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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)  
Date: 7/7/2025 5:25:25 PM  
Subject: Update: 923 E Hastings - VCH Recovery Centre

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Hello Mayor and Council

Some of you may have recently received questions or concerns from the Strathcona BIA regarding VCH's plans for 923 E. Hastings Street. Please find below an update from Margaret Wittgens, GM of Arts Culture and Community Services.

#### Background

- The Junction Recovery is a community recovery centre in Vancouver currently temporarily located at the Robert and Lily Lee Community Health Centre (1669 E. Broadway), that provides support for individuals aged 19 and older who are seeking or maintaining recovery or wellness from substance use.
- It offers a welcoming, family-friendly, inclusive space where people can access: group sessions and one-on-one support, drop-in and registered programs, aftercare and ongoing wellness support.
- Substance use is not permitted in or around the centres and overdose prevention services are not provided.
- The Junction is operated by Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) and is part of a broader network of recovery community centres across the VCH region.

#### Relocation of the Junction

- VCH has been seeking a new site for the Junction because the program is only temporarily in its current location within a community health centre. Additionally, the program model is not intended to be situated in a clinical space, but rather to be in a community location (similar to the Junction program operated in North Vancouver on Lonsdale Avenue).
- In early 2025, VCH purchased the site at 923 E. Hastings, a unit in a mixed use (commercial /residential) strata.
- VCH has applied for development and building permits and undertaken the required community engagement and outreach, including with local businesses, the BIA and community members; [Vancouver Junction Engagement](#)
- More information on the permitting process can be found here [923 E Hastings St \(DP-2025-00065\) development application | Shape Your City Vancouver](#)
- Staff will provide further updates to Council as more information is available.

#### Council Strategic Alignment

- The relocation of the Junction, led by VCH and supported by City staff, is an important realization of [2022 Council direction](#) that the City work to support VCH to establish a community recovery centre.
- Council will receive a more fulsome update on the Road to Recovery work led by VCH and health sector partners in fall, 2025.

### Community

- Staff are aware of and have been engaged with the Strathcona BIA on a number of unrelated public realm safety issues in the broader area, specifically relating to an OPS, washroom trailer, and 'drinkers lounge' picnic tables located at the V6A community garden at Hawks Ave and E. Hastings, beside the Astoria Hotel (2 blocks west of the new Junction location).
- It is understandable that community may conflate these issues with the plans for the Junction and staff recognize the benefit and necessity for enhanced communication as this moves ahead.

Should Council have further questions please contact Margaret directly at [Margaret.Wittgens@vancouver.ca](mailto:Margaret.Wittgens@vancouver.ca) and she will ensure questions are addressed through the weekly Q&A.

Thank you,

Sandra

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