



## MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: July 16, 2019  
Author: Julie Iannaccone, Director, Neighbourhood & Youth Services  
Phone No.: 604-331-4005  
VanDocs#: DOC/2019/181040  
Meeting Date: July 24, 2019  
TO: Library Board  
FROM: Kurt Heinrich, Chair, Community Relations, Planning & Development  
SUBJECT: **First Nations Consultation for Marpole Branch Redevelopment**

---

### **SUMMARY**

This report recommends that the Board direct staff to initiate conversations with local First Nations groups to seek input on the design of the new Marpole Branch Library.

### **PURPOSE**

This report is for decision.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the Board direct staff to initiate conversations with Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations to seek input on the design of the new Marpole Branch Library.

### **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

Trustee Jules commented on the need to consult about protocol for this request to the three First Nations and Trustees Jules and Pruden shared experiences about protocol and approach in related situations and how this may be different. Committee Chair Heinrich asked about the consultation process used during the development of the náč̓aʔmat ct Strathcona Branch, and how the Board could learn from that. The Chief Librarian will explore opportunities for trustees to participate in consultation, and trustees Jules and Pruden expressed interest.

## **POLICY**

The current strategic plan includes initiatives to plan redevelopment of the Marpole Branch under the Access & Equity outcome and to address the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action under the Sharing & Collaboration outcome.

This work aligns with VPL's core values of respecting diversity and social inclusion as expressed in the Library's Values and the Library's [Diversity and Inclusion Statement](#).

## **BACKGROUND**

Working with colleagues from various City of Vancouver departments, library staff have begun planning for the redevelopment of the Marpole Branch, which is expected to be completed in 2025. At 3,600 square feet, the current branch is undersized and is often very crowded, with 128,587 visits in 2018. The neighbourhood population of 24,000 is expected to grow to 36,000 by 2041. The 2014 [Marpole Community Plan](#) identified the need for a renewed, larger library and the [VPL Facilities Master Plan](#) ranks it as a high-priority branch for reinvestment. The current branch site at Granville and 67<sup>th</sup> Avenue has been identified as the location for a new civic centre which will include a 17,000 square foot library and other civic amenities including cultural spaces.

When planning for VPL's newest branch, náca?mat ct Strathcona, library staff consulted with local First Nations to seek input on the library's name, design, and services. VPL has a long history of connecting with local Indigenous<sup>1</sup> community members because our library facilities and services are delivered on the traditional and unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. It is part of our role as a public library to participate in sharing the history, ideas, and stories of Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Marpole Community Plan identifies opportunities to conserve and recognize important community features. The Musqueam presence in Marpole dates back 4,000 to 5,000 years with the settlement of village site of čəsna?əm which came to be known as the Marpole Midden. The Musqueam have continuously used and occupied their traditional lands and continue to have strong cultural, spiritual, and physical connections to the area.

The community plan encourages consultation and collaboration with the Musqueam First Nation to explore options to acknowledge the historical and continuing cultural importance as an ancient village and burial site and a significant part of Vancouver's history. The plan also notes that the city will seek opportunities to integrate Musqueam place names, history and cultural expression into public spaces.

---

<sup>1</sup> Indigenous Peoples in Canada include First Nations, Métis and Inuit

Library staff would like to begin consultation and collaboration soon, noting the importance of involving local First Nations groups in the early planning stages of the project. The City of Vancouver's Manager of Indigenous Relations has advised staff that they should begin by consulting the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Financial implications will be determined as consultation and collaboration lead to recommendations.

### **TIMELINE**

The Marpole Branch redevelopment process is beginning in 2019 with community consultation and functional programming, and it is included in the current 2019-2022 capital plan. The project is currently expected to continue through 2025.

### **FINAL REMARKS**

The Marpole Branch redevelopment offers an opportunity to continue to explore opportunities for VPL to address the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and to represent the history and culture of local First Nations in Vancouver through facilities and services, building on efforts that have been underway for many years.