



MEMBER OF THE ARMECO GROUP 



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NEWS RELEASE

PLEASE NOTE:

New Nanaimo Centre Hotel and Condominium Tower – Upgrade Announcement

The City of Nanaimo and its development partners, Millennium and Triarc International wish to advise of the following proposed changes to the hotel/condominium tower to be built adjacent to the Vancouver Island Conference Centre as part of the New Nanaimo Centre.

- The hotel will be upgraded to a full service Marriott providing higher quality facilities and services (previously planned as a Marriott Courtyard).
- The hotel capacity will be increased to approximately 150 rooms (previously 140).
- Three levels of underground parking will provide an estimated 130 additional parking stalls (previously the tower included no additional parking).
- There will be approximately 130 residential condominium units (previously 72 units) funded by Millennium and Triarc International.

Further, Millennium and Triarc wish to announce that under this proposal they will now fund the full cost of the foundation for the hotel/condominium tower. Previously City of Nanaimo taxpayer funding for the tower foundation was \$1.2 Million. This commitment for funding for the tower foundation by the City originated with the City's initial commitment to provide the platform upon which to build the tower, when the tower was to be part of the Vancouver Island Conference Centre building. This was a measure taken to improve the financial viability of the hotel.

To accommodate these changes the new tower design is taller than previously planned. A Development Variance Permit from the City is required to allow the additional height. This matter will be considered by Council at its meeting to be held Monday, 2006-JUN-26 (and subsequently on 2006-JUL-12 if Council is willing to consider the variance). A staff report outlining the height issues in detail is part of Council's agenda package and available to the media. This report outlines the process and the opportunities for public comment. A photo interpretation of the Nanaimo downtown skyline including this building and other downtown highrise developments is posted on the City's website.

Millennium and Triarc International advise that the additional height is a necessary part of the upgrade proposal. The additional costs related to upgrading the hotel, paying for the foundation, building the underground parking, and addressing the overall higher costs of construction currently being experienced in the construction industry are funded by the anticipated proceeds from the sale of the additional residential condominium units.

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