



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 30th, 2014

MEDIA RELEASE

Silver Threads Service to relocate Victoria Centre

Victoria, BC. The Silver Threads Service (STS) in Victoria currently located at 1728 Douglas Street will be relocating to 2340 Richmond Street effective September 1st, 2014 thanks to a decision Thursday by City of Victoria Mayor and Council.

The decision resolves a decade old issue created when the City sold the purpose built facility Silver Threads occupied in Centennial Square in 2004 to make room for the CRD. At that time STS relocated to temporary store front space on Douglas Street and have been challenged to make it a viable centre due to location and suitability concerns. At the time the City of Victoria was to hold in reserve an estimated \$500,000 from the sale of the building to assist in future relocation to permanent space.

Over the past ten years a number of options were explored in partnership with STS and the City and with STS acting independently in recent years. In May 2013, STS received a letter from the City stating that the lease would not be renewed after September 30th, 2014 and upon further searching the organization secured an offer to lease for space at 2340 Richmond, formerly the CNIB Building that was recently purchased by Urban Core Ventures. The 5,200 square foot space provides an auditorium, kitchen and meeting rooms that will be more conducive to programs. CNIB will continue to lease a portion of the space and we look forward to developing an integrated service model.

On Thursday, Council approved a one-time \$200,000 grant to allow the move and a continued annual operating grant of \$122,000. "We are optimistic that with this decision Silver Threads Service will thrive in a new location," stated Andy Robinson, Board President, "we look forward to building a collaborative, neighbourhood model to serve seniors of Victoria and the Jubilee community." Thank you to the City of Victoria, Mayor Fortin and members of Council for the decision.

Silver Threads Service is a charitable, not-for-profit society that provides programs and services that enhance social connections and well-being for seniors, including those at risk. The Victoria Centre is part of the City of Victoria Community and Senior Centre Network and will continue to be a partner in program and service delivery.

For further information call Silver Threads Services Saanich Centre (250) 382-3151.

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