



## Burlington City Rep Hockey Club

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Dear Committee Members:

I have received Report number RCC-17-23 and I would like to provide some comments on behalf of The Burlington Eagles, one of the 7 ice users referred to and affected by the report. On behalf of the organization, I recognize the engagement that has occurred, however seek further understanding of how the tactical reality of the ice allocation will impact our organization and to determine how the ice allocation will further serve a city committed to growth.

In general, I am supportive of the plan to enter into a detailed ice allocation agreement with the City for a 3 year term with 2 – one year options, provided that the contract properly reflects our requirements to service our community. My concern is that the programming offered by our organization is not properly respected in the “Framework” for its importance to the community and its role in supporting the other ice user programs. Tournaments, special events, provincial championships etc are out of reach for us under the Framework and are substantial economic drivers.

The purpose of this correspondence is to make the City aware of the opportunity cost of implementing a macro framework that does not take into consideration the further positive impact on the community and I want to make absolutely clear the risk to community that may ensue should further consultation not occur.

The Burlington Eagles is a volunteer managed, non-profit organization with more than 40 years of dedicated service to our community. The primary objective of our club is to ensure that city residents of ages 6 to 17 play organized representative hockey at the right level. There is no “win” for us to have more participants if it means they are playing at the wrong level but it is a failure for us (and the city) if we are not able to provide programming and development to the children that qualify. In recent years we have had over 1000 participants register for 630 spots. At any time of our ice use, we have full stands – creating strong community connections – and full ice use. I want to convey that a high level policy of more play for more does not equitably result in more play for more simply by putting people in the facility without the wrap around support that our organization provides.

Our concern is that this report relies on the “Framework” as the determinant for ice allocation. This recreation facility allocation plan was approved by council in 2020 and fails to recognize some very important factors.

- 1) Participants are residents and taxpayers in the city of Burlington
- 2) Rep hockey players are school aged children between the ages of 6 and 17. They are not categorically “elite athletes” and should not be disadvantaged because they focus on and excel at one specific sport.
- 3) The constraints of operating within the timing rules of our governing body the OMHA. For example no games before 6:30 to allow visiting teams to arrive.
- 4) The economic impact of a successful rep program within any municipality. We have approximately 40 home games per week in season, that represents 680 families per week (over 17,600 families visiting Burlington per season) visiting our great city, attending restaurants, staying in hotels, etc etc. It also means we have about 40 away games per week where we promote the city of Burlington proudly in municipalities across the province.

“Vision to Focus Alignment:”, Increase economic prosperity and community responsive city growth and building more citizen engagement, community health and culture. Taken from the front page of the report....it’s what we do!



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We are asking Council to refer this report back to Staff and continue a further review that takes into account the fulsomeness of the Burlington Eagles proud contributions to our Burlington residents, economy and ice user community.

We are hopeful that the city's Framework allocation model can be revisited and corrected to properly support the entire City of Burlington community.

Yours truly,

Dave Armstrong  
President  
The Burlington Eagles