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Developers take Burnaby to court; [5* Edition]

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Abstract (Summary)

Cal Investments Ltd. of West Vancouver and Manufacturers Life Insurance Co. filed a B.C. Supreme Court action Tuesday to quash a moratorium council imposed on approving further development of the Metrotown area until February 1989. Metrotown is the Kingsway corridor in Burnaby between Boundary Road and Royal Oak Avenue.

Burnaby Mayor Bill Lewarne said some council members feared Cambridge might pull out of its \$140 million Metrotown project if council approved an expansion of the Cal project now. The Cambridge development - Eaton Centre at Metrotown - is scheduled to open in March 1989.

Full Text (282 words)

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The developers of Burnaby's Metrotown Centre shopping mall have taken Burnaby to court over a council decision blocking their planned \$80 million mall expansion for at least two years.

Cal Investments Ltd. of West Vancouver and Manufacturers Life Insurance Co. filed a B.C. Supreme Court action Tuesday to quash a moratorium council imposed on approving further development of the Metrotown area until February 1989. Metrotown is the Kingsway corridor in Burnaby between Boundary Road and Royal Oak Avenue.

Cal Investments, with the financial backing of ManuLife, completed the first phase of its shopping centre last September and planned to complete phase two by the summer of 1988. But council feared the area was developing too quickly and imposed a moratorium last year on further development of Metrotown.

Burnaby planners recommended the moratorium to give the municipality time to assess the impact the Metrotown developments will have on the area.

Council subsequently voted to abolish the freeze but decided to reinstate it after a third vote on the issue last month.

Two other large retail developments are currently being built near the Cal shopping centre along Kingsway - a Wesbild Enterprises project featuring a Save-On-Foods megastore and a Cambridge Shopping Centres Ltd. mall featuring Eaton's and a Kelly Douglas megastore.

Burnaby Mayor Bill Lewarne said some council members feared Cambridge might pull out of its \$140 million Metrotown project if council approved an expansion of the Cal project now. The Cambridge development - Eaton Centre at Metrotown - is scheduled to open in March 1989.

The Cal Investments shopping centre currently features Sears, Woodward's and 145 smaller retail outlets. The second phase would house The Bay and about 100 other stores.

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