

Subject: [External] Meeting for Preston Auditorium Proposal December 2, 2021

Good Evening Mayor McGarry and Councilman Hamilton,

I would like to provide some feedback as a hockey parent in Cambridge for the last 6 years. We have dedicated a huge amount of our time developing our son's skills and spent countless hours sitting in Cambridge arenas to watch him do what he is so passionate about. Since he has played House League, House League Select, MD and now A, we have had the opportunity to travel to many other cities and see their facilities as well. I think it goes without saying that Cambridge's arena facilities are in shambles. It is not only the parents that notice this either, my 12 year old son has made comments how he is embarrassed to have his home games at Duncan Macintosh with changerooms the size of a small bedroom for a full hockey team and coaching staff. He hears other teams make fun of the arena and even his own team at times.

I am sure you are both well aware of the expenses that come along with having your child play representative hockey, and with such an investment it would only make sense that the hockey community would expect to have updated facilities comparative to other city-centers. We have been sitting back patiently waiting for the City of Cambridge to do right by our hockey kids and to build a new arena facility for them and when hope for that was squashed, the building of a second pad at Preston Auditorium and renovation of the existing rink was the next best thing. While I understand that funds are a major consideration in this matter, every other city that we have been to has been able to budget for decent arenas for their hockey players and our kids deserve the same.

Hockey is by far one of the best sports out there for instilling values such a team bonding, perseverance, sense of community and pride. It is really sad that our hockey family have had to go so many years already with such poor arena facilities in Cambridge and it is time that this be made a priority. Please do the right thing for our hockey associations in Cambridge and vote to have an updated dual pad facility at Preston Auditorium.

Best regards,

Cheryl and Jeff Lewis