

# NCCC NEWS RELEASE

## Vision for St. Pat's Alexandra Supports Local Community

**November 7, 2013** – Residents of the north end of Halifax helped shape the vision for the North Central Community Council's (NCCC) submission to purchase the St. Pat's Alexandra property from HRM. The NCCC, a non-profit group created by the North End Community Health Clinic, the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre and the Richard Preston Centre for Excellence, addressed participants at a public meeting Thursday night and said its application is an opportunity to secure the site for the benefit of the community.

"Our vision is based on what the community has told us - to create a new focal point for the north central area of Halifax," said Margaret Casey, chair of the NCCC and the North End Community Health Clinic. "St. Pat's Alexandra can be a hub for community activities, organizations and services who share our goal of improving the quality for life for residents."

The submission calls for the eventual relocation of the NCCC founding organizations as well as others. It will also include incubator space for local arts groups and small businesses. Additionally, the application includes a plan to build new homes that are affordable and offer programs for area residents to own their own home if they so choose.

"I'm excited that St. Pat's Alexandra will not only provide needed services and a place for interaction for neighborhood residents, but it will also include homes that are affordable," said Rhonda Britton of the Richard Preston Centre for Excellence and the NCCC. "It is important that the people who live in this community get to stay in this community through housing that is affordable and programs for home ownership."

The idea of providing homes that are affordable resonated with community members during previous public consultations. The NCCC says it is working to that end with the community's support.

"St. Pat's Alexandra has a place in history in this diverse community," said Pamela Glode-Desrochers from the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre. "It is a tremendous opportunity to continue to serve the residents of this neighbourhood with expanded employment programs, after school programs, access to health care services, community activities and more."

The NCCC will submit its proposal to purchase the property on November 12, 2013 in response to the Halifax Regional Municipality's call for submissions. If successful, the group plans to continue to consult with the community on the details of future development.

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