

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.....FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 7, 1978

STATEMENT FROM MR C.N. WOODWARD, dated November 6, 1978,
TO MAYORALTY CANDIDATE MAY BROWN

Alderman May Brown has proposed what I believe to be the only workable and realistic plan to get Vancouver the new stadium it needs.

The proposal is to build a 60,000 seat stadium on a downtown site.

Such a stadium can be built for under 60 million dollars. Detroit put up the Silver Dome for \$42 million(\$600 a seat), Seattle put up the Kingdome for \$60 million (\$1,000 a seat).

This kind of stadium on a downtown site is achievable. The P.N.E. Multi-plex proposal is not.

I see the following advantages to Alderman May Brown's proposal:

1. The surrounding community will not oppose it, in fact I feel the downtown business community will give it their whole hearted support. We can expect the hotels, the restaurants and such organizations, as the B.B.A., Board of Trade, B.O.M.A. to give it their support.
2. Access - all roads lead downtown. Each day there are 375,000 trips in and out. A full stadium would only require 15% of this and use it at off peak hours and in the opposite direction to commuter peak demand.

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All transit lines go downtown.

All proposed L.R.T. routes go through this site.

3. Parking - there are 38,000 parking stalls in downtown Vancouver.

The majority of these stalls are available during the hours of major events.

The Kingdome in Seattle successfully used their downtown parking in combination with shuttle buses. The Kingdome has 2200 stalls on site. The P.N.E. requires 7,000 onsite plus 9,000 in front of homes on neighbouring streets.

4. Downtown is a better place for games and other events. The restaurants and hotels are within walking distance. The site proposed is only a ten minute walk (half mile) from Georgia and Granville.

People will stay downtown for dinner and go to the games. After the game, business for restaurants, etc., will even out the peak traffic congestion.

5. The downtown stadium will have a lower cost to each user because it is used more. Entertainment events, concerts, spectaculars and large conventions will make much more use of a downtown facility. Trade shows such as the Boat Show, Recreation Vehicle Show, Logging Convention all do better on a downtown site.

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6. Vancouver has its Centennial in 1986, the C.P.R. has its hundredth anniversary in 1987, and we hope to host the Pan Am games. Such major events will enlist the support of the Federal and Provincial Governments who would be willing to provide funds for something all citizens need and want. Our Centennial can mobilise this support.
7. The Downtown site will obtain City Council's support. Particularly if May Brown is our next mayor. As she has told me, "this proposal for a stadium will evoke enthusiasm from Vancouverites and deliver us a facility that is a plus in every way."

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