

Re: Arenas and User Fees

Mr. Burgess,

On behalf of the **NBC Wednesday Night Hockey League** we would like to thank you for including our group in the discussion regarding user fees in the County.

While we appreciate this request, you must be able to appreciate that you are asking a group of tax paying residents for this input after moth-balling the Rec Centre Arena that has been home to their league for 38 years, leaving them with inadequate ice times that has lead to the cancellation of their season. Before we place any blame on the current pandemic situation let me remind you that this decision was made prior to COVID-19, with no consultation with the effected user groups.

We believe that user fees in this County need to be competitive and comparable to arena user fees in surrounding municipalities.

Many times it has been said that the demographic of our community is aging, and that we need to attract younger people and families to this County in order for it to thrive and prosper. If our user fees are not competitive/comparable to that of our neighbours we run the risk of driving players and their families away from Norfolk and further reducing the utilization of Norfolk's facilities. We acknowledge the financial concerns of the community as it relates to these facilities, however simply asking user groups "how much more are you willing to pay?" is fundamentally flawed. While this may address income, there is another side that needs to be discussed, that being the expenses of these facilities. If Norfolk County wishes to be open and transparent with user groups and the community as a whole, may we suggest that it would be of benefit to everyone involved to bring in a third-party to analyze how efficiently these arenas are being operated as well as the user fee rates. We do realize that such a study would come at a significant cost, to that our organization would be willing to discuss making a financial contribution towards these efforts.

The NBC Wednesday Night Hockey League would welcome meeting with you to discuss and undertake a full examination regarding the current arena operations and to find ways to improve the business operation of our valued community assets.

We will patiently await your reply.