

MEDIA RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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West Central Abilities Closer to Finding New Home

The Town of Kindersley and West Central Abilities Inc. are developing a lease agreement to allow for the construction of a new facility to assist persons with disabilities in Kindersley and region.

The project proposes to replace West Central Abilities' existing activity centre in the Kindersley industrial area and to relocate operations to the current Kinsmen Park land adjacent to Westberry School.

Council passed a resolution at its regular meeting on March 14 directing administration to proceed in drafting a 40-year agreement. The next stage of the process will involve a community consultation coordinated by the local non-profit organization in order to provide information on the scope and purpose of the project.

Town administration will also explore other areas for the existing Kinsmen Park outdoor rink and playground equipment to be relocated.

"We are extremely grateful to have Council's support for this project and will work cooperatively with the Town in the months ahead as we develop the agreement, and seek to raise funds and community support," said Kim Edmunds, Executive Director for West Central Abilities.

Edmunds said replacement of the current facility has been a need for some time.

"Our current location in the industrial area is unsafe, inaccessible to individuals we serve, old and in need of much repair and upgrades, and it is isolated from the community," she said.

The executive director noted that use of Kinsmen Park was requested because of its proximity to two group homes, supported independent living, and other community amenities. The proposed new facility will include rentable suites and space for other community groups to utilize.

"This project is still in the early development and planning stages. We will listen to input from the community meeting for further planning," Edmunds said.

Acting Mayor Shaun Henry said Council hopes to support the work of West Central Abilities and the needs of those with disabilities while still ensuring Kindersley residents have access to green space and other amenities. "There are many factors to consider and this is the first step in a process that we hope can benefit everyone," he said.

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