

Subject: [External] Preston Arena

Good Morning Council Members,

I am writing to you this morning for you to consider how important the renovation and revitalization of Preston Arena is to not only hockey players and parents but to Cambridge as well.

We travel to many cities to play hockey and each one has an arena centre to be proud of. A foundation of where their hockey community exists and is represented. Cambridge is in need of this. Too many years have gone by full of empty promises. Council has shown that safe injection sites are more important than the children, coaches and parents who time and time again represent this city.

Do you not see that investing in this arena is a place that kids can have an outlet? A place to improve their skills, have a sense of team and community? Competition and a sense of pride? It takes discipline from these kids and allows them to work hard, play a game they love and build self esteem along with teamwork.

Council must ultimately decide but I must admit that I am ashamed of its members thus far. Stop trying to keep your job instead of doing your job. Stop giving a haven to drugs and excuses to not get help and be better.

That is what these kids represent; a sense of purpose, self esteem, teamwork and community. It's long overdue that the city they represent in name actually cares about them. I implore you to invest in this arena revitalization for these kids and the community. Give them a place of pride since they have been representing Cambridge without it for too long.

Linda Zelichowski