



# BOARD REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Directors
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Electoral Area A & Golden: Update and Request related to the Golden and Area Aquatic Centre
<b>DESCRIPTION:</b>	Report from John M. MacLean, CAO, dated April 9, 2024, updating the Board on the Golden and Area Aquatic Centre project as well as presenting a request from representatives of the local advisory committee that worked and championed the project.
<b>RECOMMENDATION #1:</b>	<p>THAT: the report from John M. MacLean, CAO informing the Board of the status of the Golden and Area Aquatic Centre Project, as well as the letter from representatives of the Project Local Advisory Committee requesting continued Board support of the Project be received.</p> <p><i>Corporate Vote Unweighted Majority</i></p>
<b>RECOMMENDATION #2:</b>	<p>THAT: the Board dedicate the staff resources to continue the search for funding sources that would provide the financial resources in order to successfully complete the project and should funding sources be found that they be brought forward to the Board for consideration.</p> <p><i>Corporate Vote Unweighted Majority</i></p>

## SUMMARY:

The Golden and Area Aquatic Centre project has been suspended due to the lack of capital funding required to undertake the project.

## BACKGROUND:

The Board undertook a long-term feasibility study looking at the development of an indoor aquatic centre in Golden, serving both the Town of Golden and surrounding area (Electoral Area A). The feasibility study culminated in a successful 2022 referendum (72% in favour) approving \$18 million (for an estimated \$35 million dollar project) in borrowing to support the project. The remaining \$17 million was to be sourced through grants and fundraising.

With a successful referendum, the CSR D Staff Team proceeded developing a project team to proceed with development and design the project and identifying and applying for necessary funding. As the Board is aware, the cost of the project increased during development and design, requiring the consideration of a reduction in the scope of the project.

The CSR D Staff Team applied for several grants to support the project. While we were successful with some grants (a Mass Timber and Clean BC grant), the larger funding sources (the Green and Inclusive Building Grant, and UBCM Strategic Priorities) were declined.

This funding gap left us unable to proceed with the project.

The decision was made, in consultation with the service participants (Golden and Electoral Area A) to proceed to the 75% design stage before suspending further work on the project. This decision was consistent with our contractual arrangements with the Consultant Team. We have secured the documents and designs at the 75% stage.

At the 75% design, the estimated cost with appropriate contingencies in place, was \$41 million. This would represent a Class B/B+ estimate (generally speaking +/- 10%). Staff have developed a general plan to restart the project should appropriate funds be secured to proceed.

Attached, the Board will find a letter from representatives of the Golden On Deck - Local Advisory Committee. The Golden On Deck - Local Advisory Committee worked during the Feasibility Study representing the interests of the community. While the Golden On Deck - Local Advisory Committee played no formal role in the latter stages of the project, they continued to be an important sounding Board for the Project Team. The letter asks that the Board support continued utilization of staff resources to look for appropriate funding sources while our borrowing authority is still valid (electoral approved borrowing is valid for five years after the date of relevant elector assent process).

While staff do not propose to continue taxation beyond this year for this project, there is an existing service already in place (this project was to be part of an already existing service – the service that includes the Golden Arena). Staff see no real challenges in asking the Community Services Department to continue monitor for appropriate funding sources and bringing them forward for the Board consideration at the appropriate time.

**The question for the Board is whether they are comfortable committing to supporting a future application above other considerations at that time. We do not have other projects of this scope or with this level of community support in line at this time.**

#### **POLICY:**

CSRD does not have policy guidance on this matter. The Local Government Act governs the rules around borrowing that has electoral approval.

#### **FINANCIAL:**

The 2024 Financial Plan included sufficient funding and requisition to meet our financial obligations to take the project to the 75% completion level. It should be noted that all existing cost estimates are time based. Costs will continue to escalate as time passes.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION:**

The Staff Team is ready to restart this project should the necessary funding be identified and secured.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

If approved by the Board, the staff team will be advised to continue to monitor grant announcements that might open an opportunity to secure the necessary funding. At this point, there is no need for further communications through official CSRD channels.

#### **DESIRED OUTCOMES:**

That the Board endorse the staff recommendation(s).

#### **BOARD'S OPTIONS:**

1. *Endorse the Recommendation(s).*
2. *Deny the Recommendation(s).*

3. *Defer.*
4. *Any other action deemed appropriate by the Board.*

**Report Approval Details**

Document Title:	20240409 - GAAC Update - Request.docx
Attachments:	- Golden and Area Aquatic Centre - Request for continued support_Redacted.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Apr 11, 2024

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**No Signature found**

Derek Sutherland

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Jodi Pierce

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Sham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jennifer" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Sham".

Jennifer Sham