



## Stó:lō Nation Health Services

7-7201 Vedder Rd Chilliwack, BC V2R 4G5

Telephone # 604-824-0276 Toll Free 1-877-411-3200 Fax # 604-824-0276

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Stó:lō Nation Chief and Council Members

### **Re: Elders Assisted Living Facility**

Stó:lō Nation is currently working with BC Housing and Fraser Health Authority (FHA) to build a 15 unit Assisted Living facility for Aboriginal Elders on the Coqualeetza Property. The facility will be the first of its kind within the Fraser Valley and the Fraser Health Authority. The Facility will be built and will operate within the cultural framework of the Stó:lō Nation. This project is the first step in the “Campus of Care” philosophy for elders. The vision is to have Independent Living, Assisted Living and eventually Extended Care on the site.

BC Housing will finance the entire cost of constructing the facility and Fraser Health Authority will assist with the daily cost of providing hospitality and personal care to the elders. Stó:lō Nation requires an investment of 10% or about \$434,831 to construct the facility. This amount is less than the potential value of the land we propose dedicating to this project.

Stó:lō Nation Society has approved the Physical Development Plan for the Coqualeetza Site identifying building the facility on 2 acres in the North West Corner of the property at the end of Topaz Avenue. The elders have requested that they be within walking distance to shop for groceries and daily needs.

The selection of residents to go into the facility is a question that has been asked. This will be based both on an individual’s need for housing and help with personal care. The selection process will be done as a partnership between Stó:lō Nation Health Staff and a representative (Case Manager) from the Fraser Health Authority. Along with need, consideration will be given first to Aboriginal individuals living within the local area (Stó:lō Nation area around Chilliwack), then to those living within the Fraser Valley, and then on to the entire Fraser Health Authority. If there is a vacancy, consideration may be given to Aboriginal individuals from outside Fraser Health boundaries.

Given the 2 acre corner location and considering the “Highest and Best Use” of the property, the current value is estimated at \$300,000 - \$450,000 per acre. We believe this will be sufficient to cover Stó:lō Nation’s contribution to the project. Thus the project will not financially burden the Nation.

As time is of the essence, BC Housing and Fraser Health Authority are currently reviewing options of how best to facilitate this project. Fraser Health Authority wishes to have the Facility up and running by December 2006.

To meet the deadline of the FHA and not tie the land up in the Additions to Reserve process, it has been recommended that the Federal Government transfer the land (approximately 2 acres) subject to the terms of a *Federal Real Property and Immovable Act*, lease the land to Stó:lō Nation Society. This lease would be for a nominal rent of \$1.00 per year for a 35-year term.