

Harry Jerome Community Recreation Centre (HJCRC) Fact Sheets, July 25, 2026

Background

Project Background and Overview

Project Background

- **Vision:** The City of North Vancouver strives to be “The Healthiest Small City in the World”. This state-of-the-art facility brings to life that vision by creating a place for community members of all ages and abilities to gather for social connection and programming.
- **Design:** The Centre’s spaces were designed with accessibility and sustainability at the forefront. The architecture firm, hcma, incorporated the influence of the North Shore into various design elements of the facility for example, the wood coffered ceiling in the lobby reflects the nearby forests of the North Shore mountains.
- **Purpose:** Replacing the aging legacy facility to provide a modern facility that offers recreational and community spaces for present and future generations to come. This new Centre is substantially more energy efficient than its predecessor and aims to achieve gold standard in the Rick Hansen Accessibility program.
- **Timeline/History:** Site preparation began in March 2022, permitting and construction commenced in fall 2022. Major building of the structure began in 2024 and continued until spring 2026 preparing for opening in July 2026. Regular programming is expected to begin fall 2026.
- **Budget:** The new HJCRC and Silver Harbour Seniors’ Activity Centre are financed from multiple sources with a total budget of \$230 million. While delivering this important project, minimizing financial impacts on taxpayers remains a key priority.
- **Naming:** The new facility is named in honour of Harry Jerome, a local hero and inspiration. As operations transition from the former Harry Jerome Community Recreation Centre, the City will continue to honour his legacy across the street at the newly constructed facility.
- **Operator:** As of July 2026, North Vancouver Recreation & Culture (NVRC) Commission will commence operation of the new facility. You can visit nvrc.ca/newHJ for updates on fall programming.

Technical Performance & Specifications

Total Gross Floor Area (GFA) (Harry Jerome + Silver Harbour):
30,507 sq. m. / 328,375 sq. ft.

Total GFA (Excluding underground):

17,635 sq m / 189,822 sq. ft.

Total GFA (Former HJCRC):

8363 sq. m. / 90,020 sq. ft.

HJCRC Features:

- Community atrium and gathering areas;
- NHL-sized multi-use arena capable of seating 500 spectators;
- Four-pool aquatic space including a large leisure pool;
 - Ten-lane 25m lap pool;
 - Leisure pool with tots' pool, tots' area, spray features;
 - Adult hot pool;
 - Family hot pool with accessible ramp;
 - Sauna and steam rooms;
 - Universal and gender-specific change rooms;
 - And outdoor patio.
- Indoor and outdoor fitness spaces;
- Gymnasium with a full-size court;
- 8 multipurpose spaces;
- Preschool and youth spaces;
- Licensed preschool and early years programming;
- Outdoor active/passive areas;
- Art space;
- Community kitchen;
- New skate park;
- Nature play area;
- Indoor walking loop;
- Indoor slide;
- Commercial café – Nomad;
- Administrative offices;
- Underground parkade with 270 parking spaces;
 - 7 accessible stalls;
 - 18 stalls for Silver Harbour facility;
 - Bike racks and storage;
 - And, EV charging;
- Outdoor children's play area;
- Outdoor multi-activity court
- And, pedestrian, cycling, and transit connective pathways to North Vancouver Green Necklace network.

Silver Harbour Seniors' Activity Centre Features:

- Large dining space;
- Commercial kitchen;
- Activity rooms;
- Workshop;
- Arts and craft space;
- Indoor informal social gathering spaces;
- And, access to underground parking with 270 stalls, 18 stalls allocated specifically to Silver Harbour during operating hours.

Inclusive Design, Accessibility and Sustainability Features

Certifications:

- Canada Green Building Council Zero Carbon Building v2 - Design Standard Certified
- Pursuing Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Gold Certification

Accessibility

Driven by the City's vision of A Healthy City for All, the new HJCRC will deliver high-quality programs, services and social experiences to all community members. The new facility will be barrier-free and will achieve gold standard in the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification program.

Accessibility Features:

- Ramp and beach entry into the leisure pool family hot pool;
- Ramp into the 25m lap pool;
- Transfer ledge entry into the adult hot pool;
- Fully-accessible change & washrooms with adult-sized change table and lift mechanism;
- Fully-accessible lift into adult hot pool;
- Universal washrooms with publicly accessible shower rooms;
- Consideration of washroom accessory impact on those with neurodiversity (toilets, hand dryers, sinks);
- Wide circulation paths and high contrast wayfinding;
- A tactile directory for spatial navigation, complete with braille;
- High contrast signage with braille for visual impairment;
- Hearing loop for the hearing impaired;
- Elevator access between Parkade, Main Level, and Level Two programming;
- Provision of benches and accessible furnishings throughout the facility, many with backs and armrests;
- Handrails and seating along extended corridors;
- Tactile direction pathways for navigation along the exterior plaza to the building entry;
- Community kitchen with accessible height work surfaces, sink and cooktop;

- And, accessible millwork and sinks throughout multipurpose spaces.

Sustainable Design Features

The new HJCRC's sustainable design and building materials are key priorities to minimize the impact on the environment while improving building performance. The new community recreation centre will play a role in advancing the City's Corporate Climate Action Plan by significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions. For instance, the new facility will result in 53% of energy savings.

Other sustainable efforts at the new recreation centre will include:

- Maximizing heat recovery through C02 refrigeration;
- An innovative low energy pool filtration system (see below);
- Use of matures with reduced embodied carbon & durable products and materials;
- Highly insulated building envelope;
- Extensive natural daylight;
- Maximizing water and rainwater re-use on site;
- Innovative low-energy pool filtration system; and,
- Electric vehicle and bike charging stations.

Aquatics

The pool filtration system the new Harry Jerome Community Recreation Centre will include an innovative way of improving water and air quality in swimming pools. The new Centre will use the inBlue© system that has been proven to be highly effective at reducing energy usage and water consumption by up to 50% and seeks to deliver the healthiest bathing water amongst available technologies.

Key Details About InBlue© at Harry Jerome

- **What it is:** A highly innovative, gravity-fed drum filter system that uses less chlorine while providing superior water and air quality.
- **Benefits:** It reduces energy consumption, lowers water use, and is significantly gentler on the eyes and skin than traditional systems.

Project Partners

Key organizations involved in the design, management, programming and construction of the Centre including links.

Architectural Design: [hcma Architecture + Design](#)

Project Management: [MAKE Project Management](#)

General Contractor: [Smith Bros & Wilson](#)

Operator and Programming: [North Vancouver Recreation and Culture](#)

Public Art

Artistic Integration

Five pieces of public art will be unveiled on Saturday, July 25 at the opening celebration. The pieces include several mediums and were created by local artists. Information regarding the artistic vision, integration of local themes, and specific installations are below.

Yared Nigussu

1. *Mighty Jerome*, 2026

Medium: Paint on canvas, portrait of Harry Jerome

Location: Atrium next to display case

Description: This painting expresses the power of Harry Jerome's legacy and serves as a reminder that amazing things that can happen when you believe in yourself, when you focus on your strengths and when you bravely face setbacks or societal barriers.

Harry Winston Jerome (1940-1982) moved to North Vancouver at the age of twelve and attended North Vancouver High School. He went on to set numerous world records and won three Olympic medals. Dubbed Mighty Jerome, Harry encountered racism and major physical challenges over the span of his track and field career but overcame these setbacks. In retirement, he was an advocate for youth sport, better funding for athletes and diversity in television. Among his many other awards, he received the Order of Canada. Harry Jerome demonstrated to the world that when you believe in yourself, you have the singular power to make things happen.

2. *At the Heart of It*, 2026

Medium: Paint on canvas, mural of community members

Location: Main stairwell between parking and 1st floor

Description: The foundation of a vibrant, engaging and inclusive community is a social environment that celebrates diverse expertise, experiences and backgrounds. With this painting the City of North Vancouver and the North Vancouver Recreation & Culture Commission are affirming their goal to create accessible, welcoming spaces for everyone to enjoy.

Jill Anholt

1. *Transcendent*, 2026,

Medium: Stainless steel sculpture

Location: Suspended from the ceiling in main atrium

Description: Transcendent is inspired by the resilience and perseverance required to overcome challenges and obstacles to succeed, a spirit exemplified by the late Harry Jerome. The shape of the sculpture is inspired by athletic surfaces, such as tracks, rinks and courts. The blue interior references the natural setting of North Vancouver and how moving water in the form of creeks, streams and rivers, is likewise always able to find a path around any obstacle that it finds in its way.

Qwənat Angela Paul

1. *Nest of the Thunderbird*, 2026

Medium: Handwoven wall hanging

Location: Stairwell wall between 1st and 2nd floor

Description: The Nest of the Thunderbird, reflects the history and culture of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh) peoples. The design features a Thunderbird above the local mountains, with rich history, laws and teachings rooted and nurtured in the water design below. Featured above the Thunderbird is the sun and lightning and designs that represent stories of ancestral paths followed, and values such as integrity, strength, sustainability and community.

2. *Two-Headed Thunderbird*, 2026, in collaboration Aaron Nelson Moody

Medium: Fritted glass mural (Naked ceramic design on glass)

Location: Windows adjacent to the Aquatics Centre

Description: This contemporary glass mural uses traditional Coast Salish weaving patterns to showcase a spectacular Two-Headed Thunderbird. In Coast Salish teachings the Thunderbird is a supreme supernatural being of power, strength and transformation. Often associated with weather, thunder and lightning, it serves as a powerful messenger and protector of humanity. In its two-headed form the Thunderbird brings duality and cosmic balance, along with immense supernatural power.

For more information on HJCRC or to download the full news release, high-res images and b-roll, please visit cnv.org/hjcrc.