



PAL Vancouver welcomes Gary Glacken as Executive Director

Vancouver, November 17, 2008. PAL (Performing Arts Lodge) Vancouver is delighted to announce the appointment of our first Executive Director, Gary Glacken.

PAL Vancouver is a 111-unit, mixed-income housing project in Coal Harbour for seniors and disabled persons in the professional performing arts, which recently won a prestigious CMHC award for “Best Practices in Affordable Housing”. The building includes a rooftop theatre and garden, a common reading/activity room, and shares a portion of the space with a daycare, operated by Vancouver Society of Children’s Centres - all part of the initial vision of PAL Vancouver, co-founded by theatre artists, Joy Coghill C.M. and Jane Heyman.

“I’m delighted that Gary Glacken, our unanimous first choice, is to become our first Executive Director,” said PAL Vancouver President, Jane Heyman. “We are all looking forward to working with him and expect to benefit greatly from the wealth of diverse experiences he will bring to PAL.”

Mr. Glacken comes to PAL Vancouver from the BC Schizophrenia Society where he was Executive Director for the past 15 years. Under his leadership, the Society reached many milestones and was recognized for numerous initiatives under his leadership, including the BC Association of Broadcaster’s Humanity Award (receiving \$3.5M value in advertising), establishing the \$1,000,000 Jack Bell Chair in Schizophrenia Research at UBC, raising \$80,000 to develop ‘Reaching Out’ a high school curriculum resource, the development and implementation of Early Psychosis intervention initiatives, successfully lobbying for amendments to the BC Mental Health Act to ensure timely access to treatment and care for people with serious mental illness and many other programs for those with mental illness and their families. As a result of these and other accomplishments, Mr. Glacken was awarded the Schizophrenia Society of Canada Outstanding Staff Award for 2004.

Prior to this, Mr. Glacken was the administrator with Canadian Mental Health Association, Vancouver/Burnaby branch, and later Executive Director of the Richmond Branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association. Glacken also spent a number of years as a professional drummer and continues to play on a recreational basis.

PAL Vancouver is not only an affordable housing project, but also an initiative to implement the knowledge that opportunities for creativity, activity and community help people to age more successfully. Mr. Glacken’s background will be invaluable as PAL Vancouver moves into its next phase of development.

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