

June 1, 2020

Report To: Community Services Executive Committee

From: Aaron Bisson, Recreation and Culture Manager

RE: Memorial Sports Center Stage 2 Grant Application

The Town has a grant application in for the Investing in Canada infrastructure Program to deal with rehabilitating the Memorial Sports Center, this is a needed upgrade to some structural issues the building is dealing with. In conjunction with this I have applied to several grants to increase our ability to serve a larger customer base and service our current customer base during the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program Grant Renovations. We have several opportunities to attract large numbers of new members to the facility through new corporate subsidies being offered to workers of some large companies. The issue we are seeing is that we do not have a large enough facility to accommodate our current membership.

We have been fortunate enough to make it through to stage 2 of the application process. One of the requirements of this final stage is for council to pass a resolution supporting the project should it be funded by NOHFC and agree to cover any cost overruns the project may encounter.

The proposed expansion would allow the Town to achieve several objectives:

- The first objective would be to allow no interruption or a very minimal interruption to the pool activities we are currently offering. We have increased our offerings in the pool significantly and to shut the pool down for a four to six (4-6) month renovation could significantly hurt the progress and momentum we have created to this point.
- We currently have approximately 94 members that hold a membership exclusively for the reason of using our pool facility and the programs we run through the pool, if we shut it down for 6 months we would lose arguably all of those members for that period and it is uncertain how many would buy a membership again once the pool reopened
- The addition would allow for larger accessible washrooms/changerooms to be built so we can become compliant with accessibility standards
- A proper family/accessible changeroom could be added
- Increase the size of our weight room to eliminate the backlog and waiting for machines
- Add dedicated fitness areas so that we can begin to capitalize on the trend of providing fitness classes
- Increase the size of our cardio room for proper spacing of equipment and offer appropriate pieces of equipment.
- Increasing our facility size and accessibility would attract new members that have left due to the restrictive operating hours we currently offer
- It is also expected that updating our equipment and having a larger variety of machines would increase our membership because of our expanded offerings.
- Appropriately deal with humidity and temperature issues experienced in the current configuration
- Allow access to our gym members through an exterior door which would grant additional access outside of normal operating hours and fall in line with most other gym options.
- Allow our facility to offer programming/rehabilitation to people with disabilities by updating our facility to be able to accept such customers

Projected project cost	\$ 4,675,000.00	
Funding Course	% Contribution	Estimated Funding Allocation
Trillium (pending)	10.7%	\$ 500,000.00
Provincial	79.3%	\$ 3,707,500.00
Municipal	10%	\$ 467,500.00
Total contribution	100%	\$ 4,675,000.00

Note: The above scenario is a best case scenario. The provincial government generally provides support to a total of \$1,000,000.00 of funding but has recently funded beyond that level locally and is encouraging a project of this size for our region. We have spoken with the local representative for NOHFC and strengthened our case for a funding level greater than the standard funding levels normally given. FedNor was one of the possible other grant options we explored however they have indicated they will not fund this project, as it does not fit with their priorities at this time. There are other grants that we could stack with these two grants including Trillium for accessibility up to \$500,000.00. A worst case scenario could be a Town funding contribution in the \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000 Range.

Recommendation

The Community Service Division recommends to Mayor & Council to support the proposed MSC Expansion Project subject to a successful NOHFC grant and agree to cover any cost overruns on the project.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Bisson

Aaron Bisson
Manager of Recreation and Culture

Council approval of this report will agree to the recommendation of the Community Services Executive Committee to support the NOHFC Stage 2 grant application and to cover any cost overruns the project may experience.