

Innovative, multi-institution campus unveils development plans today

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VANCOUVER SUN

EDUCATION | Great Northern Way Campus is unveiling at an open house today three plans for the future shape of its campus, including one that includes residential development, retail shops and other amenities.

The campus offers a two-year masters of digital media program for students of participating institutions Simon Fraser University, the University of B.C., B.C. Institute of Technolo-

gy and Emily Carr Institute of Art & Design.

It has not yet decided which plan to go with, or a blending of elements from all three submissions, which GNWC said are not competing with each other.

However, it will not be able to progress with any plan unless it gets rezoning from the City of Vancouver.

Currently, the 7.4 hectares at the old Finning industrial site is zoned CD1 (comprehensive development) with most of the land reserved for I-3 (high-tech

industries and industries requiring research and development.)

To get the community environment GNWC wants, with people living near the campus and the high-tech industries where they work, and where shops will cater to this population, it will have to get the zoning changed.

The campus also needs new zoning so it can sell housing and commercial space to pay for the construction of the new community without relying on taxpayer dollars.

“It’s not only housing [needed to finance construction], it’s commercial space,” says GNWC president Dennis Pavlich.

“Commercial space is pretty tight in downtown Vancouver, and this is a natural space for those commercial buildings,” Pavlich said. “You need the residences to make this a vibrant community, but the primary task of this place is to allow for the high-tech commercial operation to work.”

See **PLANS CALL** J2

Plans call for urban gardening

From J1

Assuming zoning allows the campus to progress, the three plans are all focused on community, sustainable operation and easy access to transit. The sustainability element is particularly striking, with plans calling for restricted automobile access, collection and use of rainwater, treatment of “black” water, energy from organic waste and solar thermal, urban gardening and plenty of green space. One artist’s rendition calls for a canal to run through the site.

Pavlich said both the municipal and provincial governments have been “unbelievably cooperative” in meetings pertaining to the campus and its future.

Today’s open house runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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