



Date: January 15, 2002

**TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation**  
**FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation**  
**SUBJECT: MORESPORTS PROJECT IN VANCOUVER EAST DISTRICT**

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

*That the Board receive the attached staff report for information.*

## **BACKGROUND**

At its meeting of July 30, 2001, the Board received a staff report and presentation on plans for a Vancouver East sport strategy. A coalition of groups has partnered with the Park Board to resource and deliver a community-based minor league sport system for low-income children and youth living in the inner city where there are comparatively fewer community based sport opportunities. The new name of ~~MegaSports~~ **MegaSports** has been introduced to describe our vision.

Phase 1 activities included operation of two pilot seasons using basketball and floor hockey as demonstration sports. The second season of "Fast Break Basketball" begins January 2002 for teams based at 8 Vancouver East District community centres. RayCam and Strathcona Centres host league play each Saturday.

Staff indicated that they would provide the Board with updates on the progress of the project at appropriate intervals.

## **DISCUSSION**

A Human Resource Development Canada Grant of \$ 189,000 has now been confirmed to begin Phase II of the strategy. The goals of the HRDC project are to build capacity, skills and employability of 12 community youth and to establish a formal, on-going structure for the participation of low income children/youth in a soccer league programme. Tradeworks Training Society is the administrative sponsor of this portion of the project.

In order for soccer to take hold and continue to grow in the future, building the capacity to

maintain a community-based administrative sport structure is essential. Douglas College Sport Institute is serving a very important role in the training/educational development component and are launching two new three credit courses in recreation/sport. The 12 HRDC participants and others will be able to take these courses in a community setting, apply the theory they learn in a community setting and, on successful completion of the course, achieve transferable credits which can be applied to University/College programmes in BC. Additionally, significant support and expertise is being provided through the established soccer leagues, including Kerrisdale and Vancouver Youth District soccer which will strengthen the local sport network.

A copy of the proposal sent to Youth Service Canada (Human Resources Development Canada) is attached. This material will be useful in discussions with potential sponsors and funders during the months leading up to the start of the soccer season in September 2002.

## SUMMARY

~~More Sports~~ is an important initiative to the Vancouver East District, and with the announcement of funding for selection and training of 12 site staff, the project is gathering momentum. Funding to support the mentoring and development of soccer league administration has yet to be confirmed, while fund raising for soccer uniforms and equipment will be getting underway shortly.

~~More Sports~~ partners from the private and public sectors will be sought, and Park Board and community association partner support has and will continue to play a key role in the success of this Project.

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