



MAYOR STEPHEN MANDEL
CITY OF EDMONTON

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May 9, 2013

Honourable Premier Redford
Office of the Premier
Room 307, Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

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Dear Premier Redford:

As the provincial capital and metropolitan centre of the capital region, the City of Edmonton is strongly committed to the revitalization of its downtown. One of the largest urban renewal initiatives in Canada, the project includes a downtown arena and entertainment district, the Royal Alberta Museum, a planned arts district and a number of catalyst projects that includes a community rink.

The proposed community rink would be owned and operated by the City of Edmonton with all costs and revenues accruing to the City and would be built adjacent and ancillary to the sports and entertainment district. Eager to advance construction, the City requires funding partners to move forward on the \$21 million project.

The City has committed \$7 million towards the capital costs and is looking for a cost sharing arrangement with the federal and provincial governments to provide funding assistance for the remaining \$14 million. I ask your government to consider contributing \$7 million (one-third) towards the project. The City is also seeking a federal contribution of \$7 million.

Grant MacEwan University recently pledged \$2 million in one-time funding towards the new rink to increase seating capacity and for access to the rink for its inter-university sports, recreational and academic programming. Support from one of the city's key post secondary institutions underscores how important and essential this facility is to serving amateur sports, community groups, as well as citizens in the downtown core.

With Edmonton and the region continuing to grow the demand for ice time continues to increase as many of our community arenas are at capacity or reaching the end of their infrastructure lifespan. A new rink in the city's centre would alleviate the shortage of ice time in facilities in many suburban neighbourhoods, and would better serve user groups in our mature central neighbourhoods. The rink's close proximity to Grant MacEwan campus is also essential to meeting the needs of the downtown university's men's and women's hockey teams and would be a tremendous boost to its sports programs.

This project also has significant economic benefits for the Edmonton region. A recent economic impact assessment of the community rink project estimates that construction would generate \$36.3 million in total economic output, \$15.3 million in GDP, and \$10.5 million in wages and salaries. Moreover, direct stimulus to the non-residential construction sector is estimated to generate total tax impacts of \$3.8 million during project construction – about \$1.1 million in direct corporate tax revenue, \$2.3 million in income tax revenue, \$0.3 million in indirect taxes on production, and \$84,000.00 in indirect taxes on products.

Thank you for your serious consideration of the City of Edmonton's funding request, and your government's ongoing support of municipal infrastructure. I look forward to discussing at your earliest convenience the mutual benefits of realizing this vital community initiative.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Mandel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephen Mandel
Mayor



Premier of Alberta

Office of the Premier, 307 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6 Canada

JUN 11 2013

His Worship Stephen Mandel
Mayor
City of Edmonton
2nd Floor, City Hall
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton AB T5J 2R7

Dear Mayor Mandel:

Thank you for your letter of May 9, 2013, requesting funding to construct a community rink in the proposed downtown entertainment district.

I appreciate the City of Edmonton's support for this development through a capital commitment of \$7 million, and admire your ongoing commitment to explore funding opportunities to develop the downtown core.

As you are aware, the province already provides significant funding to municipalities through the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) program to support local infrastructure projects, such as the construction of recreation and sports facilities. Additional provincial funds are not available to support the community rink project; however, the city may wish to consider using a portion of its remaining MSI funding. With project commitments of \$1.216 billion to date, and an estimated \$2.077 billion to be allocated over the course of the MSI program, the city could conceivably commit an additional \$563 million to new projects.

I commend your efforts to renew the City of Edmonton's downtown core.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours truly,



Alison M. Redford, QC

cc: Honourable Doug Griffiths
Minister of Municipal Affairs