

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 8, 2007

STATEMENT FROM TURNING POINT RECOVERY SOCIETY

Richmond, B.C. – Former Richmond City councillors Kiichi Kumugai and Ken Johnston's statements about Turning Point's affordable housing and addiction services proposal are incorrect and only serve to further misinform Ash Street neighbours and the greater community.

Kiichi Kumugai, Ken Johnston and NIABY Richmond are missing the point. Turning Point's proposal is about taking care of vulnerable citizens in our community. It's about the responsibility we all share as a community to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

Contrary to claims made by Kumugai and Johnston, Turning Point:

- Began consulting with the community last April when the first of 7 letters was sent to residents in the Ash Street neighbourhood;
- Sent over 1150 letters to residents in the neighbourhood through the 7 mail drops; and
- Convened a Neighbourhood Liaison Committee to provide a forum for neighbours to provide input and feedback into various aspects of our proposal.

Turning Point is also hosting three public open houses later this month, to provide all members of the community with an opportunity to learn more about the details of our proposal and provide feedback.

Kumugai and Johnston are encouraged to check the facts when they make claims about the size of Turning Point's proposal. Turning Point is proposing three residences on approximately half an acre of land. The density level of our proposal is totally consistent with the residential density of the neighbourhood and the institutional designation in the City's Official Community Plan.

The proposed residences on the Ash Street property will stay within the scale and design of the neighbourhood and will blend with existing homes while greatly improving the site's current façade.

Turning Point's proposal will give priority placement to Richmond residents, women and women with children or infants to make it easier for them to get the help they need in their home community. It is aligned with and supports the Richmond Homelessness Needs Assessment and Strategy, the City of Richmond's Official Community Plan and the 2007 City of Richmond Affordable Housing Strategy.

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