



Underlying Framework for the Academic Vision of the RVH

Principal's Task Force on the Academic Vision
for the Royal Victoria Hospital

Preparatory Document for Meeting 2

October 13, 2015



At the first meeting of the Task Force, we touched upon the idea of the RVH site as a new neighbourhood with links and synergies with the neighbourhood in the lower part of our downtown campus.

In the second meeting, we will begin to define the characteristics of that neighbourhood: the framework underlying the academic vision.

This framework will serve as a guide to members of the McGill community as they assess the benefits and opportunities of being part of this new neighbourhood and what they would bring to it.

Jane Jacobs's Observations on Successful Neighbourhoods



Through her observations of neighbourhood life, Jane Jacobs* developed four principles common to safe, healthy and prosperous neighbourhoods:

1. There were various types and ages of buildings
2. There was a high concentration and density of uses
3. There was a mixture of different uses
4. There were frequent streets and very few long blocks.

* The Death and Life of Great American Cities

A Changing Context for Universities



The changing environment in which universities operate is also a backdrop for our reflection:

- Worldwide quest for knowledge and innovation
- Highly connected and global environment
- Ubiquity of digital technologies
- Changing expectations of students, employers, government
- Global labour market and people's increased mobility

Within this context, some broad trends have emerged at universities:

- Greater integration of student life and learning; growth of experiential learning opportunities
- Greater diversity in the delivery of the curriculum
- Greater interaction among disciplines, institutions, sectors and nations
- Greater engagement in both local and global communities



What key characteristics/elements should guide us in developing the academic mission of the RVH site?

For example:

- Integrated student life and learning environment
- Facilitating interactions among disciplines in both teaching and research
- Creating natural and attractive hubs of interactions among individuals
- Ability to bring partners/organizations with complementary strengths
- Promoting McGill's local and global presence
- Taking advantage of opportunities provided by digital technologies
- Facilitating the effective and efficient delivery of services supporting the academic mission of the University
- Others?