



MEDIA RELEASE

L'Arche Greater Vancouver kicks off fundraising campaign to build a new three-story building

Burnaby, B.C. (April 8, 2019) – The “We All Belong” campaign to build a new \$30-million facility for L'Arche Greater Vancouver launched Monday morning, April 8, with several donations announced. Audrey Staudacher, president of the L'Arche Foundation of Greater Vancouver said that B.C. Housing had made a \$6.1-million grant. Burnaby's acting mayor Colleen Jordan said that the city was donating approximately \$1-million in kind and fees saved with potentially more to follow.

L'Arche Greater Vancouver is dedicated to creating homes and day programs in which people with and without developmental disabilities live, work and discover faith together. At the kick-off event, L'Arche's Executive Director and Community Leader Denise Haskett described the new three-story home as the organization's most ambitious dream in its 45-year history. “With almost half the money already in place, we only have \$15-million left to raise,” said Haskett. “It doesn't sound like that much does it?”

Sister Marie Zarowny, Province co-leader for the Sisters of St. Ann announced that they made a donation (\$500,000). Their donation would be an extension of her congregation's mission in British Columbia that was started when they first arrived in 1858 in Victoria.

The new L'Arche building will be on the current site at 7401 Sussex Avenue in Burnaby. The 52,000-square-foot building will provide three large L'Arche homes containing 22-bedrooms; expanded community inclusion program space, and administrative offices. In addition there will be 10 suites for those who can live more independently, and 29- units of below-market rental suites. The fully accessible building also features a secure underground parkade with 62 stalls, a large central courtyard that faces a park, and a roof top that will feature gardens, a multi-purpose room and a chapel.

“Our goal is to raise \$15-million so the new building can be occupied in 2021 debt- and mortgage-free. This will enable us to direct more time and resources to serving the community,” said Audrey Staudacher, “We are grateful for everyone's support to help us realize our dream.”

Background - L'Arche Greater Vancouver

L'Arche Greater Vancouver is a registered charity dedicated to creating homes and day programs in which people with and without developmental disabilities live, work and discover faith together. They share life together as an intentional community. With 45 years of experience in fostering inclusion, understanding and belonging, L'Arche is committed to the physical, spiritual and emotional growth of men and women in the L'Arche community.

For more information on L'Arche Greater Vancouver, please visit <http://www.larchevancouver.org/>

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