



TOWN OF INGERSOLL
Town Centre

Members of Council meet with Ministry of Infrastructure to Discuss Funding of Multi-Use Recreation Centre

News Release

January 22, 2023

Mayor Petrie, Deputy Mayor Wilson, Councillor Eus, and Councillor Haliru of the Town of Ingersoll met today, Sunday, January 22, 2023, with Parliamentary Assistant, Vijay Thanigasalam of the Ministry of Infrastructure to discuss funding options for a new possible multi-use recreation facility. Ingersoll District Memorial Centre, the existing arena is nearing the end of its lifespan and will cost several million to rehabilitate.

The Town's Recreation Master Plan includes the goal of building a new multi-use recreation centre that would encompass an arena and other recreational amenities. The facility is also a major goal of the town's Strategic Plan. Both plans followed extensive public consultation that identified the new facility as a top priority to the residents. Ingersoll has land set aside (12 acres) to build the facility on.

The delegation explained that the project is shovel-ready and that funding is the last hurdle in the way. They also expressed that the residents are not able to take the burden of constructing this facility on by themselves. They explained how Ingersoll has excelled at attracting industrial growth to the municipality including a \$1 billion investment along with a 400,000 square foot addition to CAMI, the 250,000 square foot development of DOT foods and the 120,000 square foot development of Carson Co. already underway. As well as a recent boundary adjustment to allow them to continue to welcome investment. They asked the Minister to consider the economic impact of those investments to the province and asked them to partner with the town to provide the type of facility that would offer recreational opportunities for residents and further incentive for companies to invest in the community and province.

The delegation explained that the Town has a robust asset management plan, has been setting aside reserves for this facility and has debt capacity, but needs the province to be a partner to be able to continue to be able to offer a competitive tax rate that will continue to attract investment, due to the capital cost of the required facility. It was further explained that the town is seeking opportunities and is willing to work with partners to maximize the potential benefit to a broader region than just Ingersoll. Due to its strong asset management plan, the Town will build up its funds for the replacement of the new facility so that this is the last time funding is needed.

Questions that the Ingersoll representatives asked are:

1. Will new funding for recreation be available soon?
2. Will funding opportunities favour green development?



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3. “Greening” an arena is difficult. Do you know of some examples that you could point us to?
4. Do you have any suggestions to make our application more favourable?

Parliamentary Assistant, Vijay Thanigasalam of the Ministry of Infrastructure gave an update on when the next round of funding applications may be coming. Representatives of the Ministry of Infrastructure gave some suggestions to increase the visibility of applications for funding, along with ways to make the applications hit more of the priorities of the provincial government.

Ingersoll will take away these suggestions and prepare for any funding opportunities in the future.