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Town Of Fort Frances Executive Committee
320 Portage Ave
Fort Frances, ON



March 11, 2020

Reference: Sole Tenant Proposal for the Memorial Center Auditorium – March 16, 2020

Dear Committee;

Monday, March 16, 2020 you all will meet to decide on a sole tenant proposal referenced above. I make the following contribution comments as a resident of Fort Frances.

This week, the Town of Fort Frances website advertises the Memorial Center Auditorium with the following ; “ Do you have facilities to rent out for meetings, socials, courses, weddings, garage sales or funerals ? Yes, we do! Check out the various options and rates on our Fee page ”

I attended the council chambers this week to observe the proposal to the Town Council to rent or lease the publicly funded Memorial Center Auditorium to a sole tenant.

A similar proposal was shared with me by Jason Kabel, a town employee last winter as an attractive solution to the town’s cleanup challenges for his staff following community hall rentals. The cost recovery strategy for the Memorial Center Auditorium is not putting all eggs in a sole tenant basket, but for multiple users to pay a percentage of a fair rental value plus costs.

The supporting letters presented to the Town of Fort Frances with the current proposal suggest the responsibility for depreciating value of tenant assets be a business consideration to be considered by the Town of Fort Frances. Poor planning of a tenant does not make a reason for the town to change its short or long term availability of the publicly funded Memorial Center Auditorium.

I recommend that the Town Of Fort Frances Executive Committee reject every sole tenant proposal for the publicly funded Memorial Center Auditorium. There maybe a case for cost recovery of publicly funded facilities that might be addressed with public consultation and followed by RFP and RFQ submissions.

Sincerely,

Michael Graham

Copy; Air Cadet Squadron and the Fort Frances Times