

# STATEMENT

## Meredith Centre Soil Results

Chelsea, Quebec (March 22, 2010) – The following joint statement is being issued today by Chelsea Mayor Caryl Green and Fondation Chelsea Foundation (FCF) President Wayne Russell:

“As a preliminary step in the construction of the Meredith Centre, soil tests were conducted to determine how stable the soil was relative to the size and location of the building being proposed. Two soil tests were conducted on the original proposed site towards the rear of the property. Both of these tests revealed substantial sand deposits that would require up to \$1 million to stabilize sufficiently to support a structure the size of the proposed Meredith Centre. A third soil test was conducted on the soccer fields and the results are no more positive than the previous two.

This means that the project will incur extra costs of up to \$1 million to stabilize the soil in any of the three locations that have been tested. The commitment of the municipality and Chelsea Foundation has always been that this project would not go over budget. Therefore, it is clear that the project scope will need to be scaled back.

At this point no final decision has been made on the nature of the reduced scope of the project. Both the municipality and the FCF Board are looking at various options, including scaling back the three components (community centre, gym and arena), modifying just one of them or eliminating one completely. These options will be proposed to Council where a decision will be made. At this point the guiding principles are two-fold: to provide Chelsea with a multi-purpose recreational and cultural centre and to do it on budget.

An extension of 15 months has been requested from the provincial and federal governments, and verbal approval has been granted. An official letter is expected shortly.”

Chelsea Mayor Caryl Green  
Fondation Chelsea Foundation President Wayne Russell