

## Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX

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**From:** Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 16, 2017 9:51 AM  
**To:** Plecas, Bobbi PREM:EX  
**Subject:** NR\_Volunteer Day for Victoria Playground\_Mar 17\_V6  
**Attachments:** NR\_Volunteer Day for Victoria Playground\_Mar 17\_V8.docx

Hi Bobbi,  
Quote for Larry's review, thanks.

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**Tasha Schollen** | Communications Director  
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services  
Government Communications and Public Engagement  
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

## Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX

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**From:** Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 16, 2017 11:49 AM  
**To:** Wey, Melody GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Notes for Tomorrow  
**Attachments:** NR\_Volunteer Day for Victoria Playground\_Mar 17\_V8 2.pdf

Hi change to afghan para....quote input still to come.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Plecas, Bobbi PREM:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 16, 2017 11:27 AM  
**To:** Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Notes for Tomorrow

Please seen the attached.

s.13

Bobbi

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Joseph E.L. Gollner [<mailto:s.22>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 16, 2017 11:20 AM  
**To:** Plecas, Bobbi PREM:EX  
**Subject:** Notes for Tomorrow

Hello Bobbi,

Thanks for the opportunity to review the paragraph referring to our memorial. Please see the colour highlighted paragraph. I changed the occasional word but then brought the conclusion of the paragraph into alliance with our wording on the memorial which we use as a theme in our advertising.

Cheers Larry

**Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX**

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**From:** Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 16, 2017 3:31 PM  
**To:** Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Wey, Melody GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: For Final Review/Approval - MTICS NR - DRAFT: Volunteers spring into action to install new playground

Great. Jo can you please send up a final package to MO?

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 16, 2017 3:30 PM  
**To:** Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Wey, Melody GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: For Final Review/Approval - MTICS NR - DRAFT: Volunteers spring into action to install new playground

Yes, on Monday and the final has their changes.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 16, 2017 3:27 PM  
**To:** Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Wey, Melody GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: For Final Review/Approval - MTICS NR - DRAFT: Volunteers spring into action to install new playground

Good. Housing saw the NR, yes? When we asked about a quote, right?

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 16, 2017 3:23 PM  
**To:** Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Wey, Melody GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: For Final Review/Approval - MTICS NR - DRAFT: Volunteers spring into action to install new playground

This is good with me. If good with you - I will finalize and send around a final package to MNGD and JAG, as well as print copies for event tomorrow. Thx - Jo

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Stagg, Linda R GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 16, 2017 3:15 PM  
**To:** Wey, Melody GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Boudreau, Marc GCPE:EX; Carruthers, Dana GCPE:EX; Chant, Jon GCPE:EX; Kerr, Grant GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: For Final Review/Approval - MTICS NR - DRAFT: Volunteers spring into action to install new playground

For your review -

And then to go at 9:20 Friday morning, to the Gallery and Greater Victoria.

If we need to chat, please call my Berry 250 882-8673. I am on call this evening.

Linda Stagg  
Editor, Government Communications and Public Engagement  
250.387-4534 | Mobile: 250 882-8673

-----Original Message-----

From: Stagg, Linda R GCPE:EX [mailto:Linda.Stagg@gov.bc.ca]  
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 3:13 PM  
To: Stagg, Linda R GCPE:EX  
Subject: DRAFT: Volunteers spring into action to install new playground

Please refer to the files attached to this email. The following is the summary of the News Release

NR Number: Not Approved  
NR Type: News Release  
State: Planned  
Planned Release Date: March 17, 2017 at 9:20 am No Lead Organization  
Headline: Volunteers spring into action to install new playground

This email was auto-generated.

Not Approved  
March 17, 2017

Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

NEWS RELEASE  
Volunteers spring into action to install new playground

VICTORIA - A team of volunteers and public servants are pitching in to assemble a new playground at the Victoria Courthouse today, creating a fun and interactive play space in the heart of Victoria for people of all ages to enjoy.

The playground assembly team includes members of the B.C. public service, Christ Church Cathedral Parish and School community, Our Place, and former tent city campers.

The 540 square-metre (5,800 square-foot) playground will include equipment chosen by children attending Christ Church Cathedral and Sir James Douglas Elementary schools, and will include swings, slides, climbing nets, a toddler play area and a spinning globe. The redesigned property will feature chess tables, benches and a rubberized safety surface with artistic designs.

The space will include a permanent monument to Canadian Afghanistan veterans. The memorial is a project financed by the Greater Victoria Afghanistan Memorial Project Society, which is currently fundraising to create this memorial. The memorial will be dedicated to all Canadians who served in Afghanistan. It will recognize the families and loved ones of



those who served and those who returned with physical and mental wounds, while honouring those Canadian Armed Forces and Public Service of Canada members who paid the supreme sacrifice.

Habitat Systems Incorporated will be on site to guide volunteers through the installation and will conduct a safety inspection following its assembly. For easy assembly, all tools required for the day, including levels, hammers, hand drills, nails and shovels, will be supplied.

A generous donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, has contributed \$150,000 toward the cost of the playground equipment. Tire Stewardship B.C. has donated \$80,000 toward the rubberized safety surface. The Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services has contributed an additional \$50,000 toward the playground.

A playground emerged as the most-popular choice for the block-wide site during discussions with neighbours. The playground is expected to be ready to open to the public this spring, once the rubberized safety surface is poured and landscaping is completed.

#### Quotes:

Amrik Virk, Minister of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services -

"I would like to thank today's volunteers and acknowledge the generosity of our donors who have contributed towards revitalizing the Victoria Courthouse site. Today is about giving back and creating a safe public space and playground that the community can enjoy."

Suzanne Anton, Attorney General and Minister of Justice -

"I'm delighted to see the former lawn of the Victoria Courthouse be transformed into a vibrant new public playground for the neighborhood and for people of all ages to enjoy. The design of the space is more open, allows more light into the property and enhances public safety - and this is a great thing for both the courthouse and this fantastic new playground."

BGen (Rtd) Joseph E. L. Gollner, OMM, CD, president, Greater Victoria Afghan Memorial Project Society -

"We are proud of what this memorial represents, as a permanent tribute to honour the brave Canadians who died in the service of their country. This serves as a central location for this important memorial, surrounded by the joy of children at play, their families and the strength of community."

Don Evans, executive director, Our Place -

"It's wonderful to see some of the people who were once homeless returning today to help build this community playground. It truly shows how having access to proper housing, health care and opportunity can transform lives and instill that desire to give back."

Stuart Hall, Head, Christ Church Cathedral school -

"This new park and playground will be a welcome addition to the neighbourhood. This park has been designed to serve all ages, from children to seniors, and has the real potential to be a friendly gathering place for the whole community. With so many new families moving into the area, it will be well used. The students of Cathedral school were delighted to be consulted with and are keen to try out their favourite equipment."

#### Quick Facts:

- \* Consultations for redeveloping the site included local residents, the YMCA, the Christ Church Cathedral and students at Christ Church Cathedral and Sir James Douglas Elementary schools.
- \* Landscaping will feature 17 new trees, including two maidenhair, one southern catalpa, two Raywood ash, six eastern redbud and six Kwanzan cherry trees.
- \* In 2015-16, the B.C. government spent close to \$5 million to provide housing and shelter for residents of the Victoria courthouse encampment.
- \* In 2016-17, the Province will spend approximately \$28 million, which includes capital costs for the Central Care Home, as well as the Super 8 hotel. This includes \$373,000 to Portland Hotel Society (PHS) Community Services for support and outreach services at the encampment site between April and August 2016.
- \* As of January 2017, more than 260 people from the Victoria courthouse camp are housed at four different housing projects in the region.
- \* To date, approximately 80 people from the courthouse encampment have moved into permanent housing.

#### Learn More:

For more information about the Greater Victoria Afghanistan Memorial Society and its campaign to raise funds to create a memorial to Canadian Afghan veterans: <https://vicaafghanistanmemorial.ca/>

#### Media Contact:

Joanne Whittier  
 Communications Manager  
 Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services  
 250 893-5650

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: [www.gov.bc.ca/connect](http://www.gov.bc.ca/connect)

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**From:** DeLarge, Lorne MTIC:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 16, 2017 4:36 PM  
**To:** Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Cost explanation - Vic Courthouse

Breakdown below.

Add - Security + fencing @\$60,000 monthly x 8 months (aug-march 2017) = \$480k

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**From:** Sykes, Graeme MTIC:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 16, 2017 4:33 PM  
**To:** DeLarge, Lorne MTIC:EX  
**Cc:** Sykes, Graeme MTIC:EX  
**Subject:** Cost explanation - Vic Courthouse

Hi Lorne

\$1M includes: Playground (\$289K), Remediation (\$350K), Landscaping (\$223K), Landscape Architect (\$52K), WSI Project Mgmt (\$49K).

Not included:

Monthly security and fence rental has been \$60,000/mth since August.

Hope this helps.

Graeme

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**From:** Lush, Ryan MTIC:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 15, 2017 8:58 AM  
**To:** Wey, Melody GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Sykes, Graeme MTIC:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Two quick questions: playground

Hi Melody, answers to your questions below in blue.

**Ryan Lush** | Team Lead - Project Administrators | Asset Management Branch  
**Ph:** 250 893-9844 | **e:** [Ryan.Lush@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Ryan.Lush@gov.bc.ca) | PO Box 9412, Stn Prov Gov, Victoria BC V8W9V1  
<image001.png>

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**From:** Wey, Melody GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 15, 2017 8:42 AM  
**To:** Lush, Ryan MTIC:EX  
**Cc:** Sykes, Graeme MTIC:EX  
**Subject:** Two quick questions: playground

I have two more questions for you on the playground, then our materials will be ready for the MO.  
Please let me know the answers. Thx! M

1. Had any other groups come forward requesting a similar memorial in this space and if so, why was this one chosen? I'm assuming no other requests were made, please confirm.  
There were no other memorials requested to go in that space.

**From:** [Wey, Melody GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX](#)  
**Cc:** [Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX](#)  
**Subject:** Event Proposal - Volunteer Day  
**Date:** Thursday, February 23, 2017 2:39:52 PM  
**Attachments:** [EP Volunteer Day for Victoria Playground 23 Feb 17 V3.docx](#)

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This version now includes feedback from Graeme and Ryan, most noticeably in the “auxiliary” section. Playground may be ready to open to the public as early as March 31. Afghan memorial is underway.

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**From:** Sykes, Graeme MTIC:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2017 2:24 PM  
**To:** Wey, Melody GCPE:EX; Lush, Ryan MTIC:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Review Today pls: Event Proposal - Volunteer Day  
Hi Melody

Your document is well done and very useful for our purposes too, so thank you!

I've added a few notes.

Cheers, Graeme

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**From:** Wey, Melody GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2017 11:46 AM  
**To:** Sykes, Graeme MTIC:EX; Lush, Ryan MTIC:EX  
**Subject:** Review Today pls: Event Proposal - Volunteer Day

Hi Graham, Ryan- please review the attached event proposal for the volunteer day – and let us know if you have any edits by end of today if possible. One question we have is about whether ministry staff will be taking the day off to volunteer or if they will be paid their regular salary?

Would be good to know given the number of govt employees on the invite list.

Would be great to have ready for consideration before the weekend. This is for the media event component of the day. I'm off tomorrow so please copy Joanne in your reply. Thanks, Melody

**From:** [Wey, Melody GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX](#)  
**Cc:** [Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Review pls: MAV invite for playground  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 12:27:01 PM  
**Attachments:** [Invitation MTICS March 17th.docx](#)  
[Playground Assembly Day Dignitaries and Volunteers List \(2\).docx](#)

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The 100 or so people on the invite list won't be invited onto the muddy construction zone to help put equipment together. They would need to go through the safety briefing in the morning and sign a waiver. These people will be mostly limited to the parking lot area, to watch the Minister kick off the work day and then invited to stay for coffee break. That said, I've added a mention of shoes given that they may step in some mud.

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**From:** Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 12:02 PM  
**To:** Wey, Melody GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Review pls: MAV invite for playground  
What about wearing closed toe shoes?

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 14, 2017, at 11:23 AM, Wey, Melody GCPE:EX <[Melody.Wey@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Melody.Wey@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

I've confirmed that a 9am start on Friday will work for having equipment ready for the Minister to start the assembly. The Minister could put together part of the Global Motion or the Swingset.

Pls review the invite – so we can get this to the MO and sent out tomorrow.



Please join

**The Honourable Amrik Virk**  
Minister of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

Along with a team of volunteers to start the assembly of equipment for a new playground at the Victoria Courthouse.

**9:00 a.m.**  
**Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Location:**  
**Site of New Playground**  
**Back of the Victoria Courthouse**  
**850 Burdett Avenue**  
**Victoria**

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Please wear closed toe shoes or appropriate footwear as the location is under construction.

Please RSVP to Emily Young – Events Coordinator  
[Emily.Young@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Emily.Young@gov.bc.ca)

Victoria Courthouse Playground – Volunteer Assembly Day, March 17, 2017  
Invite List - Volunteers & Dignitaries

		Organization	Name	Title	Contact
1	Volunteer	YMCA	Steve Gough	Director of Operations	sgough@vancouverislandy.com
2	Dignitary	YMCA	Reid Hepworth	Director of Childcare	rhepworth@vancouverislandy.com
3	Volunteer	Christ Church School	Stuart Hall Students & Families	Principle	stuart.hall@cathedralschool.ca
4	Volunteer	Christ Church Cathedral	Ainsley Tucker	Reverend	thedeane@christchurchcathedral.bc.ca
5	Dignitary	Jawl Family Foundation	Robert Jawl	Director	rkj@jawlproperties.com
6	Volunteer	OHCS	Virginia Holden		Virginia.holden@gov.bc.ca
7	Dignitary	OHCS	Trudy Rotgans		Trudy.rotgans@gov.bc.ca
8	Dignitary	OHCS	Greg Steeves		gregory.steves@gov.bc.ca
9	Dignitary	OHCS	Jeff Vasey (former ADM)		Jeff.vasey@gov.bc.ca
10	Dignitary	BC Housing	Dominic Flanagan		dflanagan@bchousing.org
11	Dignitary	BC Housing	Roger Butcher		rbutcher@bchousing.org
12	Dignitary	BC Housing	Heidi Hartman		hhartman@bchousing.org
13	Dignitary	BC Housing	Shayne Ramsay		sramsay@bchousing.org
14	Dignitary	Portland Housing	Andy Bond		andy@phs.ca
15	Dignitary	Portland Housing	Duncan Higgon		dhiggon@phs.ca
16	Volunteer	Our Place	Don Evans		don@ourplacesociety.com
17		Choices	Former Tent City Residents		
18	Volunteer	Cool Aid	Don McTavish	Director	dmctavish@coolaid.org
19	Dignitary	Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services	Lorne Delarge	A/ADM	lorne.delarge@gov.bc.ca
20	Dignitary	Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services	Graeme Sykes	REM	Graeme.sykes@gov.bc.ca
21	Dignitary	Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services	Jon Burbee	ED	Jon.burbee@gov.bc.ca
22	Dignitary	Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services	Lisa Koorbatof	DCR	Lisa.koorbatof@gov.bc.ca
23	Volunteer	Consultant	Michael Blaschuk	Consultant for Tent City	s.22
24	Dignitary	Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services	Amrik Virk	Minister, MTICS	Amrik.Virk@gov.bc.ca
25	Dignitary	Citizens' Services	Sarf Ahmed	Assoc DM	Sarf.Ahmed@gov.bc.ca
26	Dignitary	Premier's office	Bobbi Plecas	Assoc DM	Bobbi.plecas@gov.bc.ca
27	Dignitary	Ministry of Technology,	John Jacobson	DM, MTICS	John.jacobson@gov.bc.ca



		Innovation and Citizens' Services			
28	Dignitary	Justice	Kurt Sandstrom	ADM	Kurt.Sandstrom@gov.bc.ca
29	Dignitary	Justice	James Harvey	ADM	James.Harvey@gov.bc.ca
30	Dignitary	Justice	Leah Greathead	Supervising Counsel, Justice	Leah.Greathead@gov.bc.ca
31	Dignitary	MCFD	Alison Bond	ADM	Allison.Bond@gov.bc.ca
32	?	WSI	Denis Fredette	Facility manager	<a href="mailto:denis.fredette@wsi.brookfieldgis.com">denis.fredette@wsi.brookfieldgis.com</a>
33	?	WSI	Nikki Moyles	Project Manager	<a href="mailto:nicola.moyles@brookfieldgis.com">nicola.moyles@brookfieldgis.com</a>
34	?	WSI	Lorenzo Devera	Facility manager	Lorenzo Devera <Lorenzo.DeVera@wsi.brookfieldgis.com>
35	?	WSI	Scott Knudsen	Facility manager	Scott Knudsen <Scott.Knudsen@wsi.brookfieldgis.com>
36	?	Contractors	s.22		s.22
37	?	Contractors			
38	?	Contractors	HL Demolition – Sean, Cole, Chris, Dave		
39	?	Paladin	Shane Wright	Security Guard	Shane Wright <swright@paladinsecurity.com>
40			Trevor Sparkes		
41	Dignitary	PO	Bobbi Plecas		Bobbi.plecas@gov.bc.ca
42	Dignitary	MCFD	Lise Erickson		<a href="mailto:Lise.erikson@gov.bc.ca">Lise.erikson@gov.bc.ca</a>
43	Dignitary	MCFD	Allison Bond		Allison.bond@gov.bc.ca
44	Dignitary	MCFD	Rhonda Peterson		Rhonda.C.Peterson@gov.bc.ca
45	Dignitary	MCFD	David Schulte		David.Schulte@gov.bc.ca
46	Dignitary	MCFD	Kim Grantham		Kim.Grantham@gov.bc.ca
47		MCFD			
48	Dignitary	SDSI	Mike Woodcock		Mike.woodcock@gov.bc.ca
49	Dignitary	JAG – Legal	Kurt Sandstrom		<a href="mailto:Kurt.sandstrom@gov.bc.ca">Kurt.sandstrom@gov.bc.ca</a>
50	Dignitary	JAG – Legal	Leah Greathead		Leah.greathead@gov.bc.ca
51	Dignitary	JAG – Legal	Tyna Mason		Tyna.mason@gov.bc.ca
52	Dignitary	JAG – Legal	Sarah Bevan		Sarah.Bevan@gov.bc.ca
53	Dignitary	JAG – Legal	Sara Goodman		Sara.Goodman@gov.bc.ca
54	Dignitary	JAG – Legal	Keith Phillips		Keith.Phillips@gov.bc.ca
55	Dignitary	JAG – Legal	Nancy Reimer		Nancy.Reimer@gov.bc.ca
56	Dignitary	JAG – Legal	James Harvey		James.Harvey@gov.bc.ca
57	Dignitary	Min JAG	Betty Chen-Mack		Betty.ChenMack@gov.bc.ca
58	Dignitary	Min JAG	Brenda Miller		Brenda.L.Miller@gov.bc.ca
59	Dignitary	Min JAG	Lynda Cavanaugh		Lynda.Cavanaugh@gov.bc.ca
60	Dignitary	Min JAG	Stephanie Melvin		Stephanie.Melvin@gov.bc.ca
61	Dignitary		Sheriff Inspector Wharton		Peter.wharton@gov.bc.ca



62	Dignitary	Justice Access Centre	Peter Sperling		Peter.Sperling@gov.bc.ca
63	Dignitary	Justice Access Centre	Jan Fontaine		Jan.Fontaine@gov.bc.ca
64	Dignitary	Island Health	Dr. Stanwick		Richard.stanwick@viha.ca
65	Dignitary	Island Health	Dr. Dee Hoyano		Dee.hoyano@viha.ca
66	Dignitary	Island Health	Murray Fife		Murray.fife@viha.ca
67	Dignitary	Island Health	Jade Yehia		Jade.yehia@viha.ca
68	Dignitary	Vic PD	Del Manak		Del.manak@vicpd.ca
69	Dignitary	Vic PD	Colin Watson		Colin.watson@vicpd.ca
70	Dignitary	Vic PD	Scott McGregor		Scott.mcgregor@vicpd.ca
71	Dignitary	Vic PD	Colin Brown		Colin.brown@vicpd.ca
72	Dignitary	Vic PD	Dan O'Connor		Dan.occonnor@vicpd.ca
73	Dignitary	Vic PD	Chris Spargo		Chris.spargo@vicpd.ca
74	Dignitary	Vic Fire Dept	Chris Royle		croyle@victoria.ca
75	Dignitary	Vic Fire Dept	Paul Bruce		pbruce@victoria.ca
76	Dignitary	Vic Fire Dept	Daniel Atkinson		datkinson@victoria.ca
77	Dignitary	Vic Fire Dept	Megan Sabel		msabel@victoria.ca
78	Dignitary	Provincial Fire Comm	Gord Anderson		Gordon.anderson@gov.bc.ca
79	Dignitary	Provincial Fire Comm	Bob Cooper		Robert.cooper@gov.bc.ca
80	Dignitary	City of Victoria	Colleen Mycroft		cmycroft@victoria.ca
81	Dignitary	City of Victoria	Chris Coates		ccoates@victoria.ca
82	Dignitary	City of Victoria	Jason Johnson		jjohnson@victoria.ca
83	Dignitary	City of Victoria	Jocelyn Jenkins		jjenkins@victoria.ca
84	Dignitary	City of Victoria	Thomas Soulliere		tsoulliere@victoria.ca
85	Dignitary	City of Victoria	Jonathan Tinney		jtinney@victoria.ca
86 - 93	Dignitary	City of Victoria	Lisa Helps	Mayor + Council	<a href="mailto:mayor@victoria.ca">mayor@victoria.ca</a>  <b>Councillor Marianne</b> <a href="mailto:malto@victoria.ca">malto@victoria.ca</a>  <b>Councillor Chris Coleman</b> <a href="mailto:ccoleman@victoria.ca">ccoleman@victoria.ca</a>  <b>Councillor Ben Isitt</b> <a href="mailto:bisitt@victoria.ca">bisitt@victoria.ca</a>  <b>Councillor Jeremy Loveday</b> <a href="mailto:jloveday@victoria.ca">jloveday@victoria.ca</a>  <b>Councillor Margaret Lucas</b>

					<a href="mailto:mlucas@victoria.ca">mlucas@victoria.ca</a>  <b>Councillor Pamela Madoff</b> <a href="mailto:pmadoff@victoria.ca">pmadoff@victoria.ca</a>  <b>Councillor Charlayne Thornton-Joe</b> <a href="mailto:cth Thornton-Joe@victoria.ca">cth Thornton-Joe@victoria.ca</a>  <b>Councillor Geoff Young</b> <a href="mailto:gyoung@victoria.ca">gyoung@victoria.ca</a>
94-96	Dignitary	City of Victoria	Jason Johnson	City Manager	<a href="mailto:jjohnson@victoria.ca">jjohnson@victoria.ca</a>  Jocelyn Jenkyns - Deputy City Manager <a href="mailto:jjenkyns@victoria.ca">jjenkyns@victoria.ca</a>  <b>Media Contact</b>  Rebecca Penz - Citizen Engagement Advisor <a href="mailto:rpenz@victoria.ca">rpenz@victoria.ca</a>
97	Dignitary	City of Victoria	Jonathan Tinney	Director Sustainability	<a href="mailto:jtinney@victoria.ca">jtinney@victoria.ca</a>
98	Dignitary	Tire Stewardship BC	Rosemary Sutton	Executive Director	<a href="mailto:rsutton@tsbc.ca">rsutton@tsbc.ca</a>
99	Dignitary	Rich Coleman	Minister, NGD&Housing		<a href="mailto:Rich.Coleman@gov.bc.ca">Rich.Coleman@gov.bc.ca</a>
100	Dignitary	Nick Facey	CoS		<a href="mailto:Nick.facey@gov.bc.ca">Nick.facey@gov.bc.ca</a>
101	Volunteer	Stuart Hall	Christ Church Cathedral School		<a href="mailto:stuart.hall@cathedralschool.ca">stuart.hall@cathedralschool.ca</a>
102	Volunteer	Graeme Sykes	MTICS / RPD / AMB		<a href="mailto:Graeme.Sykes@gov.bc.ca">Graeme.Sykes@gov.bc.ca</a>
103	Volunteer	Ryan Lush	MTICS / RPD / AMB		<a href="mailto:Ryan.Lush@gov.bc.ca">Ryan.Lush@gov.bc.ca</a>
104	Volunteer	Elena Lawson	MTICS / RPD / AMB	**non assembly volunteer**	<a href="mailto:Elena.Lawson@gov.bc.ca">Elena.Lawson@gov.bc.ca</a>
105	Volunteer	Cristina Frias	MTICS / RPD / REBS		<a href="mailto:Cristina.N.Frias@gov.bc.ca">Cristina.N.Frias@gov.bc.ca</a>
106	Volunteer	Krista Rossato	MTICS / RPD / Workplace Strategies		<a href="mailto:Krista.Rossato@gov.bc.ca">Krista.Rossato@gov.bc.ca</a>
107	Volunteer	Yaheli Klein	MTICS / RPD / REBS		<a href="mailto:Yaheli.Klein@gov.bc.ca">Yaheli.Klein@gov.bc.ca</a>

108	Volunteer	Matthew Seeger	MTICS / RPD / Workplace Strategies	First Aid Attendant	<a href="mailto:Matthew.Seeger@gov.bc.ca">Matthew.Seeger@gov.bc.ca</a>
109	Volunteer	Lisa Marie Seeger	MTICS / RPD / REBS		<a href="mailto:LisaMarie.Seeger@gov.bc.ca">LisaMarie.Seeger@gov.bc.ca</a>
110	Volunteer	John Carrelli	MTICS / RPD / AMB		<a href="mailto:John.Carrelli@gov.bc.ca">John.Carrelli@gov.bc.ca</a>
111	Volunteer	Catherine Du Bois	MTICS / RPD / AMB	**non assembly volunteer**	<a href="mailto:Catherine.DuBois@gov.bc.ca">Catherine.DuBois@gov.bc.ca</a>
112	Volunteer	Dar Purewall	MTICS / RPD / AMB		<a href="mailto:Dar.Purewall@gov.bc.ca">Dar.Purewall@gov.bc.ca</a>
113	Volunteer	Beth Howard	MTICS / RPD / AMB & REBS	**non assembly volunteer**	<a href="mailto:Beth.Howard@gov.bc.ca">Beth.Howard@gov.bc.ca</a>
114	Dignitary	Larry Gollner	Greater Victoria Afghanistan Memorial Society		s.22

From: [Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX](#)  
To: [Facey, Nick MTIC:EX](#); [Reddy, Brandon MTIC:EX](#)  
Cc: [Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX](#)  
Subject: RE: Victoria Courthouse - memorial  
Date: Wednesday, December 21, 2016 9:22:43 AM

---

Hey guys – This needs to be run up the flag pole...not sure how appropriate this is for us to be pushing fundraising efforts. Would suggest it's best left to the society itself.

---

**From:** Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 14, 2016 4:05 PM  
**To:** Facey, Nick MTIC:EX; Reddy, Brandon MTIC:EX  
**Subject:** Victoria Courthouse - memorial

Hi there – staff have been working with two reps from a group called the Greater Victoria Afghanistan Memorial Project Society with plans to set up a memorial <https://vicaafghanistanmemorial.ca/> for fallen soldiers at the Victoria Courthouse site (timing tbc but likely before Remembrance Day 2017). Sounds like the group have been doing very well in terms of fundraising for the project and are interested in doing more in January. Would MO be interested if I were to reach out to the individuals involved to see what they might be open to? Maybe a news release and some media/social media outreach to announce their intentions and work with them on an unveiling event when the memorial is ready for installation?  
Info from staff below ...

---

Hi Jo

You can see the memorial on the website <https://vicaafghanistanmemorial.ca/>

Joseph (Larry) Gollner – Retired Brigadier General Canadian Armed forces – Chair of Greater Victoria Afghanistan Memorial Project (GVAMP) Society -s.22  
Michael Heppell – Retired Brigadier General Canadian Armed forces & Victoria Fire Chief – GVAMP volunteer -s.22

The society is well connected locally, with support from the City, Veterans affairs, the Premiers office, and members of the local business community.

They've asked for communications support in the Spring, as they want to announce public fundraising in January. The City of Victoria has also offered some communications support (social media). Of course I'm happy to continue my support on behalf of MTIC's, over and above being the project sponsor for the greenspace restoration project. And if the Minister wants to be involved...

From: [Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX](#)  
To: [Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX](#)  
Subject: Re: Victoria Courthouse - memorial  
Date: Monday, December 19, 2016 7:43:27 AM

---

Yes - this email was from Graeme

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 18, 2016, at 9:21 PM, Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX <[Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tasha.Schollen@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Jo,  
Who is the email below from, Graeme?

---

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**To:** Facey, Nick MTIC:EX; Reddy, Brandon MTIC:EX  
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From: [Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX](#)  
To: [Facey, Nick MTIC:EX](#); [Reddy, Brandon MTIC:EX](#)  
Cc: [Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX](#)  
Subject: RE: Victoria Courthouse - memorial  
Date: Wednesday, December 28, 2016 12:07:00 PM

---

Hi,

To clarify, the idea here is to announce in January the intention to install a memorial at the playground site and reference the fact that the society is fundraising...rather than pushing the fundraising angle solely.

Let us know if there is an appetite to announce this. The society has a public website.

Thanks,

Tasha

---

**From:** Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 21, 2016 9:23 AM  
**To:** Facey, Nick MTIC:EX; Reddy, Brandon MTIC:EX  
**Cc:** Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Victoria Courthouse - memorial  
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From: [Sykes, Graeme MTIC:EX](#)  
To: [Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX](#); [Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX](#)  
Cc: [Sykes, Graeme MTIC:EX](#); [Lush, Ryan MTIC:EX](#); [Blaschuk, Michael MTIC:EX](#)  
Subject: FW: MINUTES Victoria Courthouse: Project Kick-Off Meeting  
Date: Friday, December 9, 2016 12:45:53 PM

---

Hi Tasha and Jo

Yesterday we hosted our first official project kickoff meeting for the Playground/War Memorial project at the Victoria Courthouse Green. Below are the minutes.

I'll draw your attention to the section **GVAMP Overview and Vision – Joseph Gollner and Michael Heppell**. This should give you a better idea of what is envisioned for this component of the project. In particular you'll note that <sup>s.13</sup>  
<sup>s.13</sup> and thereafter they will publicly announce the memorial and commence broad outreach fundraising.

Meanwhile, our project will see no visible work until January, at which point soil extraction, stockpiling and trucking will begin. Optimistically this will take 3 weeks.

Selective tree removal will likely occur in December and again in January, as extent of contaminants within tree roots is unearthed.

Concurrently, the landscape architect will be creating conceptual park designs. The name of the park will also be considered. Both of which will require government approval.

If all goes well we will arrive in February with a clear design and name for the space, contracts in place to do the work, donations pouring in, and an active construction site.

One action item:

1. December - Graeme to schedule Meeting with Tascha Schollen (Government Communications), RPD project team, & GVAMP. Agenda to focus on communications strategy – through media. Alia Johnson suggested City may provide social media communications support.

The GVAMP gentlemen are quite exceptional, almost like founding fathers of the community. They requested a meeting with you to talk communications. I think you will greatly enjoy meeting them. So if you've got time next week...? Just let me know, thanks!

Graeme

---

From: Sykes, Graeme MTIC:EX  
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2016 12:33 PM  
To: SSBC RPD ADMO MTIC:EX; Burbee, Jon MTIC:EX; Lush, Ryan MTIC:EX; Moyles, Nicola MTIC:IN;

s.22 ; Hennis, Sean MTIC:EX; Blaschuk, Michael MTIC:EX;  
'ajohnson@victoria.ca'; Chen-Mack, Betty JAG:EX; Frias, Cristina N MTIC:EX; Evans, Todd MTIC:EX;  
Douglas, Darren JAG:EX; 'paul@mdidesign.ca'; Masson, Michael MTIC:EX; Sykes, Graeme MTIC:EX  
Cc: Chiddell, Dan J JAG:EX; Fontaine, Jan JAG:EX  
**Subject:** MINUTES Victoria Courthouse: Project Kick-Off Meeting

*Hi folks*

*Thanks for attending the meeting yesterday. Below are my minutes. If you discover any omissions or inaccuracies, feel free to correct me.*

*Please hold in confidence details of the Afghan Memorial, as the announcement of this good news is planned for January.*

*You can anticipate further communication from myself and Sean Hennis next week.*

*All the best, Graeme*

### **Victoria Courthouse/Memorial/Playground Project Kickoff Meeting**

#### **ATTENDEES:**

Jon Burbee – Executive Director, Real Property Division, MTIC

Jan Fontaine – Regional Manager - Family Justice, MJAG

Joseph (Larry) Gollner – Retired Brigadier General Canadian Armed forces – Chair of Greater Victoria Afghanistan Memorial Project (GVAMP) Society <https://vicaafghanistanmemorial.ca/>

Michael Heppell – Retired Brigadier General Canadian Armed forces & Victoria Fire Chief – GVAMP volunteer

Alia Johnson – Landscape Architect, City Of Victoria

Dan Chiddell - Director, Court Services Branch, MJAG

Jason Tremblay – Project Administrator, Real Property Division, MTIC

Michael Masson – Director, Real Property Division, MTIC

Sean Hennis – Development Manager, Real Property Division, MTIC

Cristina Frias – Drawings Technician, Real Property Division, MTIC

Betty Chan-Mack – Executive Director, Corporate management Services, MJAG

Darren Douglas – Facilities Program Manager, MJAG



Mike Blaschuk – RPD contractor – former ADM at MTIC

Nikki Moyles – Project Manager for Outsource Service Provider WSI

### **Introduction – Jon Burbee**

Discussed history of site, tent city, unique experience, transitioning from managing encampment to restoration of grounds. Broad-based support from multiple stakeholders for a playground and an Afghan War memorial.

### **General Overview – Graeme Sykes**

Status of current projects.

1. Playground equipment decided upon and purchased using \$150,000 anonymous donation. Order ready for delivery mid February. Includes installation of footings and woodchips, does not include gravel base layer. **Volunteer labour to be used on Assembly Day, February date TBD, supervised by Habitat playstructures, who provide CSA approval.**
2. Remediation underway, optimistically to be completed January 2016.
3. Budget for remediation and restoration of greenspace currently earmarked at \$350,000
  - a. Nikki Moyles is project manager, Sean Hennis is Development Manager
  - b. Environmental Engineer supervision and MOE signoff
  - c. Soil removal and disposal (cost & timeline are high risk)
  - d. Full site design (Murdoch Degreeef Landscape Architects)
  - e. Arborist
4. Alia Johnson confirmed that the contemplated restoration is consistent with existing zoning. No development permit needed. Alia also mentioned that the street preservation bylaw may require permits for tree removal.
5. Electrical upgrade project running concurrently without schedule dependencies (discreet project). Nikki Moyles is project manager

Graeme and Real Property Division to remain primary coordinator of stakeholder communication, particularly with external groups, many of which have previous involvement with tent city (VicPD, MCFD, Social Development, BC Housing, Portland Hotel Society, TAPS, Christ Church cathedral & School, SD61, City of Vic, YMCA, neighbours, etc.)

### **Project Description – Sean Hennis**

Sean has experience delivering complex courthouse projects and playgrounds. This project is not overly complex, but does have tight timelines and complex stakeholder relationships. Sean is confident the work will get done, though the timeline of Feb is challenging, while summer months are less challenging to meet.

Concerns from Justice primarily around disruption of courts by noisy equipment. This is a common challenge at courthouses. Risk will require contingencies.

### **GVAMP Overview and Vision – Joseph Gollner and Michael Heppell**

s.13

### **GVAMP Suggested names for greenspace :**

s.13

**GVAMP vision for memorial** - Paved plaza, 800sqft, facing Quadra, appropriate scale for

### **Project Critical Success Factors**

1. s.13
- 2.
- a.
- b. politicians
3. RPD Contamination removal, disposal and/ or encapsulation
4. RPD Minimize Neighbourhood disruption
  - a. Traffic
  - b. Noise
  - c. parking
5. RPD Stakeholder communication
  - a. First nations, etc.
6. RPD Design of landscaping – incorporate stakeholder input into design options for decision by government
  - a. Tree removal
7. Volunteer Assembly Day – TBD,
8. Donors
9. Media – good press
10. Minimize Controversies, Protesters, Vandalism, Crime

### **Project Risks**

1. Communications and schedules
2. Remediation,
3. Waterlines, underground hydro, bedrock,

4. Engineering of pad for memorial
5. Tree roots, preservation
6. Noise, afterhours, Saturdays.
7. Pests
8. Concern from Betty – risks of community corrections proximity
9. Street preservation bylaw –site walk with city arborist
10. Name proposal –protocol for naming, protocol office

#### **Action Items:**

1. December 9 - Project Meeting with Sean, Graeme, Nikki, Landscape Architect, Arborist, Engineers. Outcomes to include revised project charter with clearer Governance to be shared with team.
2. December - Graeme to schedule Meeting with Tascha Schollen (Government Communications), RPD project team, & GVAMP. Agenda to focus on communications strategy – through media. Alia Johnson suggested City may provide social media communications support.
3. December – Mike Blaschuk to arrange meeting with premiers office to discuss naming options. Consider contacting Provincial protocol office ahead of time.
4. January – Joseph, Michael and GVAMP reps to meet with minister of Finance and seek additional funding.

#### **Roundtable:**

Project team is generally excited about this unusual project, many feel a personal connection through servicemen and women in their families. Also the restoration of the greenspace helps provide healing for the community after the drama of tent city. Lots of work ahead!

#### **END OF MEETING MINUTES**

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** SSBC RPD ADMO MTIC:EX

**Sent:** Friday, December 2, 2016 2:09 PM

**To:** SSBC RPD ADMO MTIC:EX; Burbee, Jon MTIC:EX; Sykes, Graeme MTIC:EX; Lush, Ryan MTIC:EX;

Moyles, Nicola MTIC:IN; s.22 .22 Hennis, Sean MTIC:EX;

Blaschuk, Michael MTIC:EX; 'ajohnson@victoria.ca'; Chen-Mack, Betty JAG:EX; Frias, Cristina N MTIC:EX;

Evans, Todd MTIC:EX; Douglas, Darren JAG:EX; 'paul@mdidesign.ca'; Masson, Michael MTIC:EX

**Cc:** Chiddell, Dan J JAG:EX; Fontaine, Jan JAG:EX

**Subject:** Victoria Courthouse: Project Kick-Off Meeting (Project Charter attached)

**When:** Thursday, December 8, 2016 9:00 AM-11:00 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).  
**Where:** MTIC R 4000 Seymour W400A, 20 persons MTIC:EX and \*\*\* TELECONFERENCE (Details below)

Teleconference Details:

s.15,s.17 toll free

Participant Code: s.15,s.17 #

Attached please find the Project Charter for the Victoria Courthouse.

<< File: Project Charter - Victoria Courthouse Lawn Renewal 1.0.pdf >>

**From:** [Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Facey, Nick MTIC:EX](#); [La Forge, Jessica MTIC:EX](#)  
**Cc:** [Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX](#); [Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX](#)  
**Subject:** For Approval: Playground Announcement  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 15, 2017 10:55:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [Invitation MTICS March 17th.docx](#)  
[KM\\_Victoria Courthouse Playground Opening\\_Mar 17\\_V4.doc](#)  
[MA\\_Installation Day for Playground\\_Mar 17\\_V3.docx](#)  
[NR\\_Volunteer Day for Victoria Playground\\_Mar 17\\_V5.docx](#)  
[QA\\_Victoria Courthouse Playground Opening\\_Mar 17\\_V5.docx](#)

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**Tasha Schollen** | Communications Director  
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services  
Government Communications and Public Engagement  
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121

March 16, 2017

MEDIA ADVISORY – Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services - Victoria

VICTORIA –Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services Minister Amrik Virk will be joined by a team of volunteers to assemble and install equipment for a new playground at the Victoria Courthouse.

Event Date: Friday, Mar. 17, 2017

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location:

Victoria Courthouse property

850 Burdett Ave.

Victoria

Special Instructions: Guests are advised to wear closed-toe shoes or appropriate footwear for a construction site.

Contact:

Joanne Whittier

Communications Manager

Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

250 893-5650



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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

[release number]

Mar. 17, 2017

### **Volunteers spring into action to install new playground**

VICTORIA – A team of volunteers and public servants are pitching in to assemble a new playground at the Victoria Courthouse today, creating a fun and interactive play space in the heart of Victoria for people of all ages to enjoy.

The playground assembly team includes members of the B.C. public service, Christ Church Cathedral Parish and School community, Our Place, and former tent city campers.

The 5,800 square-foot playground will include equipment chosen by children attending Christ Church Cathedral and Sir James Douglas Elementary Schools, and will include swings, slides, climbing nets, a toddler play area and a spinning globe. The redesigned property will also feature chess tables, sitting benches and a rubberized safety surface with artistic designs.

Habitat Systems Incorporated will be on site to guide volunteers through the installation and will conduct a safety inspection following its assembly. All of the tools required for the day, including levels, hammers, hand drills, nails and shovels will be supplied for easy assembly.

A generous donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, has contributed \$150,000 towards the cost of the playground equipment. Tire Stewardship B.C. has donated \$80,000 towards the rubberized safety surface. The Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services has contributed an additional \$50,000 towards the playground.

The space will also include a permanent monument to Canadian Afghan veterans. The memorial is a project financed by the Greater Victoria Afghanistan Memorial Society, which is currently seeking donations to create this dedicated memorial to Canadian Afghan veterans. For more information about the Greater Victoria Afghanistan Memorial Society's fundraising campaign: <https://vicaafghanistanmemorial.ca/>

A playground emerged as the most popular choice for the block wide site during discussions with neighbours. The playground will be ready to open to the public this spring, once the rubberized safety surface is poured and landscaping is completed.

#### **Quotes:**

#### **Amrik Virk, Minister of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services –**

"I would like to thank today's volunteers and acknowledge the generosity of our donors who have contributed towards revitalizing the Victoria Courthouse site. Today is about giving back and creating a safe public space and playground that the community can enjoy." **NOT**

**APPROVED**



**Suzanne Anton, Attorney General and Minister of Justice –**

“I’m delighted to see the former lawn of the Victoria Courthouse be transformed into a vibrant new public playground for the neighborhood and for people of all ages to enjoy. The design of the space is more open, allows more light into the property and enhances public safety – and this is a great thing for both the courthouse and this fantastic new playground.” **APPROVED**

**Don Evans, executive director of Our Place –**

“It’s wonderful to see some of the people who were once homeless returning today to help build this community playground. It truly shows how having access to proper housing, health care and opportunity can transform lives and instill that desire to give back. **APPROVED**

**Stuart Hall, Head of Christ Church Cathedral School –**

“This new park and playground will be a welcome addition to the neighbourhood. This park has been designed to serve all ages, from children to seniors, and has the real potential to be a friendly gathering place for the whole community. With so many new families moving into the area, it will be well used. The students of Cathedral School were delighted to be consulted with and are keen to try out their favourite equipment.” **APPROVED**

**Quick Facts:**

- Consultations for redeveloping the site included local residents, the YMCA, the Christ Church Cathedral and students at Christ Church Cathedral School and Sir James Douglas Elementary School.
- Landscaping will feature 17 new trees, including: two Maidenhair, one Southern Catalpa, two Raywood Ash, six Eastern Redbud, and six Kwanzan Cherry trees.
- In 2015/16, the B.C. government spent close to \$5 million to provide housing and shelter for residents of the Victoria courthouse encampment.
- In 2016/17, the Province will spend approximately \$28 million, which includes capital costs for the Central Care Home, as well as the Super 8 hotel. This includes \$373,000 to Portland Hotel Society (PHS) Community Services for support and outreach services at the encampment site between April and August 2016.
- As of January 2017, more than 260 people from the Victoria courthouse camp are housed at four different housing projects in the region.
- To date, approximately 80 people from the courthouse encampment have moved into permanent housing.

**Learn More:**

For more information about the Greater Victoria Afghanistan Memorial Society and their campaign to raise funds to create a memorial to Canadian Afghan veterans:

<https://vicaafghanistanmemorial.ca/>

**Media Contact:**

Joanne Whittier

Communications Manager

Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

250 893-5650

For Immediate Release  
[release number]  
Mar. 17, 2017

Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens'  
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The space will also include a permanent monument to Canadian Afghanistan veterans. The memorial is a project financed by the Greater Victoria Afghanistan Memorial Project Society, which is currently fundraising to create this memorial. The memorial is dedicated to all Canadians that served in Afghanistan, it recognizes the families and loved ones of those that served and those that returned with physical and mental wounds, while honouring those Canadian Armed Forces and Public Service of Canada members who paid the supreme sacrifice on behalf of us all.

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**BGen (Rtd) Joseph E. L. Gollner, OMM, CD, President, Greater Victoria Afghan Memorial Project Society -**

“We are proud of what this memorial represents, as a permanent tribute to honour the brave Canadians who died in the service of their country. This serves as a central location for this important memorial, surrounded by the joy of children at play, their families and the strength of community.” **NOT APPROVED**

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**Media Contact:**

Joanne Whittier

Communications Manager

Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

250 893-5650

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A playground emerged as the most popular choice for the block wide site during discussions with neighbours. The playground will be ready to open to the public this spring, once the rubberized safety surface is poured and landscaping is completed.

#### **Quotes:**

#### **Amrik Virk, Minister of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services –**

"I would like to thank today's volunteers and acknowledge the generosity of our donors who have contributed towards revitalizing the Victoria Courthouse site. Today is about giving back and creating a safe public space and playground that the community can enjoy." **NOT**

**APPROVED**

**Suzanne Anton, Attorney General and Minister of Justice –**

“I’m delighted to see the former lawn of the Victoria Courthouse be transformed into a vibrant new public playground for the neighborhood and for people of all ages to enjoy. The design of the space is more open, allows more light into the property and enhances public safety – and this is a great thing for both the courthouse and this fantastic new playground.” **APPROVED**

**BGen (Rtd) Joseph E. L. Gollner, OMM, CD, President, Greater Victoria Afghan Memorial Project Society –**

“We are proud of what this memorial represents, as a permanent tribute to honour the brave Canadians who died in the service of their country. This serves as a central location for this important memorial, surrounded by the joy of children at play, their families and the strength of community.” **NOT APPROVED**

**Don Evans, executive director of Our Place –**

“It’s wonderful to see some of the people who were once homeless returning today to help build this community playground. It truly shows how having access to proper housing, health care and opportunity can transform lives and instill that desire to give back. **APPROVED**

**Stuart Hall, Head of Christ Church Cathedral School –**

“This new park and playground will be a welcome addition to the neighbourhood. This park has been designed to serve all ages, from children to seniors, and has the real potential to be a friendly gathering place for the whole community. With so many new families moving into the area, it will be well used. The students of Cathedral School were delighted to be consulted with and are keen to try out their favourite equipment.” **APPROVED**

**Quick Facts:**

- Consultations for redeveloping the site included local residents, the YMCA, the Christ Church Cathedral and students at Christ Church Cathedral School and Sir James Douglas Elementary School.
- Landscaping will feature 17 new trees, including: two Maidenhair, one Southern Catalpa, two Raywood Ash, six Eastern Redbud, and six Kwanzan Cherry trees.
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- In 2016/17, the Province will spend approximately \$28 million, which includes capital costs for the Central Care Home, as well as the Super 8 hotel. This includes \$373,000 to Portland Hotel Society (PHS) Community Services for support and outreach services at the encampment site between April and August 2016.
- As of January 2017, more than 260 people from the Victoria courthouse camp are housed at four different housing projects in the region.
- To date, approximately 80 people from the courthouse encampment have moved into permanent housing.

**Learn More:**

For more information about the Greater Victoria Afghanistan Memorial Society and their campaign to raise funds to create a memorial to Canadian Afghan veterans:

<https://vicaafghanistanmemorial.ca/>

**Media Contact:**

Joanne Whittier

Communications Manager

Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

250 893-5650



From: [Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX](#)  
To: [Wey, Melody GCPE:EX](#)  
Subject: FW: Notes for Tomorrow  
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2017 11:49:00 AM  
Attachments: [NR Volunteer Day for Victoria Playground Mar 17 V8 2.pdf](#)

---

Hi change to afghan para....quote input still to come.

-----Original Message-----

From: Plecas, Bobbi PREM:EX  
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 11:27 AM  
To: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX  
Subject: FW: Notes for Tomorrow

Please seen the attached.

s.13

Bobbi

-----Original Message-----

From: Joseph E.L. Gollner [[mailto:s.22](#)]  
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 11:20 AM  
To: Plecas, Bobbi PREM:EX  
Subject: Notes for Tomorrow

Hello Bobbi,

Thanks for the opportunity to review the paragraph referring to our memorial. Please see the colour highlighted paragraph. I changed the occasional word but then brought the conclusion of the paragraph into alliance with our wording on the memorial which we use as a theme in our advertising.

Cheers Larry

From: [Sykes, Graeme MTIC:EX](#)  
To: [Wey, Melody GCPE:EX](#); [Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX](#)  
Cc: [Lush, Ryan MTIC:EX](#); [Sykes, Graeme MTIC:EX](#)  
Subject: Afghan Memorial  
Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2017 9:24:26 AM

---

HI folks

s.13

Thanks,

**Graeme Sykes**

**Real Estate Manager, Asset Portfolio**

Real Property Division | Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services  
(250) 217-3027

From: [Stagg, Linda R GCPE:EX](#)  
To: [Whittier, Joanne GCPE:EX](#)  
Cc: [Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX](#); [Boudreau, Marc GCPE:EX](#); [Carruthers, Dana GCPE:EX](#); [Chant, Jon GCPE:EX](#); [Kerr, Grant GCPE:EX](#); [Wey, Melody GCPE:EX](#)  
Subject: FW: Approved and the Final - MTICS NR - Volunteers spring into action to install new playground  
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2017 3:35:44 PM  
Attachments: [2017MTICS0015-000650.pdf](#)

---

Thanks, Joanne and Melody -

Here is your Final with its queue number on top.

To go Friday at 9:20 AM to Greater Victoria and the Gallery.

I look forward to test-driving those "sitting benches" in the summertime.

Linda Stagg  
Editor, Government Communications and Public Engagement  
250 387-4534 | Mobile: 250 882-8673

-----Original Message-----

From: Stagg, Linda R GCPE:EX [<mailto:Linda.Stagg@gov.bc.ca>]  
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 3:32 PM  
To: Stagg, Linda R GCPE:EX  
Subject: Volunteers spring into action to install new playground

Please refer to the files attached to this email. The following is the summary of the News Release

Permalink: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/14233>

News ID: NEWS-14233  
NR Number: 2017MTICS0015-000650  
NR Type: News Release  
State: Planned  
Planned Release Date: March 17, 2017 at 9:20 am Lead Organization: Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services  
Headline: Volunteers spring into action to install new playground

This email was auto-generated.

For Immediate Release  
2017MTICS0015-000650  
March 17, 2017

Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

NEWS RELEASE  
Volunteers spring into action to install new playground

VICTORIA - A team of volunteers and public servants are pitching in to assemble a new playground at the Victoria Courthouse today, creating a fun and interactive play space in the heart of Victoria for people of all ages to enjoy.

The playground assembly team includes members of the B.C. public service, Christ Church Cathedral Parish and School community, Our Place, and former tent city campers.

The 540 square-metre (5,800 square-foot) playground will include equipment chosen by children attending Christ Church Cathedral and Sir James Douglas Elementary schools, and will include swings, slides, climbing nets, a toddler play area and a spinning globe. The redesigned property will feature chess tables, benches and a rubberized safety surface with artistic designs.

The space will include a permanent monument to Canadian Afghanistan veterans. The memorial is a project financed by the Greater Victoria Afghanistan Memorial Project Society, which is currently fundraising to create this memorial. The memorial will be dedicated to all Canadians who served in Afghanistan. It will recognize the families and loved ones of those who served and those who returned with physical and mental wounds, while honouring those Canadian Armed Forces and Public Service of Canada members who paid the supreme sacrifice.

Habitat Systems Incorporated will be on site to guide volunteers through the installation and will conduct a safety inspection following its assembly. For easy assembly, all tools required for the day, including levels, hammers, hand drills, nails and shovels, will be supplied.

A generous donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, has contributed \$150,000 toward the cost of the playground equipment. Tire Stewardship B.C. has donated \$80,000 toward the rubberized safety surface. The Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services has contributed an additional \$50,000 toward the playground.

A playground emerged as the most-popular choice for the block-wide site during discussions with neighbours. The playground is expected to be ready to open to the public this spring, once the rubberized safety surface is poured and landscaping is completed.

Quotes:

Amrik Virk, Minister of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services -

"I would like to thank today's volunteers and acknowledge the generosity of our donors who have contributed towards revitalizing the Victoria Courthouse site. Today is about giving back and creating a safe public space and playground that the community can enjoy."

Suzanne Anton, Attorney General and Minister of Justice -

"I'm delighted to see the former lawn of the Victoria Courthouse be transformed into a vibrant new public playground for the neighborhood and for people of all ages to enjoy. The design of the space is more open, allows more light into the property and enhances public safety - and this is a great thing for both the courthouse and this fantastic new playground."

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"We are proud of what this memorial represents, as a permanent tribute to honour the brave Canadians who died in the service of their country. This serves as a central location for this important memorial, surrounded by the joy of children at play, their families and the strength of community."

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"It's wonderful to see some of the people who were once homeless returning today to help build this community playground. It truly shows how having access to proper housing, health care and opportunity can transform lives and instill that desire to give back."

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"This new park and playground will be a welcome addition to the neighbourhood. This park has been designed to serve all ages, from children to seniors, and has the real potential to be a friendly gathering place for the whole

community. With so many new families moving into the area, it will be well used. The students of Cathedral school were delighted to be consulted with and are keen to try out their favourite equipment."

#### Quick Facts:

- \* Consultations for redeveloping the site included local residents, the YMCA, the Christ Church Cathedral and students at Christ Church Cathedral and Sir James Douglas Elementary schools.
- \* Landscaping will feature 17 new trees, including two maidenhair, one southern catalpa, two Raywood ash, six eastern redbud and six Kwanzan cherry trees.
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#### Learn More:

For more information about the Greater Victoria Afghanistan Memorial Society and its campaign to raise funds to create a memorial to Canadian Afghan veterans: <https://vicaafghanistanmemorial.ca/>

#### Media Contact:

Joanne Whittier  
Communications Manager  
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services  
250 893-5650

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: [www.gov.bc.ca/connect](http://www.gov.bc.ca/connect)

**From:** [Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Plecas, Bobbi PREM:EX](#)  
**Subject:** NR\_Volunteer Day for Victoria Playground\_Mar 17\_V6  
**Date:** Thursday, March 16, 2017 9:51:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [NR\\_Volunteer Day for Victoria Playground Mar 17 V8.docx](#)

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Hi Bobbi,  
Quote for Larry's review, thanks.

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**Tasha Schollen** | Communications Director  
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services  
Government Communications and Public Engagement  
Phone: 250-387-3134 | Cell: 250-889-1121



## Strategic Considerations

**Ministry: MTICS**

**Event: Volunteer Day at Victoria Courthouse Playground Installation**

<b>Announcement</b>	<p>Equipment at the new playground at the Victoria courthouse, former site of tent city, will be assembled by volunteers in a single day. Under guidance of the playground equipment supplier, 30 adults – most of who were involved with managing the former encampment – will volunteer their day to assemble play equipment.</p> <p>Students in nearby schools (Christ Church Cathedral School and Sir James Douglas Elementary School) shared their ideas for the playground and helped to select some of the equipment.</p>
<b>Timing</b>	<p>Friday, March 17</p> <p>Volunteer Day will run from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Work is expected to get underway at approximately 9 a.m.</p> <p>Playground equipment is being delivered to the site on March 16 by the supplier.</p>
<b>Headline</b>	Volunteers pitch in to assemble Victoria's newest playground
<b>Top Messages</b>	<p>Victoria's newest playground will be assembled in a single day thanks to the efforts of a team of volunteers, including members from the Province of B.C., City of Victoria, VicPD, Office of the Fire Commissioner, Our Place, and former tent city community.</p> <p>The new playground will include play equipment that children at nearby schools have helped to select including swings, slides, climbing nets and a spinning globe. The playground will also include features geared towards adults such as chess tables, seating benches and a Tai Chi station.</p> <p>A playground emerged as the most popular choice for the block wide site during discussions with neighbours.</p>
<b>Approach</b>	Media event with news release near the start of the day. Minister Virk to speak and to put the first piece of play equipment together.
<b>Validators</b>	Rich Coleman, Minister responsible for BC Housing; Lisa Helps, Mayor of the City of Victoria; Del Manak, Chief Constable, VicPD; Bob Cooper, Inspector, Victoria fire Commissioner; Stuart Hall, head of Christ Church Cathedral school, Don Evans, Executive Director, Our Place; and up to five former tent city residents who have successfully been provided shelter.
<b>Location / Visuals</b>	Minister Virk surrounded by a group of adult volunteers with tools in hand, with equipment ready to be assembled onsite.
<b>Audience</b>	Victoria residents, neighbours of the area, parents and caregivers of younger kids, local media.

## Strategic Considerations

**Ministry: MTICS**

**Event: Volunteer Day at Victoria Courthouse Playground Installation**

<b>Primary channels</b>	Event for regional media, with a news release issued to Victoria media and legislative gallery, supported by social media and stakeholder tweets.
<b>Media Plan</b>	<p>Regional TV, print, radio reaching out to all local media who have been following the site to ensure they know of the event/roll-out for the day.</p> <p>Ensure that validators at the event are prepared to endorse the new playground and speak of the positive elements that have come out of the former tent city (i.e., housing supports, community and outreach supports, creation of a vibrant new public space and downtown playground, etc.)</p>
<b>Social media</b>	Facebook, Twitter, Flickr supported by stakeholder tweets
<b>Products</b>	Media advisory, news release, questions and answers, key messages, speaking notes, emcee notes, Facebook, Twitter, Flickr.
<b>Auxiliary</b>	<p>Official opening of the playground could be another photo/media opportunity, possibly as early as March 31. Once the playground equipment is in place, a rubberized play surface will be laid as well as grass laid and landscaping.</p> <p>There are plans underway with a local non-profit society called the Greater Victoria Afghanistan Memorial Project Society to establish a memorial to Afghan war veterans onsite. The ministry is currently building the memorial plaza site adjacent to the playground, which will be visible on March 17. An unveiling event could be a future opportunity.</p>
<b>Critical view</b>	<p>Cost of playground and clean-up continue to be of interest to media. Clean-up is completed and costs are coming in on budget.</p> <p>It will be important to reinforce the fact that the supplier of the playground equipment will conduct a safety inspection once the equipment has been assembled and issue a warranty.</p> <p>The playground is being funded in part through a generous donor who wishes to be anonymous.</p> <p>It will also be important to reinforce that the previously contaminated soil has been removed and the site is now safe for redevelopment and public use.</p> <p>There is a good chance that the group Mad as Hell will have negative reaction to the playground by complaining that had the government responded quicker and shut the camp down, we would've have had to pay so much money to remediate the camp and build a playground.</p>
<b>Other Info?</b>	Volunteer day for assembling the playground equipment will be a part work day, part media event and part celebration. The day will involve 30 adults (15 from

## Strategic Considerations

**Ministry: MTICS**

**Event: Volunteer Day at Victoria Courthouse Playground Installation**

	<p>within government and 15 from other involved agencies), who will be under the guidance of the equipment supplier who will put the various components together, requiring hammers, and other tools. All volunteers need eye protection, ear protection, closed toe shoes and work gloves. There will be a lunch BBQ. Once the equipment is assembled, there will be a safety check and then concrete will be poured to ground the base of the equipment. The site needs to be secured for at least 12 hours after the build while the concrete dries.</p> <p>Volunteers will mostly be stakeholders involved in the site over the past year. Volunteers will be confirmed ahead of time and will sign waivers the day of.</p> <p>Media will be invited early in the day so they can get visuals as equipment is being unpacked and assembled. There will be a media availability and photo opportunity following short speaking remarks with Minister Virk and validators. There will be a lunch BBQ onsite for volunteers and other stakeholders on site, possibly including school kids involved in the playground design consultations. Food and refreshments may be donated by local grocery store Market on Yates.</p> <p>The afternoon will include safety inspection and checks, followed by the pouring of concrete. The security gate will remain around the site and the site will remain closed to the public until March 31 at the earliest – once the final play surface and landscaping is completed.</p> <p><b>DRAFT ITINERARY:</b></p> <p><b>7:30 a.m.</b> Volunteers gather onsite – waivers signed, followed by orientation for the day, outlining safety requirements, instructions for equipment assembling and tools required.</p> <p><b>8:00 a.m.</b> Work day begins</p> <p><b>8:45 a.m.</b> Media pre-brief for Minister and other participants</p> <p><b>9 – 9:45 a.m.</b> Media event and photo opportunity</p> <p><b>10:30 – 10:45 a.m.</b> Morning coffee and snack break</p> <p><b>By 12 p.m.</b> Assembly work is completed</p> <p><b>12 – 12:45/1 p.m.</b> Lunch BBQ</p> <p><b>1 – 2:00 p.m.</b> Safety inspection, concrete poured</p> <p><b>2:00 – 4:30 p.m.</b> Site is cleaned up and secured for the weekend</p>
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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2017MTICS0015-000650  
March 17, 2017

Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

### **Volunteers spring into action to install new playground**

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A playground emerged as the most-popular choice for the block-wide site during discussions with neighbours. The playground is expected to be ready to open to the public this spring, once the rubberized safety surface is poured and landscaping is completed.

#### **Quotes:**

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"I would like to thank today's volunteers and acknowledge the generosity of our donors who have contributed towards revitalizing the Victoria Courthouse site. Today is about giving back and creating a safe public space and playground that the community can enjoy."

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“I’m delighted to see the former lawn of the Victoria Courthouse be transformed into a vibrant new public playground for the neighborhood and for people of all ages to enjoy. The design of the space is more open, allows more light into the property and enhances public safety – and this is a great thing for both the courthouse and this fantastic new playground.”

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**Don Evans, executive director, Our Place –**

“It’s wonderful to see some of the people who were once homeless returning today to help build this community playground. It truly shows how having access to proper housing, health care and opportunity can transform lives and instill that desire to give back.”

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“This new park and playground will be a welcome addition to the neighbourhood. This park has been designed to serve all ages, from children to seniors, and has the real potential to be a friendly gathering place for the whole community. With so many new families moving into the area, it will be well used. The students of Cathedral school were delighted to be consulted with and are keen to try out their favourite equipment.”

**Quick Facts:**

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**Learn More:**

For more information about the Greater Victoria Afghanistan Memorial Society and its campaign to raise funds to create a memorial to Canadian Afghan veterans:

<https://vicaafghanistanmemorial.ca/>

**Media Contact:**

Joanne Whittier  
Communications Manager  
Ministry of Technology, Innovation and  
Citizens' Services  
250 893-5650

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Connect with the Province of B.C. at: [www.gov.bc.ca/connect](http://www.gov.bc.ca/connect)



# **Victoria Courthouse Playground Opening**

## **KEY MESSAGES - Confidential**

March 17, 2017

- **Victoria's new playground at the Victoria Courthouse will be assembled thanks to the efforts of volunteers and public servants.**
- **The playground assembly team includes members of the B.C. public service, Christ Church Cathedral Parish and School community, Our Place, and former tent city campers.**
- **The playground will include equipment that children who attend nearby schools have helped to select including swings, slides, climbing nets, toddler play area, and a spinning globe.**
- **The playground will also feature chess tables, benches and a rubberized safety surface with artistic designs.**
- **Habitat Systems Incorporated will be on site to guide volunteers through the installation and will conduct a safety inspection following its assembly.**
- **The playground equipment and benches are being funded thanks to a generous donor who wishes to be anonymous.**
- **Tire Stewardship B.C. has donated \$80,000 towards the rubberized safety surface.**
- **The space will also include a memorial to Canadian Afghan veterans.**
- **The memorial is a project financed by the Greater Victoria Afghanistan Memorial Society, who is currently seeking donations to create this dedicated memorial.**
- **A playground emerged as the most popular choice for the block wide site during discussions with neighbours.**

- **Previously contaminated soil has been removed, and in its place 1.5 feet of new top soil has been laid to ensure that a safe environment has been created.**
- **The playground is scheduled to open to the public this spring, once the play surface and landscaping is completed.**

SPEAKING NOTES FOR  
MINISTER AMRIK VIRK  
MINISTRY OF TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION AND  
CITIZENS' SERVICES

Victoria Courthouse Playground Installation Day

850 Burdett Avenue

Mar. 17, 2017

9:00 a.m.

9:05 a.m. for 2 minutes

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**Contact at the event:** Tasha Schollen, communications director, 250 889-1121

Time	Event Itinerary
<b>8:45 AM</b>	Minister arrives at the parking lot of the Victoria Courthouse for a pre-briefing huddle, including determining the piece of equipment the Minister will begin assembling.
9:00 AM	<p>Media event begins with Minister standing in the parking lot facing the Courthouse so the emerging playground is in the background.</p> <p>Minister speaks for 2-3 minutes.</p>
9:05 AM	Minister steps onto the playground site and is led by Lorne DeLarge and Habitat project lead to a piece of equipment nearby.
9:06 AM	Habitat project lead gives Minister a safety debrief. Minister officially start the day's work by assembling a portion of the equipment (10 minutes roughly allotted)
9:16 AM	Minister thanks everyone for coming, invites media to take photographs
9:17 AM	Media and photo availability

## **Welcome:**

- Acknowledge:
  - First Nations' territory
  - Volunteers and public servants
  - Christ Church Cathedral Parish and School community and Sir James Douglas.
  - Our Place and the former tent city residents
  - Greater Victoria Afghan Memorial Project Society
- Thank organizations who were instrumental in the redevelopment of this site:
  - VicPD
  - Office of the Fire Commissioner
  - City of Victoria
  - YMCA
  - BC Housing
  - VIHA
  - Outreach workers
  - The community and residents

## **Past Year:**

- Thanks for being here today.

- We are gathered at the site of what is going to become a welcoming family oriented playground in the heart of this city.
- Consultations with neighbours including children at nearby schools.

### **Today and beyond:**

- Equipment chosen by children
- Safety check after equipment is put together.
- Rubberized surface poured and landscaping completed.
- A memorial to Canadian Afghan veterans will be part of the site this summer, please consider donating.
- Playground open to public this spring

### **Thank you:**



- Generous donors for the playground equipment
- Tire Stewardship B.C.
- Market on Yates, Country Grocer and Starbucks for providing food for today's volunteers.

**Questions and Answers**  
**Victoria Courthouse Playground Opening**  
**March 17, 2017**

**1. What is being announced today?**

- A team of volunteers and public servants are pitching in to assemble a new playground at the Victoria Courthouse, creating a fun and interactive play space in the heart of Victoria for people of all ages to enjoy.
- The playground assembly team includes members of the B.C. public service, Christ Church Cathedral Parish and School community, Our Place, and former tent city campers.
- The playground will include equipment that over 500 children who attend nearby schools have helped to select including swings, slides, climbing nets, a toddler play area, and a spinning globe.
- There will also chess tables, benches and a rubberized safety surface with artistic designs.
- The playground is scheduled to open to the public this spring, once the rubberized safety surface and landscaping is completed.

**2. Playgrounds are typically owned by municipalities, does the B.C. government own other playgrounds?**

- Yes. For example, provincial parks and campgrounds often feature large playgrounds.
- In the case of the Victoria Courthouse playground, the land is owned by the Province.

**3. How did the idea of a “volunteer day” come about?**

- The idea of using volunteers to assemble the playground equipment first came from the supplier, Habitat Systems, who offers a supervised community installation model as one of their services.
- Ministry staff jumped at the chance to organize this unique opportunity - as a way of giving back and creating a safe public space and playground that the community can enjoy.

**4. How were the volunteers selected?**

- A call for volunteers was put out to ministry staff and organizations that were instrumental to providing supports to the former tent city camp, as well as former tent city campers.

**5. Are the public service volunteers being paid their regular wage?**

- While the public service employees are going to be paid their regular salary for the day, it's important to note that these employees are participating as volunteers. Employees are not being directed by the Province to attend, they are doing so at their own choice.
- The number of public service staff was capped at 15 to ensure members of other organizations could be involved.

**6. Were residents in the area invited to volunteer?**

- Given the level of interest, the call for volunteers was limited to ministry staff and organizations that were instrumental to providing supports to the former tent city camp, as well as former tent city campers.

**7. Who was consulted on building a playground on the site?**

- Four separate discussions were held with neighbours of the site.
- In addition, discussions have also been held with the YMCA, the Christ Church Cathedral and the Christ Church Cathedral School.
- In addition, design input has been sought by over 500 children who attend nearby schools, including Christ Church Cathedral School and Sir James Douglas Elementary School.

**8. Were there other suggestions for the site that came up in the consultations?**

- Discussions with neighbours showed an overwhelming interest in turning the space into a playground. Out of respect for the neighbours, the idea for the playground was pursued.

**BUDGET/FUNDING**

**9. What is the estimated budget of the playground?**

- Including the contributions of our generous donors, the total cost of the playground is approximately \$50,000.
- We have received \$230,000 in donations that will go towards the costs of the playground. The ministry has contributed \$50,000.
- The total cost of fully restoring the greenspace, including soil remediation, landscaping, security fencing and installation of a playground will be around \$770-thousand.

**10. Did government save money by using volunteers to assemble the equipment?**

- The ministry gained some savings, about \$5,000, within the contract with Habitat Systems by using the supervised community installation model.
- We were able to put this savings towards the purchase of additional play equipment.

**11. How much has the Province paid for the site since the first tent went up, including the playground and landscaping and such?**

- Altogether, the Province has spent approximately \$2.1-million for costs associated with the encampment and for the revitalized playground space.
- These costs include:
  - \$1.3M: security, garbage collection, port-a-potties and upkeep, gravel, water hookup, power installation, BC Hydro service, fencing and demolition.
  - \$770K: remediation, playground, landscape architecture, project management.

**12. Any update on the legal fees that the Province is being ordered to pay?**

- The Province is disputing some of the claimed fees and disbursements and has asked counsel for the campers for a revised bill of costs and disbursements.
- We won't know the total payment of costs in this matter until the Province has received a revised bill of costs, and either agrees to the amounts, or the amount is settled by the registrar.
- Once we are in receipt of that revised bill, the Province will pay the amount.

**AFGHAN MEMORIAL**

**13. What can you tell us about a memorial to Afghan veterans, we hear that's part of the plan for the site, is it?**

- The Greater Victoria Afghanistan Memorial Society was formed to create a memorial to Canadian Afghan veterans. The restoration of the Courthouse Greenspace presented an ideal opportunity to design the site in harmony with a memorial.
- The memorial is a project financed by the Greater Victoria Afghanistan Memorial Society, who is currently seeking donations to create this memorial to Canadian Afghan veterans.
- We are honoured to be able to provide a site for the memorial. The people who have given their lives in the service of Canada deserve to be recognized.

**14. Who is paying for this?**

- The memorial is led by the Greater Victoria Afghanistan Memorial Society and funded through donations to the society.

**15. How was this location selected for the memorial?**

- The Victoria Courthouse property is a good location for the memorial as it's a centralized downtown location and is fully accessible.
- The society requested this location to be considered for the memorial, and they are pleased with the design presented.

**16. Had any other groups come forward requesting a similar memorial in this space and if so, why was this one chosen?**

- There were no other memorials requested to go into the space.

**17. How many Afghan veterans are there in Victoria? In B.C.?**

- More than 40,000 Canadian Armed Forces members served in Afghanistan from 2001 to 2014.



- During Canada's longest military campaign, 158 Canadian soldiers and five members of the Public Service of Canada lost their lives.

## **SUPPLIER**

### **18. How was the supplier selected?**

- Habitat Systems was selected from a pre-existing corporate supply arrangement with the Ministry of Education.
- They are a Canadian supplier with offices throughout western Canada, including one in Burnaby.

### **19. Are there any B.C. suppliers that could have been chosen?**

- There are a number of suppliers on the corporate supply arrangement with the Ministry of Education.

## **SAFETY**

### **20. Is a courthouse really the best place for a playground?**

- Every effort has been made to transform the space into a safe space for kids and families to enjoy and we are confident in the security mechanisms in place at the courthouse.
- The space has been designed with security in mind. For example, the new landscaping will provide clear sightlines of the space which will increase public safety. Overhead lighting will also be installed.
- Victoria police have conducted a security analysis of the courthouse site and advised on crime prevention through environmental design.

### **21. What would you say to parents who say they wouldn't take their kids to this playground in case there are still needles or contaminants?**

- We have complete confidence that the site will be safe for everyone to enjoy. The extensive clean-up and remediation work, including removing the contaminated soil, provides us with the reassurance that the space is safe for kids and families.
- The site is now deemed to be clean to an urban park standard according to the Ministry of Environment regulations.
- The rubberized safety surface has the added benefit of not concealing sharp objects, as can be the case with other surface treatments.
- The space has been designed with security in mind. For example, the new landscaping will provide clear sightlines of the space which will increase public safety. Overhead lighting will also be installed.
- We are confident in the security mechanisms in place at the courthouse.

### **22. If a kid is hurt or injured on the site or playground, than who is liable?**

- In Canada, there are case law precedents for injuries occurring at playgrounds. The law allows governments to install playgrounds in public spaces, provided they are properly manufactured, maintained and installed. The BC Government will only install CSA approved equipment with a manufacturer's warranty and that is what is happening here.
- Habitat Systems will conduct a safety inspection once the equipment is assembled and issue a 100-year warranty on the equipment.

### **23. Who will be responsible for maintaining the property?**

- The Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services will retain ownership of the site and be responsible for its maintenance.

## **SOIL REMEDIATION**

### **24. What was the total cost of the soil remediation?**

- Soil remediation has been completed on budget at \$350,000.

### **25. Whose decision was it to send the contaminated soil to Tervita in the Highlands?**

- My ministry contracted the services of Pinchin, one of Canada's largest environmental, engineering, health and safety consulting firms.
- Pinchin subcontracted Tervita to remove and dispose of the soil appropriately.
- Tervita is certified by the Ministry of Environment and satisfies the requirements set out by both the Province and the Capital Regional District.
- Tervita's Highwest facility was included as an option in the bid they provided.

### **26. Was it the Minister or Ministry that ultimately signed off this decision?**

- Our contractor, Pinchin West Ltd. tendered the soil removal through a competitive bid process and ultimately chose Tervita.
- Pinchin discussed its decision with Shared Services BC and our outsourced property management company – WSI Inc.
- Tervita is a certified soil recovery company operating since 1979, with dozens of facilities across Canada.
- Their Highwest facility was included as an option in their bid.

### **27. Why would your ministry pay for the soil disposal but not pick the company doing it?**

- Through a competitive bid process, my ministry subcontracted Pinchin, which has the requisite experience and knowledge to select the best soil disposal company for the job.
- I am told that cost effectiveness and proximity to the courthouse site were considerations in Pinchin's selection of Tervita, through a competitive bid process.

### **If pressed as to the number of bidders:**



- I am told there were a total of four bidders seeking to dispose of the soil.

## **28. Why this particular location in the Highlands?**

- That was a decision made by Tervita upon competing and winning the competitive bid process.
- That said, I am told that cost effectiveness and proximity to the courthouse site were considerations in Tervita's decision.

## **29. How was the soil disposed of? Was it treated?**

- Given the type of contaminants found on the site, Tervita's Highwest facility met the requirements necessary to dispose of the soil and is certified by the Ministry of Environment to do so.
- The soil has been disposed of at that site according to Ministry of Environment and CRD regulations.

## **30. What contaminants did you find in the soil?**

- Testing of soil samples determined several contaminants, including lead, gasoline, diesel and trace amounts of methamphetamines were found in the soil.
- Previously contaminated soil has been removed, and in its place 1.5 feet of new top soil has been laid to ensure that a safe environment has been created.
- The site is now deemed to be clean to an urban park standard according to the Ministry of Environment regulations.

## **31. What can you tell me about pest control on the site?**

- Pest control is completed for the most part, however some rodent traps remain at the site to ensure the population doesn't return.
- The rodent population has been reduced significantly, allowing us to move into the remediation phase.

## **32. Are there still rats on site?**

- It's important to keep in mind that rats exist all over the downtown of Victoria and will never be completely eradicated.
- That said, we are pleased with the results we've had on the pest control measures.

## **TREES/LANDSCAPING**

## **33. Has there been a landscaper/designer involved in selecting the new trees?**

- Both an arborist and a landscape architect have provided input into tree health and appropriate species. In total, 17 new trees will be planted.

**34. Are these native trees? How were they selected?**

- The 17 new trees have been selected by experts in the field based on a balance of considerations. The trees will be suited to the local climate, drought tolerant, easy to maintain and aesthetically pleasing.
- The design and placement of trees will provide a burst of spring colour (fuschia) and allow more sunlight to enter the centre of the site.

**35. Can you remind me what trees were removed?**

- Of the 20 trees previously on the courthouse site, 11 are healthy and have been preserved. Every effort was made to preserve as many of the established trees as was safe.
- Nine trees were identified as having shallow roots making them unsafe and unlikely to survive the soil remediation. Those trees were removed and included seven Crimson King Maples, one Tree of Heaven and one Rubinia.

**FORMER ENCAMPMENT:**

**36. Why not just return the space to its former state?**

- We consulted with area neighbours and they overwhelmingly supported a community playground at the site.
- The courthouse site is in a nice centralized downtown location surrounded by a neighbourhood, schools, and a community YMCA.
- This playground will create a play space for families in the downtown core that doesn't currently exist.
- It will also bring vitality and energy to the site, and a playground was deemed the best way to encourage mixed use.

**37. Will the homeless be able to camp there?**

- No, there will be no overnight camping allowed on the site.
- The City of Victoria has a bylaw against overnight camping in playgrounds.
- In addition, the playground will be closed from dusk until dawn, with signage stating this.

**38. Who will be enforcing that?**

- It will be up to the Victoria Police Department to enforce the bylaw.

**39. Did you choose a playground to keep the homeless away?**

- Discussions with neighbours showed that there was overwhelming interest in turning the space into a playground.

- Additional, the City of Victoria had previously identified a need for a downtown playground. This playground will fulfill this need and create a play space for families in the downtown core that doesn't currently exist.
- The courthouse site is in a nice centralized downtown location surrounded by a neighbourhood, schools, and a community YMCA.
- The playground will also bring energy to the site, and the various features have been included for people of all ages to enjoy.

#### **40. Why not build social housing for the homeless in this space?**

- In October 2016, Premier Clark announced a \$45 million provincial investment in 500 new units of affordable housing in Victoria for individuals, seniors and families.
- We can generate more housing by reusing existing buildings for this purpose. We can also generate housing more quickly when we reuse existing buildings. That's what we did though the purchase of the former Central Care Home and the former Super 8 hotel.
- Since November 2015, the Province has invested approximately \$26 million to create more than 400 new units of shelter and transitional housing (includes 51 units at the former Super 8 hotel, which has not yet opened).
- That's in addition to the \$13 million that was provided in the community last year to support close to 990 housing units for the homeless.

#### **41. Will you be dedicating the site to the homeless?**

- This site has been used as a park for many years and is now being transformed into an amenity that offers enjoyment to all segments of society.
- We support an approach that is inclusive.

#### **42. Will you consider putting a plaque on the site to commemorate the homeless that lived there?**

- We always look to support those who are homeless by providing housing and services.
- Housing was provided for all of the homeless that were living on the site.
- In addition, Premier Clark announced a \$45 million provincial investment in 500 new units of affordable housing in Victoria for individuals, seniors and families.

#### **43. How much money has the Province spent on this site since the homeless camp went up?**

- In addition to providing housing, provincial costs associated with managing the encampment site were allocated for things such as security, garbage collection, port-a-potties and upkeep, fire extinguishers, gravel, water hookup/service, power pole installation, BC Hydro service, fencing and site demolition. These costs totalled approximately \$1.3 million between December 2015 and October 2016.

- In 2015/16, the B.C. government spent close to \$5 million to provide housing and shelter for residents of the Victoria courthouse encampment.
- In 2016/17, the Province will spend approximately \$28 million, which includes capital costs for the Central Care Home, as well as the Super 8 hotel. This includes \$373,000 to PHS Community Services for support and outreach services at the encampment site between April and August 2016.
- The total cost of fully restoring the greenspace, including soil remediation, landscaping, security fencing and installation of a playground will be around \$1 million.