

City of Burnaby Signs Purchase Agreement for Fortius Sport & Health Property

December 15, 2020

Burnaby, BC – The City of Burnaby has signed a Purchase and Sale Agreement (PSA) with the Fortius Foundation to acquire the land and facilities currently occupied by Fortius Sport & Health.

The purchase price of \$26.6 million includes the 5.16-acre property at 3713 Kensington Avenue and the Fortius building, which is in excess of 146,000 square feet. The purchase also reimburses Fortius for the balance of the pre-paid lease on the adjacent sports fields on City-owned land at 3677 Kensington Avenue. The closing date for the sale is currently set for February 1, 2021.

“By purchasing the Fortius facility, the City of Burnaby has secured an important recreation asset at Burnaby Lake in perpetuity,” said Mayor Mike Hurley. “This purchase will ensure this facility, located alongside the City’s sport fields, ice arenas and swimming pool at Burnaby Lake continues to deliver services that support recreation and athletic needs of residents.”

Fortius Sport & Health opened in 2013 as an integrated athlete development centre. The facility includes a double-gymnasium, fitness centre and office space. In November 2020, Fortius announced that pandemic pressures on the business led to the decision to cease operations effective Dec. 31, 2020.

“The global pandemic has created insurmountable challenges for many businesses, including Fortius Sport & Health,” said Scott Cousens, Fortius Founder and Chairman. “Since our inception, we have worked closely with the City of Burnaby to develop Fortius as a community asset. While we are deeply saddened to close our doors, I am proud of the efforts our team members made to leave a positive legacy in our community. We are happy to know the facility will continue to contribute to the health and wellness of Burnaby for years to come.”

“Fortius made a positive impact in our community – for competitive athletes and teams, and also for anyone seeking to live full, active and healthy lives,” said Mayor Hurley. “The City of Burnaby looks forward to using these facilities in a way that continues to support a healthy and dynamic community.”

This purchase of the Fortius facility will result in overall cost savings for Burnaby taxpayers. The City will incorporate this newly acquired facility into its overall recreation programme at Burnaby Lake. Across the street from Fortius, replacement plans for CG Brown Pool and Burnaby Lake Arena with a new Burnaby Lake Sports Complex will be revised. Significant cost savings will accrue through the reduced space and parking requirements.

The City of Burnaby has established an internal working group and will share more details about recreation programming at the Fortius building in the coming weeks.

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