

Greater Vancouver Community Services Society

Memorandum - 4

to: All GVCSS HandyDART Staff at Simon Fraser and Richmond Offices
from: Ron McLeod, Executive Director
subject: HandyDART Request for Proposals
date: April 30, 2008

The Requests for Proposals (RFP) for the three consolidated HandyDART service areas have now been issued. As you know, GVCSS incorporated Crosstown Accessible Transit, a wholly owned subsidiary, to bid on the contract for the “North of Fraser” area. We are hard at work preparing our Crosstown proposal.

Crosstown, is a professional transportation company dedicated to serving people with disabilities. GVCSS is a non-profit service agency which has also been a professional transportation organization with many years of experience. We think HandyDART clients in the enlarged area will be better served by Crosstown than any other potential bidder, and believe that Crosstown stands an excellent chance of succeeding.

In the event we are successful, we are committed to making the transition as smooth as possible. You may have heard the announcement from TransLink that client registration and bookings will no longer be performed by the service provider. Instead they will be moved into a new division of Coast Mountain Bus Company (CMBC). However at this point we do not anticipate the elimination of any of our current unionized office staff positions due to the transfer of the call-taking/booking and registration functions to CMBC. All GVCSS HandyDART employees, including office employees, will be transferred to Crosstown with full continuity of service and seniority. It continues to be our intention to increase wages to the level paid by Pacific Transit Coop, and Crosstown’s bid will be structured on that basis.

We look forward to working with the Union on the details of the transfer including the integration of employees of other operators into the Crosstown bargaining unit. It is our hope that the various issues will be resolved before any changes actually occur. Initial discussions have already taken place.

In anticipation of our Crosstown bid being successful, we have investigated the process of having Crosstown covered by the Municipal Pension Plan. Initial indications look very positive and we hope to have this in place before the transfer of employees to Crosstown occurs. That will permit pension contributions and entitlement to continue uninterrupted.

We will continue to keep you informed of developments in this process that may affect you.

If you have any questions about this issue, please contact me at 604-714-3500.