



November 16, 2025

Dear Members of the Prince George City Council,

On behalf of the Williams Lake Blue Fins Swim Club, I would like to offer our full support for the Prince George Barracudas' request for the upgrades necessary for them to host swim meets at the new aquatic facility.

The meets the Barracudas host are incredibly important for the development of swimmers across the North. For many of our younger or newer competitive athletes, the PG meets are their only chance to race out of town. Most other competitions we attend have tough qualifying standards to enter, or are run with performance over development in mind and are not paced appropriately for newer swimmers. Without meets like the one in Prince George, our youngest swimmers simply don't get the opportunity to earn the times or the confidence they need to progress into larger meets.

Beyond qualifying times and competition, the PG meet is the perfect introduction for swimmers moving into the competitive stream. Their volunteers are excellent with young swimmers, the environment is supportive, and the weekend reliably hooks kids into the sport. The confidence and excitement they gain there is a huge part of what keeps them in swimming.

I would also be sad about the potential long-term loss of Prince George's incredible group of officials during an extended facility closure. Their officiating community is strong, passionate, and committed, and once those volunteers drift away they're very hard to replace. Keeping this meet alive helps maintain that vital ecosystem of officials for the whole region. They are a big part of what makes the experience so positive for my staff, parents and swimmers.

And finally, I think it is worth noting the positive economic impact. Between our team, Quesnel, and the rest of the northern clubs, I am confident that our swimmers would more than recoup any investment made. Our club alone brings 25-30 families for three days, twice a year. Our kids treat shopping at the Pine Centre Mall like a second sport, our team regularly hosts socials at local businesses on the Saturday, and our parents and swimmers eat at local restaurants all weekend long. The stereotype about swimmers and their appetites exists for a reason, and Prince George certainly benefits from it!

For all of these reasons: athlete development, regional opportunity, officials retention, and community benefit, we strongly support Prince George Barracuda's being granted the assistance they need to host the April meet at the new facility. This meet matters deeply to northern swimmers, and we hope to see it continue.

Sincerely,

Amanda Nemeth
Head Coach, Williams Lake Blue Fins Swim Club