

STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

1100 Patricia Blvd. | Prince George, BC, Canada V2L 3V9 | www.princegeorge.ca

DATE: June 3, 2020

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Adam Davey, Director of Community Services and Public Safety

SUBJECT: City Indoor Facilities: Tentative Reopening Dates

ATTACHMENTS: None

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION the report dated June 3, 2020, from the Director of Community Services and Public Safety titled “City Indoor Facilities: Tentative Reopening Dates.”

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide initial information to Council regarding the City’s indoor facilities reopening planning. It is likely that some of the below information will have changed between the date of the report, June 3, and the date of the Council Meeting, June 15.

DISCUSSION:

As of May 29, 2020, the Province’s Restart Plan, augmented by the BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) “Guideline for Restarting Operations,” suggests indoor recreational facilities may be allowed to reopen under COVID-19 operational modifications as early as ‘Phase 3’ of the Provincial Reopen Plan. Phase 3 may begin as early as July; however, there is no exact date yet. This may include pools, arenas and recreational (civic) facilities. The two (2) metre physical distancing requirement and a maximum of 50 patrons – provided the facility is large enough – remains in effect. According to the provincial plan, it does not appear that sporting events and spectators will be allowed to occur until ‘Phase 4’ (of the Restart Plan). As of the writing of this report, there is no fixed date for Phase 4; however, it is not expected to occur until 2021 or later. Based upon province-wide discussions with other communities, the general consensus supports tentative reopening dates of arenas, pools, and community centres in the August to September timeframe. The additional time provides the ability for community groups, local sport organizations and local governments to navigate current uncertainties surrounding insurance and liability, COVID-19 Safety Plans, and Return-To-Play Plans. It is expected to take several weeks to work through these processes.

The below high-level information lays out the approximate reopening timelines for the City’s indoor facilities. Please note that this is subject to change.

Aquatics:

The Aquatic Centre is tentatively scheduled to reopen on Tuesday, September 8, under a modified schedule and operations (provided the province be in ‘Phase 3’). Details will be publicly

communicated in August that outline the specifics around reopening. It appears that swimming lessons, close-contact programs and sports may not be allowed until Phase 4. As such, the Four Seasons Leisure Pool will remain closed until further notice. The Aquatics Centre is undergoing a sand filtration system replacement in July.

Arenas:

Kin Centre 2 and Kin Centre 3 are tentatively scheduled to reopen in early August to accommodate a number of hockey and figure skating training camps (provided the province be in 'Phase 3' and the local sport organizations have completed the necessary regulatory steps). Activities are required to adhere to provincial restrictions, which include physical distancing and a maximum number of participants on the ice during the same time.

The reopening date for Kin Centre 1 and the CN Centre may occur in early September, driven by user demand. It is unknown what the overall ice user demand will look like for the 2020/21 season. Based upon the City's financial and operational restraints, it is unlikely that all six (6) sheets of ice will be utilized. Communications with the City's various ice user groups will be ongoing throughout the reopening process.

Conference and Civic Centre (PGCCC):

The PGCCC is tentatively scheduled to reopen in August dependent upon user group demand. Under provincial restrictions, gatherings will be limited to 50 people. Safety plans may be required for all user groups, in addition to further insurance requirements. Details are not clear on this yet. Large gatherings and conferences will not occur prior to Phase 4. The PGCCC, similar to the Aquatic Centre and the arenas, will operate under modifications in order to meet provincial restrictions.

Revenue and cost-recovery rates are expected to be significantly reduced across all facilities. Under modified operations, the City's service delivery model is going to look much different.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

As of the writing of this report, the provincial-wide reopening process remains fluid with frequent changes to safety and return to play planning. The early consensus of cities around the province suggests most communities will reopen indoor rinks, pools and recreational (civic) centres in the August to September timeframe, or potentially even later. Based upon the City's current planning process, we expect to reopen within this timeframe as well, provided the Province is in 'Phase 3' of the Restart Plan.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Adam Davey, Director of Community Services and Public Safety

APPROVED:

Kathleen Soltis, City Manager

Meeting Date: 2020/06/15