



City of Burnaby  
Parks Recreation and Culture  
Kensington Complex  
6159 Curtis Street  
Burnaby BC, V5B 4X7

November 21, 2025

Dear Burnaby Parks Recreation and and Culture,

### Resubmission of Sport Hosting Grant Application

Burnaby New Westminster Ringette Association (BNWR) has been hosting an annual "IceBreaker" tournament in November for over 28 years. In addition to welcoming hundreds of athletes, coaches and supporters into Burnaby facilities and local restaurants and businesses, the IceBreaker has been the primary source of fundraising for our non-profit, 100% volunteer-powered organization.

In January of 2025 BNWR applied for the first time for a Sports Hosting Grant from the City of Burnaby. We were denied. This was not surprising given the grant eligibility guidelines in place at the time, and it was not a significant disappointment as we had been running our tournament successfully for a very long time without any grant.

However, in light of the following significantly changed circumstances, we respectfully request the City of Burnaby to re-evaluate our Sport Hosting Grant application:

- On October 28, 2025 Burnaby City Council voted to amend the guidelines for Sport Hosting Grants. This included removal of the requirement for the event to be an exclusive "championship" event and made clear the grant may be awarded to tournament hosts. The BNWR IceBreaker tournament is now clearly eligible for a grant of up to \$5000 for hosting a provincial tournament, regularly attended by teams from the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, and the Okanagan.
- The City of Burnaby implemented a new fee structure in September of 2025 that resulted in a **62% increase to our average hourly ice costs compared to 2024**. The full implications of the fee structure changes were not known until our 2025 IceBreaker event permit was issued October 31, 2025. This was one week prior to the start of the IceBreaker and far too late for BNWR to adapt to the massive increase. In brief: we

used 91.75 hours of ice in 2024 for a total cost of \$11,810.24. We used 121.75 hours of ice in 2025 for a total cost of \$25,430.72.

- Burnaby City Council recognizes that tournament hosting plays an important fundraising role for non-profit organizations. The comments of Councillors Dhaliwal and Calendino during discussions of agenda items 9.5 and 9.6 in the October 28, 2025 Council meeting reflect this. The fact that BNWR draws upon aims to profit from the IceBreaker should not be a deterrent to awarding a grant. IceBreaker profits are used by BNWR to offer athlete development opportunities, scholarships, coaching courses, first aid courses, and other essential training to our volunteer coaches and bench staff. Without our annual IceBreaker fundraiser, these costs must be borne by our athletes. As an association representing Burnaby and New Westminster, 89% of our athletes are residents of these cities, 72% are residents of Burnaby.

By hosting a tournament, BNWR is able to offer its athletes free tournament entry, ensuring that BNWR athletes have the opportunity to experience the excitement, challenge and inspiration of sport for life found in tournament play.

Additionally, ringette is a strongly female-forward sport with a national mandate to have a fully qualified female coach on the bench for all youth teams and over 79% of our athletes identify as female. But the sport is also enjoyed by male and non-binary athletes. Some tournaments in the province have opted to host exclusively female-only divisions, leaving teams with male or non-binary athletes fewer options. 4% of our members identify as non-binary, and BNWR strives to provide an inclusive environment for all athletes.

In light of the updated grant guidelines, the unforeseen and substantial increase in municipal ice costs, and the essential role that the IceBreaker plays in supporting affordable, inclusive sport for Burnaby families, we respectfully request reconsideration of our Sport Hosting Grant application.

We have attached the following in PDF:

- Copy of this letter requesting reconsideration
- Original grant application with supporting documents
- Revised grant application showing requested amount
- Revised budget (attachment 3) and actuals where available

Thank you for your consideration.



Larry LeBlanc

Volunteer Tournament Director