

Arena Task Force eyes grant funding

June 19, 2017

Penticton –The opportunity to secure up to \$6 million in grant funding to replace or refurbish our arenas is driving the activities of the Penticton Arena Task Force. The Task Force has mapped out the steps needed to prepare a recommendation for the grant application and review it with Council before the July 30 deadline.

“The timing for the grant application is tight so we want to inform the community about the work that needs to happen and provide as many opportunities as possible to get involved,” says Stewart Ladyman, Chair of the Penticton Arena Task Force. Some of the key dates and activities coming up for the Task Force include:

- An **Open House** is planned on June 28 between 4 pm and 8 pm at the Penticton Trade and Convention Centre to share the draft findings of the **McLaren and Memorial Arena Study** and the **New Arena Feasibility Study**. Task Force members will be on hand to discuss the studies and hear the feedback from the community. The studies will also be available for review on shapeyourcitypenticton.ca.
- The Task Force will participate in **workshops** in early July to develop the draft recommendation. Dates are still being determined. These workshops are open for viewing by the public.
- Following the workshops, the **draft recommendation** will be released to the community to review and provide feedback on through shapeyourcitypenticton.ca and community events. Task Force members will be at the **Community Market** on July 15 and 22 to hear feedback on the draft recommendation.
- There will be a **Special Meeting of Council** on July 25 to review the draft recommendation. City staff will revise the **grant application** to reflect Council’s decision in advance of the July 30 deadline.

Although Council will make a decision on a recommendation to include in the grant application, Mayor Andrew Jakubeit wants the community to know this is not the final decision on the plan for Penticton’s arenas. “This is really a decision on what to include in the grant application. It’s an important step towards the final recommendation,” says Mayor Jakubeit. “We need to know the outcome of the grant application and fully understand all of our funding options before a decision can be made. I encourage people to mark the dates and activities in their calendars and take some time to get involved and let us know their views.”

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Contact:

JoAnne Kleb

Community Engagement Specialist

250-490-2586

joanne.kleb@penticton.ca