

Youth Justice Lower North Redevelopment

Why is the redevelopment necessary?

The Youth Justice Lower North Residence has two units which each house 15 young people with only one common space. This design limits the staff's ability to manage conflict and to address the unique needs of individuals.

We want to build smaller units, to improve our ability to manage the youth and address their unique needs. This will also keep our staff safer.

As part of the redevelopment, we plan to create a new 10 bed unit, increasing the total number of beds from 30 to 40. This will enable us to house more local youth and give us the potential to house young women from the region.

Have there been any security issues for the community at this site?

This residence opened in 1999 and while there have been incidents, there have been no serious security issues which have endangered the community during this time. There was one escape, but the young person was quickly located without any adverse impact on the community.

The residence has an established Community Liaison Committee to provide a forum for discussion of opportunities and issues between the local community and the residence.

When do you expect the residence to be finished?

Assuming we have the community's support, we are currently planning for construction to commence late 2010 and then depending on the phasing, the entire redevelopment could be completed by the end of 2012.

Will there be any impact on the community and natural environment as a result of the construction work to redevelop this residence?

This is an existing and operating residence. The redevelopment work involves changing some of the configurations of existing units. The work is expected to have little, if any, impact on nearby premises and homes. The redevelopment will comply with all the local by-laws and strong emphasis will be placed on safety and security during the work.

What benefits would the redevelopment have for the community?

Aside from an improved ability to house local youth, the redevelopment will create economic and employment opportunities both during and after the construction period. When completed, it will employ approximately 20 additional staff from the local community.