

Media release: April 28, 2010

From: The Abbotsford Convent Foundation

LENTIL AS ANYTHING UPDATE

Further progress has been made towards a process to consider a new lease for Lentil As Anything (LAA) to apply from next year.

Representatives of LAA met members of the Board of the Abbotsford Convent Foundation (ACF) for a second time last night.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide the opportunity for Lentil As Anything to respond to issues raised in a letter from the Board following the first meeting on April 15.

The chairman of the ACF, Mr Hayden Raysmith, said he was delighted with the initial responses from LAA last night and the way had been paved for LAA to submit a formal proposal for a new lease to apply after the expiry of its current lease in January 2011.

The ACF has asked LAA to demonstrate that it has systems, practices and behaviors to ensure compliance with all relevant laws, regulations and lease conditions in advance of the Board considering a new lease.

Mr Raysmith repeated that the Board was full of admiration for the “terrific” concept and philosophy of LAA. But the Board had a duty to satisfy itself that all tenants complied with the law and lease conditions.

It was acknowledged that the Convent precinct, over the last four years, has become a more diverse community and busier place. New leases would also take into account an organisation’s ability to work co-operatively and constructively with management and other tenants.

Leaders of LAA outlined a number of initiatives they would implement immediately to help satisfy some of the ACF concerns.

LAA has begun work on a draft proposal for lease renewal and this draft would be discussed at the next meeting. Mr Raysmith said there were still some difficult issues to resolve, but definite and substantial progress was being made.

LAA conceded that it could have done things better and that part of the problem was the success of the restaurant and the pressures caused by large attendances. The ACF conceded that it needed to improve strategic communications with all tenants and the Board was working on mechanisms to achieve this in a process separate from the LAA lease issue.