



For immediate release

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\$2 Million Gift Builds Community and Leadership Downtown

Vancouver, BC.....It is with great pleasure that the YMCA of Greater Vancouver announces a generous gift and a new name for the YMCA now under construction at 955 Burrard. The \$2 million naming gift announced today means that the former Downtown YMCA will now be known as the Robert Lee YMCA.

“This is a milestone for us as we look towards our goal of raising \$10 million so that we can welcome everyone through the doors of our brand-new YMCA,” says YMCA of Greater Vancouver President and CEO Bill Stewart.

For Robert Lee, supporting the new YMCA downtown is all about encouraging young people and kids to participate, so they can enjoy healthy and happier lives -- throughout their lives. And he knows what he’s talking about, having been a YMCA member himself for the last 45 years: “Children and youth need to get active and stay active in life, for themselves, their families and the health of their communities, as they grow and give back wherever life may lead them.”

Long-term vision, entrepreneurial drive and a strong dedication to community have certainly been hallmarks of Robert Lee’s life and career. Born and raised in Vancouver, he graduated from UBC in 1956 with a BComm and hasn’t looked back since, in business or in staying active and engaged. He is well known for building a formidable real estate business with Wall Financial Corporation and eventually forming the highly successful Prospero Group. A former chancellor and long-time patron of UBC, Robert Lee is also a recipient of both the Order of BC and the Order of Canada.

“We are thrilled to count among our supporters someone like Bob Lee, a committed philanthropist who has long given so much to our BC and to our YMCA,” says Strong Foundations Strong Communities Capital Campaign volunteer Bob Chan Kent. “We are very privileged to name the new facility the **Robert Lee YMCA**”.

Lee’s \$2 million gift will be dedicated to the new YMCA in downtown Vancouver where he often went to work out and enjoy the company of people associated with the Y at the former facility: “You know, I can just be myself there. I’m very proud to be associated with the YMCA,” he says.

The new Downtown YMCA (Development Partner: Concert Properties Ltd., Architects: Stantec Architecture, Endall Elliot Associates) is now under construction behind the protected heritage frontage at 955 Burrard Street. The facility will offer 95,000 square feet and six bright and airy floors of new facilities and programs geared to men, women, children, youth, families and seniors from all backgrounds, all abilities and all walks of life. The top two floors will be home to a new 69-space YMCA Child Care and Family Development Centre, offering licensed, quality programs for children and support for families of all kinds.