



January 28, 2013

Dear Community Centre recreation participants - to put your minds at ease,

I would like to bring you up to date on the discussions the Park Board and the Community Centre Associations have been having for the past several months, which include discussions about the future operational model for recreation programs in this and the other community centres.

As you may be aware, the Park Board is working with Community Centre Associations to develop a new partnership agreement that will replace the 40-year-old Joint Operating Agreement. It is intended that an updated operating model will more fairly reflect the needs of our neighbourhoods across the city.

Please be assured that **all programs and services now being delivered at the community centres will continue, uninterrupted.** Seniors' services, child care, youth sports activities and other key programs and services will continue. **It's business as usual.**

A new partnership agreement will ensure that all Vancouver residents will have equal, barrier-free access to the full network of connected, taxpayer-funded recreation facilities and programs. At the same time, a new agreement will support and enhance the outreach and advocacy work of the centres that have been, for so many years, the heart and voice of our communities.

A new agreement means you will no longer need to buy multiple memberships to access programs in different community centres. Leisure Access Cards, which assist low-income residents to access programs, will be accepted on the same terms at all centres. Programs that benefit people from all areas of Vancouver - such as youth leadership, seniors' health, and childhood obesity programs - will be offered throughout the city.

And unique programs and services, such as special arts and cultural programming, water-based activities, etc., will continue and will be accessible by everyone.

It's been a long process - we've had more than 50 meetings so far - and we're continuing to talk to community centre representatives.

The volunteer-supported community centre system has contributed much to the quality of life we all enjoy here in Vancouver. It is our intention that a new partnership agreement will make this system even better, for all of the city's citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Blyth".

Sarah Blyth
Chair, Park Board

