



September 21, 2020

Lyn Hall
Mayor
City of Prince George

Mr. Hall and fellow City Council Members,

The BC Hockey League (BCHL) is sending this letter to lend its support to the Prince George Spruce Kings in their effort to re-open their home arena – Rolling Mix Concrete Arena (RMCA).

The Spruce Kings have indicated to us that the City of Prince George is planning on keeping the RMCA closed for the foreseeable future and that the team will have no access to their home arena. That includes training camp and practices, that are underway elsewhere, the start of the team's home exhibition schedule beginning Oct. 25 and possibly the regular season, which starts Dec. 1.

The team has also indicated that the city is recommending that the Spruce Kings share a building with the Western Hockey League's (WHL) Prince George Cougars and work around their schedule as the number-one option available to them.

This option is not ideal for the League for several reasons.

First of all, the BCHL has league sponsorship assets in each of its buildings and those would not be available if the Spruce Kings were forced to share an arena with the Cougars. It eliminates the ability for the League to install league-sponsored rinkboards which are highly visible on the streaming broadcast of Spruce Kings games on HockeyTV. These rinkboards are installed in every BCHL arena and are a requirement for each team. This affects the revenue for all BCHL teams, not just the Spruce Kings.

This arrangement will also eliminate the ability for the Spruce Kings to install similar rinkboards and in-ice advertising for team sponsors, which takes away a significant amount of the Spruce Kings' revenue.

Needless to say, the BCHL and all of its teams are struggling financially due to the COVID-19 pandemic and need to rely on every revenue opportunity or cost savings available. Despite our longstanding request, we have received no indication that the League or our teams will be receiving any type of financial support from the Provincial Government.

The BCHL is also in direct competition with the WHL, so having WHL logos and branding in one of our team's arenas is not something we find acceptable. This type of branding would be highly visible on our HockeyTV broadcasts as well as in still photos of the games.

The league understands that the Spruce Kings have provided the City of Prince George with a comprehensive plan to safely open and operate the building, which should help ease the concerns the city might have in re-opening the building.

Due to the reasons listed above, the BCHL supports the Spruce Kings request to have the RMCA open as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Chris Hebb, Commissioner

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