



May 26, 2025

To: Mayor Simon Yu and Prince George City Council

Request for Replacement of Aging Score Clock at Kopar Memorial Arena

Prince George Spruce Kings Junior Hockey Team's Submission to Mayor Simon Yu and Council

Introduction

The Prince George Spruce Kings Junior Hockey team is honored to submit this request to the Mayor and Council of Prince George for the replacement of the aging score clock at Kopar Memorial Arena. This upgrade is essential for ensuring compliance with the standards set by the British Columbia Hockey League (BCHL) and enhancing the experience for players, fans, and officials alike. It is also crucial as we need to find new ways to generate revenue that ensures the continued operation and success of our organization.

Background

The Kopar Memorial Arena, a cornerstone of our community, has served as the home for the Spruce Kings beginning in 1972. However, despite its storied history, the current score clock is outdated and lacks the necessary video replay capabilities required by the BCHL. The league mandates that all teams have video replay capabilities in their arenas to ensure fair play and accurate decision-making during games.

Current Situation

As of now, the Prince George Spruce Kings are one of the few teams in the BCHL that do not have a video replay score clock. This puts our team at a disadvantage and hinders our ability to provide the best possible experience for all stakeholders involved in the games. The existing score clock's limitations are increasingly apparent and affect the overall quality of the game experience.

Importance of a New Video Replay Score Clock

Video replay capabilities are crucial for these reasons:

- Fan Experience: Enhanced technology improves the overall spectator experience, making games more engaging and enjoyable.
- Providing much-needed revenue opportunities for our organization through advertising that can be displayed on the video screens during our games.



Prince George Spruce Kings

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Request Details

The Prince George Spruce Kings respectfully ask that the project to replace the score clock be considered within the unfunded capital plan. We further request that this project be prioritized before setting up the City of Prince George's 2026 capital plan. By addressing this need promptly, the council can ensure that our team remains competitive and continues to uphold the high standards of the BCHL.

Budget Considerations

We understand that budget constraints are a significant factor in capital planning. However, investing in a new score clock with video replay capabilities is a strategic move that will yield long-term benefits for the community and the arena itself. The initial investment will enhance the arena's infrastructure, attract more events, and increase much-needed revenue opportunities for our organization.

Community Impact

The Spruce Kings have been a vital part of Prince George's community, contributing to the local economy and fostering community spirit. Upgrading the score clock will not only benefit the team but also enhance the arena's appeal for various events, including tournaments, concerts, and other public gatherings. By investing in this project, the city will demonstrate its commitment to supporting local sports and community engagement. Also, a new video score clock could be relocated to a new building or utilized in another City of Prince George arena if Kopar Memorial Arena gets replaced in the future.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Prince George Spruce Kings Junior Hockey team requests the Mayor and Council of Prince George to consider the replacement of the aging score clock at Kopar Memorial Arena using the unfunded capital plan and prioritizing it before the 2026 capital plan is set. This project is essential for compliance with BCHL standards and for providing exceptional experience for fans and players while also providing revenue opportunities that our organization requires to continue to operate. We appreciate your consideration and support in enhancing our beloved arena.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Mike Hawes
General Manager/Governor
The Prince George Spruce Kings Junior Hockey Team

