

January 18, 2021

Report To: Mayor and Council

From: Aaron Bisson, Manager of Recreation and Culture

RE: Memorial Sports Centre Ice Surfaces

With the Provincial lockdown and stay at home orders recently enacted in Ontario until at least February 11, 2021 Administration has done an analysis on the potential of operating on a single sheet of ice for the remainder of the 2020/2021 ice season to reduce operating costs and to have a space readily available for a temporary hospital if required by Riverside Healthcare.

One of our four main ice users will not likely return to utilizing our facility even after the lockdown lifts which has prompted this analysis and feasibility of operating only one rink. The three other users have indicated that they would like to return to activities if the lockdown has not been extended past February 11. The Memorial Sports Centre currently has on average 45 - 1.5 hour blocks of ice time booked across the two surfaces. We have the ability to handle 36 - 1.5 hour blocks on the 52 Canadians rink which is the most cost effective rink to operate between the two. If we operated only one rink we would not be able to accommodate 9 time blocks or 20% of total demand that we are currently accommodating.

We have reached out to other municipalities in Northwestern Ontario and Dryden is in the process of removing one of their ice surfaces, Kenora is beginning to look at the costs of running their ice surfaces to gather information on whether they should be limiting the number of ice sheets they offer moving forward, Thunder Bay is currently waiting to see how the lockdown plays out and if it is extended, and Red Lake is discussing the issue at their Council meeting on Monday (Red Lake only has one ice surface).

Based on the length of the current lockdown and the possibility that it will be extended, and that we are able to satisfy 80% of the ice time demands on one ice surface we believe it is prudent to take out the ice on the IFK arena.

Recommendation

The Community Service Division recommends to Mayor & Council to approve the removal of the ice in the Ice for Kids Arena.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Bisson

Aaron Bisson
Manager of Recreation and Culture

<p>Council approval of this report will agree to the recommendation of the Community Service Division to remove the ice from the Ice for Kids Arena.</p>
