



Burnaby Minor Lacrosse Club

Note:

Staff have reviewed the concerns expressed in the letter and will provide a response as soon as possible.

To the Burnaby Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission, Mayor of Burnaby & Involved Burnaby Staff

I'm following up on the recent Virtual Open House displaying the new Aquatic and Arena Facility. It appears to me that we are looking at a new Aquatic Centre with an ice arena tacked on the end. It seems it will meet all the criteria from feasibility studies that were completed in 2019 and the city-wide aquatic needs assessment. What the new facility does not do is leave Burnaby with an arena that has the ability to accommodate lacrosse, ice hockey, ringette and ball hockey tournaments, along with provincial or national competitions. In its current condition the Bill Copeland Sports Centre accommodates 2555 spectators, 2000 in Copeland Arena and 555 in Burnaby Lake Arena. Under the new plan this reduces the capacity in BLA to 200 spectators. Looking at the renderings presented, I'm unsure where these 200 seats are located. It does not appear (see attachment) that there are any seats rink side. Are they behind the glass? It doesn't show anywhere on layouts where these 200 seats are actually located. Parents & fans are part of the game, having them cheer on their children is part of the game experience. In the 34 years of holding the Jack Crosby All-Star Tournament the Bill Copeland Sports Centre has been an excellent facility to accommodate the over 400 participants, their parents and fans. Having the two arenas with sufficient seating for spectators is a real advantage to hosting some 80 games over 4 days. BLA with its capacity for 555 spectators is a great complement to Copeland Arena. We host many of the semifinal games, consolation rounds and bronze games there, with Copeland hosting the gold games and ceremonies with its large capacity for spectators.

With the loss of seating in BLA we will need to look for alternate solutions for our yearly tournament as well as potential hosting of provincial championships. We could use Kensington Arena with its capacity for 620 spectators but the logistics of splitting the tournament makes it difficult, rather than having the majority of the games at the Bill Copeland Arena Sports Complex. We might consider utilizing the new twin arenas but again there is little provision for spectators with some 100 to 250 spectator seats for the two arenas. This really doesn't work when you consider that each team is made up of 20 players with parents and family attending each game. Potentially having 80+ spectators at each game, using two arenas makes that 160 in total. As the games overlap, parents arriving for the next game potentially leaves 320 people vying for less than 250 seats.

As for hosting provincials or nationals, one of the requirements is that we have a minimum of three floors to facilitate the 60+ games over 4 days. That would be 3 arenas with seating for spectators, which once BLA is reconfigured, leaves us with only two arenas that can accommodate spectators. BLA in its new configuration has been changed from a live sports facility into another practice facility. Burnaby has always been a centre for sport, providing facilities for our children and community to participate. In my opinion, the reconfiguration of BLA is a step backwards.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by Tom Kellett
DN: cn=Tom Kellett, ou=North Stream
Contracting Ltd., ou,
email=tomk@northstream.ca, c=CA
Date: 2021.07.04 15:33:43 -07'00'

Tom Kellett
BMLC President



