

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Council approves MEC store proposal for 212 Brooksbank Ave.
Landmark green development will provide jobs and numerous community benefits

Vancouver – Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC) last night received approval from City of North Vancouver Council to proceed with its proposal to build a new 20,688-square-foot store at 212 Brooksbank Avenue, due east of Park & Tillford Shopping Centre right next to Lynmouth Park. Upon completion, MEC's new North Vancouver store will be the centrepiece of a landmark green development that provides numerous benefits to the community as well as new employment opportunities.

"We deeply appreciate the support that Mayor Mussatto and others on Council have shown our proposal for 212 Brooksbank Avenue," said Sandy Treagus, MEC's Chief Financial Officer. "The public process that culminated in Council's approval last night resulted in numerous improvements to our original proposal, and we are excited about the prospect of the new store being the hub of outdoor recreation on the North Shore."

In addition to a highly energy-efficient 'green' building with a distinctive sawtooth roof, MEC's store development will provide access to and amenities within Lynmouth Park, bicycle infrastructure improvements, and funding for stewardship of Lynn Creek. Community organizations will be able use a dedicated meeting room free of charge on a reservation basis.

Construction of the new store is expected to begin late this summer, following the detailed planning that is now underway. The store is scheduled to open in spring 2012.

MEC expects the store to offer employment for 75 people – or the equivalent of 60 full-time jobs, double the number MEC currently provides in North Vancouver.

The new store will replace MEC's existing North Vancouver store at 1341 Main Street (in the District of North Vancouver). The larger store will provide about 25 per cent more products than the existing one as well as a full-service bike shop and a larger selection of rental gear.

About MEC

Currently celebrating its 40th anniversary, Mountain Equipment Co-op is Canada's leading retailer of outdoor clothing, gear and services for self-propelled activities like cycling, hiking and paddlesports. MEC has more than 3 million members throughout Canada, whom it serves through 14 destination stores in 6 provinces as well as mec.ca. Widely recognized for its commitment to sustainability, MEC is a member of 1% for the Planet and supports various outdoor recreation and environmental initiatives through its community grants program. Anyone can join MEC and become part-owner in the Co-op, by purchasing a \$5 lifetime individual membership. More information about MEC is available at www.mec.ca.

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