

East Hants Curling Association  
1076C Hwy 2  
Lantz, Nova Scotia B2S 1M8

13 January 2023

Municipality of East Hants Attention: All Councilors/CAO  
Box 230 Unit 170  
15 Commerce Court  
Elmsdale, Nova Scotia B2S 3K5

### **FUNDING EAST HANTS CURLING ASSOCIATION**

1. EHCA could not be more disappointed at the decision of East Hants Municipal Council on 21 December 2022 to indicate that there was no funding without even a single conversation with EHCA BOD. The GICB plan was and is an excellent opportunity, up to 60% funding, to with a slight of hand dismiss without consultation. The EHM Council were elected to represent the community and not to be selective in their renderings. The need for a curling facility was continually acknowledged by EHM Council, but never with the appropriate financial backing.

2. The journey of the EHCA was been one of twenty-five (25) plus years and all are well aware of the many processes during this period of time.

3. Curling has been a desire in the community starting with the first sportsplex build to move out of an antiquated rink. Curling stepped aside to ensure funding for an arena, and curling was to be next in any build. The curling community went door to door and solicited and voted for a curling facility and when not included neither the money or time spent was put in abeyance until a curling facility was built. When the present sportsplex was built, again, the curling community supported and worked for funding to be once again removed from the project. Again, neither the money or time spent was put in abeyance until a curling facility was built. Since then there have been four Business Plans put forth with the following actions:

- after a long process EHM Council allocated \$600,000.00 for a new facility;
- an environmental assessment of 1157 Hwy 2 was completed and the land assigned to EHCA to build a Multi-purposed curling facility;
- the Milford pool building was offered to EHCA as a potential curling facility, but did not meet the needs and the process of turning a pool into a curling surface and the expansion of the building was not

conducive to a good finished product. Also, the aim was to build the facility in the most populated area of East Hants.

- the Aquatic Centre was constructed and no one is against the facility, but it was always obvious that a New Multi-purpose Curling Facility and an Aquatic Centre could have been constructed for \$19,000,000.00 plus million dollars.

- the EHCA BOD has made presentations to EHM Council and the process has neutralized the taxpayers input by filing the presentations with no actions. Requests for meetings to discuss curling directly with EHM Council members has been denied. The most recent example was a presentation made in September 2021 with issues of Sportsplex building survey and a needs assessment for curling. Curling to be investigated, but 18months later, no actions was taken by the EHM Council.

- the EHCA BOD feels that curling is complimentary to the EHM Strategic Plan for 2021-2024. The most recent presentation of 21 September 2021 outlines the strengths of the EHCA. The reply of 25 November 2021 states: "in the coming years, recreation facilities such as a curling facility will be included for review." EHCA has spent many years putting forth information and requests , a letter forward on 14 April 2022 provided follow on details and no action has been taken. Then to have a decision of council received via email on 22 December 2022 that states: "From that discussion, Council determined that their stance has not changed and are not in a position to make a decision on funding a curling facility at this time. As such, there will not be the opportunity to present to Council."

4. The item of affordability always comes forth from council. The EHCA has been operational and financially stable for the last five years and has improved the curling experience, adult exposure and most of all youth exposure. Over this period of time the following EHM yearly Financial Results: Savings in General Tax Rate: 2017/2018 - \$611,544.00; 2018/2019 - \$813,894.00; 2019/2020 - \$841,740.00; 2020/2021 - \$882,743.00; 2021/2022 - \$1,323,836.00 TOTAL; \$4,473,757.00. During the five years of EHCA operations if 50% of the savings had of been put aside to fund the complex there would be \$2,236,878.50 ready to be utilized and the remainder could be paid by further potential savings or a very small levy on the taxpayers of EH. The opportunity was present, but the lack of putting some money aside was not the fault of the EHCA BOD and this scenario does not support the lack of funds to support an East Hants Multi-purpose Curling Facility. The past five years indicate that a facility could be paid for without raising taxes.

5. The EHCA members, adult and youth are very pro active in regards to making EH a much more inclusive community with the introduction of curling. The community is supported by two ice rinks, a dome, soccer fields, baseball fields, skateboards parks, tennis parks and Aquatic Centre. Curlers and taxpayers are left to wonder why no support for curling, but each and every activity mentioned has curlers who are taxpayers support and funds. EHCA and past 2012 Needs Assessment has clearly identified a need combined with much community support, but curlers are not deemed worthy to have a facility for mental health, meeting new people, senior and youth physical activity and recreational enjoyment.

6. EHCA BOD and members are very saddened that with the effort put forth especially over the last five years that councillors neither acknowledge or want to talk about what a positive addition curling has been to the community in regards to the morning and evening league, youth curling and learn to curl opportunities for members of all ages and abilities in the community.

7. The EHCA BOD and EHCA members deserve an in-depth explanation of why funding has been denied for over 25 years when other activities in the community are funded and supported with the same taxpayers funds that they are being denied. A written explanation is requested so that the EHCA BOD and curling members, adult and youth families are fully apprised of why their chosen activity is not worthy of funding past, present or in the future.

Very respectfully,



Harold MacNeil  
President EHCA



Terry Isenor  
Vice President EHCA



Caius Doyle  
Treasurer EHCA



Pam Taylor  
Secretary EHCA