

Tom Yates

From: David Leitch
Sent: November 26, 2021 9:24 AM
To: Tom Yates
Subject: FW: Strathcona Gardens Recreation Facility
Attachments: CRSC Letter to USW _ SRD - Nov 26, 2021 (1).pdf

Importance: High

From: Campbell River Skating Club <crskatingclub@outlook.com>
Sent: November 26, 2021 6:53 AM
To: Andy Adams <aadams@srd.ca>; Colleen Evans <cevens@srd.ca>; Ron Kerr <rkerr@srd.ca>; Brenda Leigh (bleigh.53@gmail.com) <bleigh.53@gmail.com>; David Leitch <DLeitch@srd.ca>; Email - parks@srd.ca <parks@srd.ca>; Email - communications@srd.ca <communications@srd.ca>; Shared - Corporate Email <CAccount@strathconard.ca>
Subject: Strathcona Gardens Recreation Facility
Importance: High

NOTICE: This email is from an external source.

Dear Strathcona Gardens Commission and Strathcona Regional District,

As you will be aware the Campbell River Skating is not crossing the picket lines to access our booked ice time at Strathcona Gardens. We feel strongly as a Club that we should respect the process put before us. This in no way means we are favoring one side over another; we simply will not put our members in the situation of choosing to cross or not.

Please find attached a letter from our Board of Directors outlining the impact that this job action is having on our small not for profit club and our youth skaters.

Please share this letter with the SRD bargaining committee as you see fit.

Respectfully,

Sue Smith, President
Campbell River Skating Club
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Campbell River Skating Club

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Nov 26, 2021

To the United Steelworkers Union, Local 1-1937
& Strathcona Regional District;

This communication is being issued to inform you of how the ongoing strike action is affecting the Campbell River Skating Club. Prior to the commencement of these details, we need you to be aware that this letter has been written impartially and not in favour of one particular party. The effects the facility closure has had on our stakeholders is significant. It is time you become appraised of the magnitude of your actions. As an organization, we have chosen not to cross the picket lines. Our reasons for not accessing the facility during this job action are two fold. First, we want to respect the negotiation process. Secondly, we do not want to put any of our membership (including children and teenagers) in the uncomfortable and potentially controversial position of crossing the picket lines.

As a non-profit organization, the CRSC has been providing the region with fundamental skills for 49 years. Programs extend from Canada's only nationally standardized flagship learn to skate program (CanSkate), through to enhanced hockey skating skill development and recreational and competitive figure skating. In fact, we are often the feeder organization that presents hockey with its members, through skating skills established in our grassroots CanSkate program.

The multi-faceted impact sport has on individuals of all ages is well documented. At the CRSC, our demographic is varied, however the bulk of our participants are under 18 years of age. To this end, although we have skaters as young as two, a large percentage of our athletes must easily be considered vulnerable and at-risk teenage girls. For nearly two years, our youth have been through an enormous amount of personal suffering on an emotional, psychological, social and physical level. The distress the pandemic has caused children is something that we may never truly comprehend.

Notwithstanding this, the activity that teaches these youth the skills they need to succeed in life has yet again been taken from them through the actions of adults. By no exaggeration, the pandemic and the closed facility could be enough to send them onto a negative path in life with serious consequences. The seemingly endless arena closures are something they cannot understand at this age and stage of their development. How will we keep our endangered youth engaged in a sport that has placed one insurmountable barrier after another in front of them?

Coaching is another essential facet that has been affected by the recent events of the facility closure. Just like ice access, instruction is an essential operational resource. Our Professional Skating Coach is accredited with National Coach Certification (former Level 3). This is a salaried position, to which he is dependent. To him, this is an entire full time livelihood and not a volunteer role. Furthermore, he relocated to Campbell River less than four months ago from Prince George, to lead our organization and the community in a new era of skating. It is unprecedented in this area to obtain someone with this degree of education, leadership and experience, especially considering today's employment climate. Furthermore, our coach has invaluable figure skate technician training to which our members depend on and as such, the business storefront he opened is also in jeopardy the longer this goes on.

In summary, the cost of this closure has affected the CRSC enormously. As a year round operation we rent ice five days a week, making us a major user group for the facility. With the obstacles before us, our long term viability is in question now more than ever. For you, the consequences of closed doors will undoubtedly mean either an ice rental reduction or complete discontinuation of service. Indeed, the ramifications of not finding an expedited resolution are very real. For context, in recent years we have watched several clubs throughout the province fold, including one on the island. A second nearby club is on the brink of closure due to an inability to secure a coach. With consumer confidence at an all time low, what will happen to our organization if the facility doors remain shut? How will we retain our coach? How are we to build membership capacity in an already COVID nervous community, when it appears that the facility may close at any moment? After nearly five decades of operational and developmental history, we are rapidly losing community credibility due to both pandemic related safety concerns and now ongoing facility closures. Despite our best efforts, both of these matters are beyond our control. However, our long term future is entirely dependent on the solidification of a timely resolution that you have the capacity to carry out.

As an organization, we implore you to find solidarity by resolving the matters at hand. If for nothing else, be motivated by the awareness of the impact you are having on youth in our community during an already fragile time.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors
Campbell River Skating Club