

CCCI Board would like to let the community know it is business as usual at the BDO Centre for the Community.

Two years ago, the CCCI Board decided, unanimously, to approach the PRRA and ask them to take on ice scheduling for the BDO. The two groups could not reach an agreement at that time due to logistical issues on who would then be responsible to collect the ice revenue and who would pay the operating expenses. But in 2019, the two groups came to a solution on how to handle this revenue/expense problem.

Under the new contract, the PRRA will guarantee CCCI the same amount of annual income as the BDO has averaged in ice rentals over the last three years. This agreement will provide the CCCI the same revenue generated in the past to pay all of their operating expenses and maintain an arena operation that is self-supporting.

The PRRA contract does require that the CCCI maintain a fully functioning Board of Directors, this was suggested by our Board two years ago as well, it is not the PRRA mandate to take over control of the BDO. However, the contract does not make any stipulation that the CCCI must continue to seek financial support from the public, businesses, or through grants. Fundraising is totally at the discretion of the CCCI. That being said, the CCCI Board certainly intends to continue to raise funds for maintenance and improvement of the BDO, and it will be CCCI's sole discretion on how these funds are spent. Neither the City nor the PRRA have ever tried to interfere with how the CCCI allocates the money it raises, and no money raised by CCCI has ever been allocated back to City or PRRA projects other than the BDO.

The contract is set up for an initial 3-year term, but the PRRA must give the BDO 24 months' notice to cancel the contract. Each spring, if the PRRA does not cancel the contract, it extends for another two years. Otherwise, the contract runs indefinitely. The only exception to this is that CCCI, and they alone, can cancel the contract at the end of any season with no notice.

We have five original Board members still on the board since its inception in 2010, and have added additional volunteers representing local user groups over the years. Everyone has volunteered their time in keeping the BDO open these past 9 years. When we first started, this involved a fight (with many groups and citizens in support of keeping it open) with the City to save the BDO. But that was a different time. In the last several years, the City and RM, through the PRRA, have become supportive partners and strong advocates for the BDO. Three years ago, the PRRA became our partner in facility operations by supplying the manpower to operate the arena in the winter. The CCCI pays just the cost of manpower, with no profit to the PRRA. In addition, the PRRA provides technical assistance and advice at no cost. This has been a tremendous benefit to CCCI. The City and RM have also provided financial assistance, highlighted by a \$100,000 grant last year for roof repairs".

The Board of the CCCI wants to be clear that we do not consider ourselves competitors to Stride Place. Our original mandate was to provide a third ice surface for Portage and District because we recognized that two surfaces could not meet the need of our user groups. That is still our mandate today. The PRRA recognizes the need for the BDO as well, and views it as an important piece of Portage and District's recreational facilities. The move to have one central booking site for all three Portage ice surfaces is a logical step that should improve efficiencies in ice booking for all user groups.

Our Board feels we are working for the residents of the City and RM to provide a much-needed resource for everyone. We sincerely thank all of those individuals, businesses, community organizations, and local governments that have provided their support to make this possible.

Sincerely,
CCCI Board.