

TO: PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMISSION (PRCC)
FROM: DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE
SUBJECT: **THE CHRISTINE SINCLAIR COMMUNITY CENTRE: ENHANCING PUBLIC USE**
PURPOSE: To update the Commission and seek program planning feedback for the proposed space enhancements at the Christine Sinclair Community Centre.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Commission receive the report titled “The Christine Sinclair Community Centre: Enhancing Public Use” dated July 11, 2023, from the Deputy General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture, for information as part of the community engagement process to optimize programming at Christine Sinclair Community Centre.

1.0 POLICY SECTION

The initiatives outlined in this report support the Burnaby Strategic Plan: providing innovative customer experiences; and the Burnaby Promise: putting the community first though being service focused.

2.0 BACKGROUND

On December 15, 2020, the City purchased the Fortius building and transformed it into the Christine Sinclair Community Centre (CSCC). The CSCC offers a range of valuable community programs and services, including spaces to socialize, a strength training gym, NBA-sized gymnasium, coffee shop, multi-purpose spaces, and fitness class rooms. Only about a year after opening to the public the CSCC is demonstrating healthy growth in participation numbers across all demographics and activity types.

There is currently an exciting strategic opportunity to further expand the community programming offered at CSCC into an additional ~8,000 sq.ft. of publicly accessible space on the site which will help to alleviate pressures from temporary closures of Confederation and Cameron Community Centres as they are redeveloped, as well as long-term additional community centre space capacity.

3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

Prioritizing public use of limited facility space within the CSCC is supporting service accessibility, inclusivity, and community usage. This investment will increase the overall longer-term city-wide recreation capacity, and will most likely still require some small scale

interim local neighbourhood recreation amenities for the replacement facilities during the redevelopment of the Confederation and Cameron Community Centres.

Based on engagement with staff and Seniors Societies at both Cameron and Confederation, the largest programming need is for flexible multi-purpose rooms that would facilitate a variety of social, recreation, and culture needs. In particular, the Seniors Societies have stressed the importance of an interim games room and snooker space, as well as social space for a volunteer operated coffee bar and food items.

Staff are investigating the use of a shuttle bus between sites to assist seniors and others who may have mobility issues with transportation to and from CSCC where main interim recreation programs and services will be facilitated during construction.

It is important to note that CSCC is located in the center of the Burnaby Lake Sport Complex's sport fields, and close to the Burnaby Lake Tennis Club. The Burnaby Lake Aquatic and Arena Complex is scheduled to open across the street from the CSCC in 2026. This presents an opportunity for the CSCC to complement the aquatic centre's, arena, and sport field services and create a cohesive hub for sport, recreation, and culture for residents and sport hosting opportunities. Sport hosting opportunities typically require multi-purpose spaces that can be configured for media centres, medical staff and team hosting.

In addition, the City lacks a highly visible volunteer resource centre, where City volunteers and potential volunteers can find information on opportunities, meet with staff and socialize with other volunteers.

4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Engaging in effective and ongoing communication and community outreach is crucial to the success of the CSCC. Staff are working closely with the Seniors Societies at both Cameron and Confederation for continuity of core programs and services.

Staff are engaging with the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission to inform the Commission about this exciting initiative and to seek high-level program planning feedback for additional community space at CSCC.

5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Once programming needs have been reviewed, staff will be bringing a report to Council outlining investments required to support new long-term public community centre expansion at CSCC. This cost analysis will also include potential complementary services such as the bus shuttle connections and parking lot/vehicle access configurations.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen Gonzalez, Deputy General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture

REPORT CONTRIBUTORS

This report was prepared by Andre Isakov, Director PRC Planning.