



# **Arena Renewal Strategy**

## **Community Consultation FAQs**

**Community Partnerships Section, Leisure Services**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

- ***What is the Arena Renewal Strategy?***

- As per City Council's request, this strategy will research, investigate and identify the primary challenges and opportunities for the City of Greater Sudbury with respect to arenas.
- This strategy will include:
  1. A review of physical and functional conditions of existing arenas.
  2. A review of demand for ice time across Greater Sudbury.
  3. Recommendations from stakeholders and members of the public.
  4. Recommendations on the replacement of existing arena(s) if appropriate.
  5. Recommendations on the location of new arena(s) if appropriate.
  6. Explore capital sources of revenue for 2012 budget deliberations.

- ***What is the goal of the Community Consultation?***

- To gain insight into the opinions of community members and current arena users to ensure the City of Greater Sudbury is meeting the current and future needs of ice users.
- To gain insight from the community on ice rental costs and ice availability.
- To learn about public opinion on potential arena replacement or construction of new facilities, and to receive suggestions for location(s).
- To give the community an opportunity to provide input on the process of ensuring that arenas are affordable, accessible and equitable in distribution throughout the City of Greater Sudbury.
- To examine other revenue-generating ideas and opportunities to maximize operational potential in our existing arenas.

- ***How will the community feedback from the consultations be used?***

The community's feedback will be used to help develop recommendations to City Council about the future planning and capital funding for all arenas in the City of Greater Sudbury. It will also assist with the review and determination of the future direction for the operation of all arenas.

- ***Where are we in the facility review process?***

- City staff are currently in the data collection stage of the process. Your feedback will form part of this data, which will be incorporated into an information report to be provided to City Council in November 2011.
- All decisions about the future operations of our municipal arenas will take budget and current arena conditions into account, and must be approved by City Council.
- It is important to obtain your feedback now so all community needs can be considered as we address community arenas into the future.

- ***How can I get involved in this strategy?***

Attend a consultation session and complete the survey. The information and survey are also available online at [www.greatersudbury.ca/arena](http://www.greatersudbury.ca/arena) .

- ***Are any arenas going to close?***

The responses from the community consultations and completed surveys will help to give direction to City Council regarding the future operation of our arenas. It is too early in the process to determine how many arenas our community requires and where they should be located.

- ***Is it more expensive to renovate an old facility or build a new one?***

- Due to the age of most City of Greater Sudbury arenas, the initial cost of building a new arena is higher than renovating an old one. New arenas, however, offer increased energy efficiency and current technology, which result in long-term savings. It costs roughly 1.5 times more to build a new arena when compared to general building construction, due to hydro, heat, refrigeration systems, inflation, and construction cost.

- ***How much money is required from the tax base to sustain arena maintenance and operations?***

On average, approximately 62% of arena maintenance and operation costs are recovered through arena revenues. The balance, on average 38%, is funded through the tax base (Council Report, June 15, 2011).

- ***What is the lifespan of an arena?***

The lifespan of an arena has changed in recent years due to rapid developments in technology and changes in user requirements. In the 1980s, the lifespan was approximately 50 years, but now the estimate is 30 years. Currently, the average age of our municipal arenas is 40 years (Council Report, June 15, 2011).

- ***Why does the City not have any public-private partnership agreements for arena management?***

Current statistics indicate that 68% of Ontario residents want municipal governments to own and operate arena facilities (Toronto Sun, August 2011). It should be noted that, on average, public-private partnerships charge between \$80 and \$100 more per hour for ice time.

- ***How many ice pads does the City of Greater Sudbury currently operate?***

The City of Greater Sudbury currently operates 16 ice pads in 14 arenas.

- ***What are the benefits of having two ice pads versus one?***

Incorporating multiple ice pads in one arena facility provides cost savings in the initial construction. Multiple ice pads also offer operational savings, such as staffing and equipment requirements. Double ice surfaces allow for increased tournament potential and flexibility in the use of space, which offers a positive economic impact.

\*It should be noted that in the Parks, Open Space & Leisure Master Plan, it was recommended that the City consider replacing some of the single-pad arenas with multi-pad facilities where appropriate.

- ***What happened with McClelland and Cambrian Arenas and what is the status of these facilities?***

Both arenas are up and running for the 2011-2012 season. Cambrian Arena was renewed over the past two years and McClelland Arena was restored after the fire took place in 2009.

- ***General Points of Interest:***

I.J. Coady Memorial Arena has the lowest usage of all City of Greater Sudbury arenas, and is in good condition.

Capreol Community Centre/Arena has two ice pads, which lowers operational costs for the facility. However, the travel time required for many residents to reach this arena is seen as a barrier.

Chelmsford Community Centre/Arena is in poor condition, and in the near future will require a similar renewal process to that which Cambrian Arena underwent during the 2010-2011 season.

Greater Sudbury residents travel to arenas outside the City of Greater Sudbury (such as St. Charles, Verner and Espanola) for ice time.

**For more information please visit our website at:**

[http://www.greatersudbury.ca/cms/index.cfm?app=div\\_leisureservices&lang=en&currID=11269](http://www.greatersudbury.ca/cms/index.cfm?app=div_leisureservices&lang=en&currID=11269)