

20 October 2020

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department
101 – 4946 Canada Way
Burnaby, BC
V5G 4H7

Re: Redevelopment of Cameron Recreation Complex

Dear Council,

As a long-time resident of the Burquitlam neighborhood, I am writing to express my support for Council's plans to upgrade and redevelop Cameron Recreation Complex. My family uses the gym, library, as well as the weights and cardio room regularly.

I am writing today however to encourage Council to retain the two squash courts at the Complex. Squash is a wonderful sport suitable for all ages – both me and my ten-year old are avid players. Despite the sport's growing popularity, there are very few places to play and where they do exist, it is increasingly difficult to find court times, especially on the weekends and in the evenings. As a case in point, we have travelled as far away as North Vancouver and Richmond to find courts to play on.

I would submit as well that the squash courts during non-peak times can be a venue for other activities such as fitness classes, yoga, and children's activities. In this way, the squash courts can become another revenue generator and add to the diversity of spaces that serve Burnaby residents.

As Council considers redevelopment plans, I would urge them to keep squash alive in Burnaby by keeping the courts in Burnaby.

Kindly,



Shahid Purjani

Note:

The Draft Cameron Needs Assessment has noted that the current Squash Courts are utilized at 50% of their capacity. The needs assessment identified that 13.1% of respondents to the Survey participated in this service. This is the second lowest participation rate for an activity in the survey. The priorities identified in the North East Quadrant Survey identified that Aquatics, Fitness Centre (Weights and Cardio) and a multi activity gym are the most desired spaces. Consultation with the Community is still on going and opportunities for input on the design will be forthcoming.

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