



November 25, 2025

To: The Honourable Mayor and Members of Prince George City Council

1100 Patricia Boulevard
Prince George, BC
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From: Shane Milne

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Subject: City of Prince George Investment in Competitive Aquatics during the PGAC Renovation

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

On behalf of the Prince George Barracuda Swim Club (PGBSC), I wish to formally thank the City Council and staff, particularly Mr. Andy Beesley and Mr. Jim Worthington, for the detailed discussion with myself that occurred on November 21 2025 regarding the Prince George Aquatic Centre (PGAC) revitalization as well as discussing the steps required to make the Canfor Leisure Pool a new home for the Aquatics community for the next two years.

We recognize the complexity of the \$37 million capital investment that Council committed to for the Prince George Aquatic Centre revitalization. We are respectful of the process and acknowledge the magnitude of this significant municipal undertaking.

We also wish to acknowledge that while communication regarding the facility closure was initially minimal and lacking vision, the City has since gone to great efforts to make amends. We are thankful for the actions taken post-meeting that demonstrate the City listened and acted on our concerns

Confirmation of Mitigation and Operational Commitments

We are extremely appreciative that staff have moved quickly to implement a critical mitigation plan to preserve competitive aquatics in our region. We formally confirm the following commitments made by the City Staff to the PGBSC:

1. Authorization to host essential swim meets and time trials at the Canfor Leisure Pool (CLP) throughout the PGAC closure period, pending confirmation with Swimming Canada Facility Rules that the 25-meter competitive pool meets the requirements for a sanctioned event.
2. Commitment to invest in the necessary competitive infrastructure at the CLP, specifically including the procurement and installation of modular starting blocks and electronic timing equipment, to make competitive meets viable. The final approval for the necessary capital request for this equipment remains subject to City Council review.

In the spirit of partnership and the City's expressed commitment to supporting user groups, we look forward to the opportunity to discuss and find mutually acceptable solutions to mitigate the increased financial strain our non-profit organization may face in the coming years. Finding solutions to address facility rental rates and meet-hosting expenses, which reflect the temporary venue, is essential to protecting the viability of the PGBSC throughout the renovation period.

This partnership is essential for maintaining the financial stability of our club, preserving the competitive standards for our athletes, and ensuring our group of local volunteer officials remain certified through the two-year period.

Aligning with City Objectives and Economic Development

The City's commitment to providing a functional venue for meets and time trials at the CLP fundamentally changed the narrative for our competitive aquatic community.

We now shift our focus from concerns over event viability to actively supporting the City's long-term goal of revitalization. By continuing to host regional events, the PGBSC will ensure the continuous development pathway for young athletes is maintained. The City's support for our operational needs ensures that hundreds of visiting athletes, coaches, and families travel to Prince George from Central and Northern BC and contribute to the local economy, specifically bringing people and activity into the downtown core while the PGAC renovation is underway.

Next Steps and Supporting Documentation

To move this partnership forward efficiently, we will continue to collaborate closely with City staff in identifying and resolving the finer details required for making the CLP a competitive venue. As we transition into the CLP, we are hopeful that we can find solutions together when we inevitably encounter any "bumps and bruises" along the way.

We are also pleased to include attached letters of support from SwimBC and other regional swim clubs that demonstrate the broad, regional value of this commitment and support the necessity of the capital request for the competitive equipment.

We look forward to collaborating closely with City staff and Council throughout this significant revitalization period.

Sincerely,



Shane Milne
President, PGBSC
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