

Date: February 26, 2025
To: Chair and Members of the West Harbour Site (WHS) Vision Board Committee
From: Paul Takala, CEO/Chief Librarian
Cindy Poggiaroni, Director Collections and Program Development
Subject: **Discovery Centre and Waterfront Shores Sales Presentation Centre Update – PT/CP**

RECOMMENDATION

That the West Harbour Site Vision Board Committee receive this report for information and comment.

BACKGROUND

In 2022, Waterfront Shores Corporation, the City of Hamilton's development partner building Pier 8 into a mixed-use community, entered into a 5-year lease agreement for a portion of the Discovery Centre. The intent of the lease is for the space to be utilized as a sales presentation centre for the Pier 8 development.

Hamilton Public Library (HPL) initially planned to pilot programming at the Discovery Centre in partnership with Waterfront Shores, featuring interactive exhibits. As part of their plans for the space, Waterfront Shores offered to sub-lease a 1,200-square-foot section of the building to HPL for use as an exhibition area. HPL staff aimed to transform this space with displays and interpretive elements, while Waterfront Shores staffed the facility as part of the sales centre operation.

Due to recent developments, Waterfront Shores has expressed interest in finding an alternative longer-term location for the presentation centre that aligns with the full Pier 8 development timeline. At the January 15, 2025, General Issues Committee meeting, staff were authorized and directed to negotiate and enter into an agreement to terminate and surrender Waterfront Shores' lease. Subject to Council ratification, this negotiation process will be completed. Upon termination and surrender of the lease, the Discovery Centre will be primarily vacant, presenting an opportunity to explore alternative interim uses to enhance site activity while the Hamilton Public Library conducts the Program Design and Development Study for the building's long-term reuse.