



The Jewish Federation OF EDMONTON

FROM: The Jewish Federation of Edmonton, Community Facility Utilization Committee

Dear Community Member:

October 23, 2014

There has been a lot of discussion recently in our community about the possibility of a new Jewish community facility and what it might look like. That discussion is taking place in our synagogues, in our local community newspaper, in our community organizations, at social and family gatherings, and in our homes. Federation welcomes a vibrant, frank and respectful public discussion about our community's wants and needs. There are many people passionate about this issue with varying and occasionally divergent viewpoints. This was confirmed by the community engagement exercises conducted by the committee. This should come as no surprise. Our Jewish community includes diverse peoples with diverse interests.

However, this discussion has led to some confusion in our midst: confusion as to the source of some communications; confusion as to the status of the committee's work. Part of this confusion stems from the recent ad in the Edmonton Jewish News proposing a planned JCC on the Talmud Torah site. Please note that this is a proposal from private individuals, not from Federation or the CFU Committee. While the committee welcomes input, we strive to ensure that the community remains informed. This is consistent with the committee's mandate to be transparent and consultative.

As a result of this, we want to update community members about the status of the committee's work and hopefully alleviate some of the confusion:

- **No decision has been made by the Community Facility Utilization Committee, and no recommendation has been made by the Committee to the Board of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton.** We are exploring a variety of options including partnering with (in alphabetical order) Beit Horim, Beth Israel, or Talmud Torah, building an independent structure, or some combination of these options. In partnership with each of Beth Israel and Talmud Torah, we are engaging architects to conduct feasibility studies of each of those options to study and report on physical utilization options and challenges for those sites. The committee continues to engage with other Jewish organizations to explore partnerships.
- **No option has been eliminated by the committee.** Until a decision is made, the committee remains open to all the options.
- **None of the funds from the sale of the former JCC lands and building have been spent.** The funds continue to be held in a segregated, risk-free investment account, and not a penny of these funds has been spent.
- **Communication from the committee will specify that it is from the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, the Community Facility Utilization Committee.** Communication from any other source is not from the committee.

- **Next Steps.** The Committee is planning to conduct town hall meetings to be held at the earliest opportunity after the feasibility studies have been completed, hopefully late 2014. The purpose of those meetings is to update the community and to provide more details regarding the scenarios under consideration. In order to ensure adequate resources are available for each meeting we request that you register your attendance at these meetings by calling Dani at (780) 487-0585.

If anyone has questions about the status of the committee's work, you can find more information from the following resources:

- Website: go to www.jewishedmonton.org and click on the Community Facility Utilization Committee link. All relevant documentation can be found on this site.
- Telephone: Debby Shoctor, Federation Offices: 780 487-0585 ext.203.
- Email to: debbys@edjfed.org.
- Email updates; sign up to our email list: daniu@edjfed.org.
- J-Fed e-weekly email for periodic updates: daniu@edjfed.org.

The committee is governed by the following guiding principles:

- Transparent and consultant process;
- Forward-looking and inclusive;
- Financially responsible.

Federation aims to bring community interests together and to provide the Jewish community with educational, arts and cultural programs along with support for local agencies, for Israel and the Jewish people, *Klal Israel*. Through the lens of these guiding principles, and through the generous co-operation of our community organizations, the Jewish Federation of Edmonton is working to further these goals.

Yours Truly,



Clive Oshry
Chair, Community Facilities Utilization Committee
The Jewish Federation of Edmonton



Stephanie Hendin
President
The Jewish Federation of Edmonton