation** by my side yesterday, as well as almost all of our other top donors. Without their continued generous support, we wouldn't be here breaking ground", said Magwood. Top donors in attendance; Ms. Shirley Reed and family from **The Tenaquip Foundation**, Olga Munari Assaly from **The Olga & Leonard T. Assaly Family Foundation**, and Deborah Boychuk from **Michael and Deborah Boychuk Donation**. Top donors unable to attend: Amelia and Lino Saputo Jr. Foundation, Gaeten Clermont from the Legacy donation of Lucy Vinet, The Molson Foundation, Michael Boychuk and the R. Howard Webster Foundation.

Construction is set to begin on April 8th and they hope to be in the new building by the end of October 2016.



The building will be triple in size compared to the little yellow farmhouse in Beaconsfield where the Centre is now. According to statistics published last year by the Canadian Cancer Society, the number of new cancer cases in Canada is expected to rise about 40% in the next 15 years. This centre and all the programs and services they offer will be even more in demand, hence the need for a bigger building with more room for increased hours in programming.

The Capital Campaign goal is \$3 million dollars and the centre still has to raise another \$250 000 to meet their goal. Magwood says, "There are still opportunities for larger donors who would like to have rooms named in their honour, and we are always looking for In Kind Donations. This building is being built from scratch so we basically need everything!" But, she also wants to give everyone in the community a chance to be part of this exciting new initiative and the legacy of the building. "An investment in our stepping stone campaign through the garden of inspiration is a way to give back to the centre. It allows you to honour a loved one fighting cancer, or perhaps a doctor or family member who helped them through this difficult time, or the memory of a loved one by putting their name on a plaque".

For more information on how you can contribute to the Centre's future, please call 514-695-9355 or visit wicwc.org – Capital Campaign.

About the West Island Cancer Wellness Centre

The West Island Cancer Wellness Centre (WICWC) is a registered charity dedicated to improving the health and well-being of people living with cancer by providing FREE programs and services created to address their emotional, physical and spiritual needs. This type of psychosocial intervention in cancer care supports and complements traditional medical practices.

Through our wellness programs, participants will receive personal support, gain coping mechanisms, discover additional alternatives, and become better educated about their specific illness. We will help them gain more control of their lives, find strength, reduce feelings of isolation, and continue to foster hope, regardless of the stage of their disease. They become empowered, active participants in the management of their health and well-being.

For more information:

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