



East Hants Curling Association

1157 Hwy. 2
Lantz, Nova Scotia, B2S 1T6

August 31, 2012

Office of the Premier of Nova Scotia
PO Box 726
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2T3

Dear Premier:

My name is Art Chisholm and I am a board member of the East Hants Curling Association. Our association has a project *which we believe* deserves your consideration for provincial funding. I write this letter to give you some background information about our plans, enabling you to better understand the amount of commitment and due diligence that the local curling community has provided to encourage the completion of this very viable project.

Our goal is to construct a Multi-purpose Community Curling facility in Lantz, a community located in East Hants. With the combined cooperative efforts of our Board members, the Maritime Lumber Bureau and along with the continued technical support of Lindsay Construction, we now have a building design which showcases the use of local wood products in its construction. Upon completion, our building will be touted as an Atlantic WoodWORKs project, showing the world that local wood products can easily be incorporated into the construction of non-residential buildings.

Historical overview

This project has been in the planning stage for some twenty years now. In the late 1980's curling was part of a new recreational facility planned to replace the existing hockey rink, in Lantz, which was declared unsafe by the Provincial fire marshal's office. The local curling community were very active in fund raising and developing community support for the new facility. However, due to a shortfall in provincial funding, the curling portion was deferred to a later expansion of the new facility. The curlers were upset but supported the decision to build a hockey rink only, as, at that time, it was right decision for the recreational needs of the people of East Hants.

After paying the debt for the expansion, the Board of the new East Hants Sportsplex began the process of planning for a second ice surface and a curling facility. In the early years of 2000, curling was still very much in the expansion plans. About 2007, the Board of Directors of the Sportsplex, once again decided to remove curling. The reasoning given by the board was based on the perception that the Provincial Government of the day would not support the curling portion of the expansion. The curlers did not agree with that decision and argued their case with the board, but to no avail, curling was again taken out of the plan. The curling community was left to move forward on their own.

Forward after 2nd denial

In 2009 the East Hants Curling Association was incorporated, bylaws were developed, a cost for construction and equipment was developed with the help of Lindsay Construction, land lease for the building was provided for by the Municipality of East Hants, our business plan was reviewed and submitted to the province for funding under the B-Fit program. Shortly after our proposal went to Halifax for approval the B-Fit program was cancelled due to funding difficulties within the program. In spite of the funding difficulties our board continued its efforts to support the construction of a local curling facility through fund raising activities and participation in community events. Community involvement and encouragement was the driving force that has kept this project alive.

Partnership with Maritime Lumber Bureau

Last spring the East Hants Curling association partnered with the Maritime Lumber Bureau and the Atlantic WoodWORKS project. The objective was to explore the possibility of changing the design of our building to significantly increase the wood component in the construction phase without adding significantly to the cost. The Provincially supported Atlantic WoodWORKS program wanted to build a facility that **showcased** the use of Nova Scotia wood in the construction of a non-residential building. The Provincial Government has already demonstrated its commitment to champion non-residential projects of this type through its partnership in the Atlantic WoodWORKS project. As we are located in the centre of the lumber industry of Nova Scotia, we feel that a project of this type is a wonderful opportunity to promote the use of local lumber, an opportunity that is just *too good to pass up*. The support of our Provincial and Federal governments can *make or break* this project.

Summation

The first 25 years of community efforts to build a curling facility in East Hants have resulted in two false starts. In the last four years significant accomplishments have been achieved with only the funding issue left to be resolved. The Municipality of East Hants have pledged \$600,000.00 and a parcel of land valued at \$ 250,000.00 plus. *Their continued support hinges on our Association receiving the necessary funding from the Province and the Federal Governments.* With the recent changes in design we will have achieved the added value of making our Multi-purpose Community Curling Facility a **show case** for wood construction. It is our belief that these facts make our project *unique*, one of a kind and deserving of special consideration for funding.

The East Hants Curling Association is asking that your government consider partnering in the funding of this facility in the amount of \$943,500.00 (Nine Hundred and Forty Three Thousand, Five Hundred Dollars). To support this request, we have attached a copy of our most recent business plan.

Thanking you, in advance, for your consideration of this East Hants project.

Art Chisholm, Director
East Hants Curling Association

CC:

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