

REPURPOSING OF HOLY ROSARY RC CHURCH PROPERTY Land Use Update *** AWH Site Committee and PCSP Chamber of Commerce

Portugal Cove-St. Philip's, NL. This release is to inform the public of our ongoing efforts to develop this site for the citizens of PCSP and surrounding communities as well as to address some misconceptions expressed on social media. A full briefing package is available upon request.

The site was purchased by securing a social enterprise loan from CBDC and private donations. The loan was approved based on a social enterprise business plan for the proposed development showing a positive cash flow once it is up and running. It is important to note that any profits generated by this project will be put back into the project and site to increase services and programming for the benefit of the community and socially beneficial endeavors, and not private interests.

This site, along with a 12-acre committed land donation, represents 22 acres of property to be utilized for the benefit of community members, the general public, and people in the region, thus preventing this site from being a private use, high density development. We envision a multi-use, multi-generational site for Arts, Wellness and Heritage.

Outdoor activities and uses for this property are being developed and already include walking and mountain biking trails, meditation areas, and nature-based activities. They will have an inclusivity component for people with mobility challenges, which will be further discussed in public consultations.

The Town of PCSP has engaged with us regarding the project from the beginning. An analysis of what the Town Council has paid for other properties for the use and or benefit of residents clearly demonstrates that the purchase of this property would be at a tremendously lower cost per square foot to the town for its residents' beneficial use.

This project aligns perfectly with the AWHCS's goals. There are tremendous economic and cultural benefits for our community, region, and province in utilizing the AWH site to promote tourism and expand the opportunities for residents for employment, personal development, recreational activities, and other beneficial outcomes.

There has been some discussion as to why the volunteer board and group would not put their own money into this project. In fact, some of them have made donations, with NO requested or expected return of the funds or return on investment for them. Some \$35,000 in donations and a further \$15,000 no-interest loan have been provided by members. In addition, a proposed donation of 12 acres of land, complete with an existing right-of-way and trail to Neary's Pond Road, as well as access to the East Coast Trail system, have all been put forward without cost to the project.

The monetary donations are a small but important part of this endeavour. The volunteer hours and dedication that have been put towards this project have been astonishing, and the level of goodwill, passion, and determination that has been contributed by all members of this group has been extremely rewarding to watch and be a part of. However, it is disheartening to see such an amazing project being so negatively skewed by special interest groups. Similar initiatives pursued in nearby communities have been rigorously championed by their residents, communities, and levels of government.

A Survivor's Statement:

"I whole-heartedly support the AWH Committee and their vision for the development of the Holy Rosary Parish property. I can't help but know in my heart it's time. I'm asking you all to join me in supporting this well-intended group of volunteers to create a beacon of hope and renewal. A safe place for our community, families and survivors like me to continue with the healing process. Together with the AWH Committee, we can create positive change around mental health and wellness by supporting the vision for the property."

– Andrew Neary

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