



## **GROUND-BREAKING CELEBRATION SET FOR AUGUST 28 FOR NEW PEMBERTON COMMUNITY CENTRE**

For Immediate Release  
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### **Community Centre construction underway with opening target of September 2007**

Pemberton, BC: Officials at the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District and the Village of Pemberton announced today that the official ground-breaking ceremony for the Pemberton Community Centre will take place August 28 on the site at 4pm.

The community is invited to celebrate the occasion as Pemberton Mayor Jordan Sturdy and Area C Director Susie Gimse take up shovels to turn the soil. Complimentary hotdogs and beverages courtesy of the Village of Pemberton and the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District will be served. Static displays of the Community Centre design and artist's concept will be unveiled on site, and will also be available for viewing at the Pemberton Library and the Pemberton Community Centre (in the old high school).

The new 22,000 sq ft Community Centre will have a recreation dry floor space, library with dedicated children's area, fitness centre, and activity rooms, as endorsed by the community at referendum in November 2005.

RMT Contracting Ltd, a Vancouver-based company who won awards for their project management of the Pemberton Valley Grocery Store, will manage the project. RMT also contracted the school extension at Mount Currie's new site, and Whistler's 19 Mile Creek project, amongst other prestigious commissions throughout the Pacific Northwest. Pemberton local Greg Stratton, who has worked with RMT over the past 10 years as well as building his own homes, will be the Site Superintendent.

RMT Contracting assisted in the selection of an architecture firm who would understand the community's needs and budget. Davidson Yuen Simpson, Vancouver-based architects with an extensive design portfolio which includes community centres, child-care centres, and non-market housing projects, was retained.

Says principal architect Dane Jansen, "Our task is to work with the SLRD's Area C/Village of Pemberton Joint Operations Committee and the general contractors to fulfill the program needs of the community centre and the library, within the established budget constraints. That means more than simply providing the requested room sizes. It includes developing practical sustainable solutions that will make for a comfortable building with lower operating costs. It means providing a flexible light-filled environment for people to interact in, and celebrate their community."

The 2-story building, plus underground parkade, will have a 130 ft x 130 ft footprint. To minimize its ecological impact, the building will have geothermal heating. SLRD Administrator Paul Edgington said the Committee elected not to pursue LEEDS or similar

certification, "to avoid the overhead of compliance record-keeping and reporting which can add to the project cost." Instead, the design has incorporated practical green design where possible, from low E glass to a vaulted central atrium with clerestory glass to allow the building to breathe.

Says Pemberton Mayor Jordan Sturdy, "In my view the geothermal choice was first a good financial decision and second an environmental one. We are building this building with an eye to the future and making choices regarding heating, airflow, finishes or expansion, that make sense in the long run. It is not a monument, but a building that a lot of thought and hard work has gone into and we can be justifiably proud."

The Canada/BC Infrastructure program provided an extended deadline for the Community Centre, enabling receipt of a \$1.1333 million grant. One thousand loads of fill were placed for preloading on the site before the summer, causing the ground to settle over one foot. With a September 2007 target for completion, the construction team are about to hit the ground running, with the installation of geothermal, removal of preload, and pouring of the foundations.

An overall long-term site plan for lots 12 and 15 is also being developed, with space allocated to future projects such as a water park, natural amphitheatre, skate park, youth centre, and other facilities. The overall site plan can be viewed at the Library and Community Centre.

**For more information, contact:**

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