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**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL" <CCDTMACDL@vancouver.ca>

**Date:** 3/15/2016 10:25:35 PM

**Subject:** Earthquake Preparedness Strategy Project Update - Disaster Support Hubs

**Attachments:** [CMO - Mayor & Council Disaster Support Hubs - 2016.03.15.pdf.pdf](#)

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo regarding the Earthquake Preparedness Strategy project update on Disaster Support Hubs.

A short summary of the memos is as follows:

- As part of the year one update to the Earthquake Preparedness Strategy in February 2015, the installation of Disaster Support Hubs was highlighted as a priority action
- The initiative involves posting Disaster Support Hub signage at selected sites to indicate areas where citizens can gather to share information and resources following an earthquake.
- In Vancouver, the Disaster Support Hub signs will be posted at 25 locations throughout Vancouver starting in March and April.

Best,  
Sadhu

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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
Sadhu Johnston, City Manager

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## MEMORANDUM

March 15, 2016

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, Acting Deputy City Manager  
Janice MacKenzie, City Clerk  
Lynda Graves, Manager, Administration Services, City Manager's Office  
Rena Kendall-Craden, Director, Communications  
Mike Magee, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Kevin Quinlan, Deputy Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Paul Mochrie, Acting Deputy City Manager  
Daniel Stevens, Director, Emergency Management

FROM: Sadhu A. Johnston, City Manager

SUBJECT: Earthquake Preparedness Strategy Project Update - Disaster Support Hubs

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Dear Mayor and Council,

As part of the year one update to the Earthquake Preparedness Strategy in February 2015, the installation of Disaster Support Hubs was highlighted as a priority action. This memo is to provide you an update on where we are at with this initiative.

The initiative involves posting Disaster Support Hub signage at selected sites to indicate areas where citizens can gather to share information and resources following an earthquake. These sites are at or near facilities that are included in the City's plans as sites to offer post-disaster information, resources, and services.

The initiative aims to:

- raise awareness and spark discussion about personal and neighbourhood preparedness before an earthquake occurs;
- facilitate community-led response in the immediate aftermath of an earthquake; and
- increase public awareness of the sites and response services that are already part of our plans.

CMO - Mayor & Council Disaster Support Hubs - 2016.03.15.pdf

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The Disaster Support Hub concept is based on an initiative developed in New Zealand, which was highly effective following the Christchurch earthquake. Similar gathering spots are set up in Seattle with the same intended low-tech approach to facilitate grassroots community support, following a natural disaster.

In Vancouver, the Disaster Support Hub signs will be posted at 25 locations throughout Vancouver. These include 23 community centres, Openheimer Park and Vancouver Public Library Fraserview Branch.

The sites were selected because they are trusted locations where many community members gather on a regular basis, they have sufficient outdoor space for gathering, they are well placed across the City, and they are locations where the city is able to offer ongoing post-disaster support after an earthquake.

Disaster Support Hubs serve as initial meeting spots for residents, families, and community organizations to come together and help each other during a time when emergency first responders will be busy responding to high-priority calls, and before emergency reception and group lodging centres can be safely opened.

Initially, people will meet on the outdoor grounds at these Disaster Support Hubs. As buildings are assessed for safety, some of the activities may move indoors to available space within the facility. In addition, many of the Community Centres may be used to deliver planned post-disaster services to residents, including group lodging, recovery information, and other supplies and resources.

Signs will be installed in March and April of this year, and the Disaster Support Hubs will be officially launched in May as part of Emergency Preparedness Week. This will help to raise the profile of this initiative and increase awareness with the public. Information will also be posted on the City website at [vancouver.ca/beprepared](http://vancouver.ca/beprepared) and rack cards will be available for display at the locations identified.

Over the next month, we will enhance the information on our website at [vancouver.ca/beprepared](http://vancouver.ca/beprepared) including a map showing all locations.

I hope this information is helpful and please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Yours truly,

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City Manager

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