

Dear SJI Member,

We are very excited to inform you of two very important motions that passed at our recent Annual General Meeting. They allow SJI to move forward and recreate our cherished institute to be competitive in today's market while still honouring our past and allowing us to preserve our historic and cultural legacy for future generations.

The first motion involves having SJI designated as a Municipal Heritage Resource in the City of Edmonton. As we have indicated in our previous newsletters, this designation will preserve the exterior of SJI including important features such as the vaulted chapel roof and copper cross on the exterior. This designation will also provide some funds to preserve SJI's exterior and increases our eligibility for future grants. As previously stated, this designation does **not** affect any plans for interior work.

The second motion is to rebuild SJI on the 82nd Ave property. To achieve this, we will be utilizing the services of Dub Architects of Edmonton to create a facility that will meet our vision and mission statement of being an institution of cultural and youth development within a student residence. As many of you know, Gene Dub is no stranger to SJI and has been involved in previous development plans as well as being a patron of our institute. The SJI board is pleased to inform you that we have secured a \$1.98 million dollar grant to begin this work. The estimated total cost will be \$4.5 million dollars, so fundraising efforts will begin shortly.

As a valued member of our SJI community, you are encouraged to get involved in this exciting project in any or all of the following ways:

1) Plan!

While there are general plans for the new SJI structure including student residence facilities and a chapel, the other components have yet to be determined. Options include classrooms, conference facilities, multi-purpose rooms and so forth. The SJI board will be conducting a **Stakeholder's Meeting on February 28, 2009 at 1 PM at the Institute**. This meeting will be our chance to ascertain community needs for our new facility as stakeholder organizations will be asked to formally present their proposals for SJI followed by a question/answer period. Construction is projected to begin this spring; therefore, the opportunity to contribute in this format will occur within a tight timeline. If you have any suggestions and/or ideas about our new SJI, please forward them to our office or any board member prior to February 28th.

2) Volunteer!

We will need volunteers for our Building and Fundraising Committees. Please consider rededicating yourself to our Institute by offering your time and skills. Contact our office if you would like to join one of these committees.

3) Donate!

A formal fundraising campaign will begin shortly, and we ask that you consider SJI in your donations. If you have any innovative suggestions, we would love to hear them!

We thank you for your continued support of St. John's Institute and look forward to keeping you updated as to our progress.

Regards,

Victor Pysyk

Chair, SJI Board of Directors