

Katrina Ross
Stoney Island, NS
B0W 3J0

November 4, 2020

Dear Municipality of the District of Barrington Councillors/CAO/Officials,

In light of recent announcements from our federal government providing NS municipalities **67.5 million dollars** in incremental funding to help municipalities address increased ***operating costs*** resulting from a reduction in revenue due to COVID-19 and to continue to implement social distancing and infection prevention and control protocols required to ***operate facilities***, public spaces and effectively deliver services to citizens; I am specifically hoping our arena spectator limits can be re-visited. The following points compare arenas in our province/area and how we can put the money to good use to safely expand our spectator numbers from 80 to 200 for special events to continue to deliver programs and services to our members.

Recently, in the HRM many arenas, where the instances of COVID-19 are more prevalent, have expanded their spectator limits from **50-100** beginning Sunday, Nov 1., (I.e. The Halifax Forum Arena, Zatzman Sportsplex, Saint Margaret's Centre – Fountain rink, and Rink D at Bedford's BMO Centre and Rink C at Dartmouth's RBC Centre will allow 100 spectators beginning Nov. 15. Over the weekend, in Berwick the 1,000 capacity rink (ours is 1,100) welcomed two bubble groups of 200 (400 total) who entered through their own entrance and exited through their own exits.

Examining numbers closer to our area, the LCLC is permitted to allow bubbles of $200 \times 3 = 600$, the Mariners Centre Arena #1 has expanded to accommodate 600 people (3 bubbles of 200), and the Mariners centre Arena #2 allows up to 100 spectators. The Shelburne Arena allows 100 spectators as well. Our arena has a capacity of 1,100 at maximum as per set by our fire marshalls. NS facilities can legally operate events and performances at 50 % of a facility's capacity, up to 200 inside (this is where I am assuming the bubbles come into play with Mariners' Centre, LCLC arenas and Berwick), with physical distancing and mandatory masks for spectators (para. 10 <http://www.sportnovascotia.ca/>). Selling advance

seating tickets to family bubbles would assist our local BMHS hockey team, minor hockey teams and figure skating spectators. If our arena was labeled for each section and seating we could even further safety by assigning family bubbles to sections for the year to help with contact tracing should a case come to our area. This is a small change we could do to improve safety and increase numbers. Our rural area thrives on this facility and it is the most used facility in winter months; why not expand our numbers when it is safe to do so. Should we need to roll back on our plan I am sure our community would understand.

Our arena currently sits at 80 spectators; that is roughly 2 spectators per player if you have a large team. This is extremely difficult for families that have other children that usually must accompany parents because of child care restraints, parents of children in blended families, those in blended families that might not agree on who can come on a rotation, for grandparents like that of my own children who this very well may be their last season that they are mobile enough to make it to see their grandchildren play we need to reconsider our numbers. At a recent game, I was very proud of our U11A team spectators for wearing their masks, despite it being uncomfortable at times, and we kept our spectator limits well under the amount needed for our rink. The away team was on one side of the rink and the home team was on one end. Keeping team spectators separate will be a key feature in expanding our numbers and keeping us safe.

Some ideas to safely increase our capacity for games and events (figure skating) to 200 include but are not limited to:

Dividing the arena at the storage doors on the north side entrance for one set of 100 and exit at east side doors for **away** teams. The other group of 100 (possible **home** teams) could be entering at the normal entrance and exit at the north side doors since the others would be forming a new traffic flow for their exit. Some simple signage could assist in this effort. Also, the labelling of seating would help increase safety measures and make for efficient contact tracing efforts if needed.

We would need to purchase mist machines to spray the seats. It should dry within 15 minutes with the heaters on or if needed dried off. Keep in mind every rental wouldn't need to accommodate 200, just events typically on the weekends and

special events for the arena. The mist machines are very affordable as the local gyms just use what one would use to spray on paint with. Bus drivers also use them to wipe down their seats daily between runs. I realize staffing is an issue; therefore, these mist machines could play a part in our expansion plan to make transitions between users easier. This could also generate some jobs for students, if full time staff can not be hired, who would attend local games and may be willing to stay behind and assist in cleaning efforts for big events we may have. Covid-19 is not going anywhere soon; we need to learn to live with it and take necessary precautions.

We are losing weekly rentals from some of our community user groups who are normally renting our arena more. For example, my son's U11A team in a typical year rents the ice 3 times in Barrington and one in Shelburne a month. Now, it's 2 in Barr and 2 in Shelb. That's a 25% loss in revenue from this one user group. As a taxpayer, I feel this is unnecessary since we already run a deficit on most recreation facilities when it's not necessary. If we increase our cleaning machines/protocols we can safely accommodate more rentals.

When away teams come to our area they also spend money here. We are losing money in this area. Only one parent, at times, is attending the away games here; which is taking money from our local economy, restaurants, and shops that were all hit hard because of Covid-19. This also diminishes the profit that our in-house Twisted Sisters local business can generate. These ladies owners and employees live in our community, feed us when we're hungry at games/events and spend money and pay taxes in our local municipality.

We have had our beaches, parks, playgrounds and spring taken from us. Let's not prevent family and friends who may not make it to another season from seeing their favourite players play the game of hockey or family/friends watch skating performances that our community knows and loves. I feel like now is the time to do this when our cases are so low; who knows what the future months hold. Please discuss these options and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

If you are in support of the above recommendations or have any further ideas please submit your name, district where you live and ideas below this will be tabled on November 9, 2020 at the council meeting Monday night.

Sincerely,

Katrina Ross

References:

CBC (2020). Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/spectator-capacity-to-expand-halifax-area-rinks-starting-sunday-1.5784092>

Government of Canada (2020). Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/intergovernmental-affairs/services/safe-restart-agreement/letters/nova-scotia.html>

CTV NEWS (2020). Retrieved from <https://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/hrm-rinks-to-increase-number-of-spectators-allowed-1.5167623>

Timestamp	Name	Where I live:	Other Ideas to add to this letter: Just put n/a if you can't think of anything				
11/4/2020 19:49:52	Katrina ross	Stoney island	N/A				
11/4/2020 19:50:59	Kristen Atwood	Smithsville, NS					
11/4/2020 19:53:55	Jessica Mood	Barrington, Nova Scotia	N/A				
11/4/2020 19:55:15	Paige Newell	Stoney Island					
11/4/2020 20:05:12	Gail Goreham	Oak park					
11/4/2020 20:07:24	Kara Hatfield	North East Point					
11/4/2020 20:08:39	Jasmine Thomas	Sherose Island					
11/4/2020 20:10:21	Paige Symonds	Woods Harbour					
11/4/2020 20:10:33	Travis Smith	Shag Harbour					
11/4/2020 20:12:44	Jennifer Ross	Clam Point	N/a				
11/4/2020 20:13:26	Jeremy Smith	Woods Harbour					
11/4/2020 20:20:45	Kara Smith	Woods Harbour	N/A				
11/4/2020 20:21:46	Jillian Newell	Shag Harbour					
11/4/2020 20:21:57	Charla Strang	Cape Sable Island	Looks great!!				
11/4/2020 20:22:53	Robert Strang	Cape Sable Island					
11/4/2020 20:26:23	Jennifer Ross	Cape Sable Island					
11/4/2020 20:26:41	Jeremy Ross	Cape Sable Island					
11/4/2020 20:26:59	Nixon Ross	Cape Sable Island					
11/4/2020 20:29:30	Kalinda mood	Clarks harbour	N/a				
11/4/2020 20:32:42	Lorraine Ross	Stoney Island					
11/4/2020 20:33:03	Cecil Ross	Stoney Island					
11/4/2020 20:33:21	Falyn Goreham-Smith	Woods Harbour, NS	N/a				
11/4/2020 20:36:08	Nixon Ross	Cape Sable Island					
11/4/2020 20:37:20	Petora Newell	Stoney Island	n/a				
11/4/2020 20:43:47	Emily Smith	Woods Harbour	n/a				
11/4/2020 20:44:50	Celeste hatfield	Woods Harbour NS					
11/4/2020 20:56:41	Debbie Smith	Shag Harbour, NS	N/A				
11/4/2020 21:01:06	Megan	Shag Harbour					
11/4/2020 21:05:05	Cindy Perry	Port Clyde	N/a				
11/4/2020 21:21:11	Suzanne Newell	Oak park, Barrington	NA				
11/4/2020 21:26:19	Monty Smith	Shag Harbour	N/a				
11/4/2020 21:28:22	Ashley Nickerson	Cape Sable Island	Na				
11/4/2020 21:37:04	Shannon Jones	Centerville	You said everything I have been stressing about especially the blended families and child care!				
11/4/2020 21:41:02	Amber Hiltz	Shag Harbour	N/A				
11/4/2020 21:42:12	Robbie Newell	Stoney Island	n/a				
11/4/2020 21:42:28	Stefan Newell	Barrington	Na				
11/4/2020 22:15:25	Ian Nickerson	Barrington					
11/4/2020 23:35:52	Jocelyn Smith	North East Point, CSI					
11/4/2020 23:53:58	Ryan Ross	Cape sable island	N/A				
11/5/2020 5:43:23	Todd Brannen	Pubnico					
11/5/2020 5:43:41	Jill Brannen	Pubnico					
11/5/2020 5:44:07	Brenda Armstrong	Yarmouth					
11/5/2020 5:44:22	Janine Dixon	Tusket NS	N/a				
11/5/2020 5:44:27	Mike Armstrong	Tusket					
11/5/2020 5:44:46	Elaine Ross	Cape Sable Island					
11/5/2020 5:45:02	Chris Ross	Cape Sable Island					
11/5/2020 6:19:18	Shelley smith	Clark's harbour	n/a				
11/5/2020 6:19:55	corey smith	ckarks harbout	n/a				
11/5/2020 6:23:59	Makynzie Smith	Woods Harbour					
11/5/2020 6:39:30	Jolene Nickerson	North East Point, Cape Sable Island					
11/5/2020 7:00:33	Graydon Mood	Barrington, Nova Scotia	N/A				
11/5/2020 7:04:59	Maitlynn Dixon	Oak Park Barrington	Na				
11/5/2020 7:07:36	Stacey swim	Clarks harbour					
11/5/2020 7:26:48	Alexandra Stoddard	Port Clyde	N/A				
11/5/2020 7:30:07	Natina Fisher	North East Point	N/A				
11/5/2020 7:36:24	Rose Crowell	Bear Point	N/a				
11/5/2020 7:36:41	Kenda d'Eon Amiro	Pubnico	N/a				
11/5/2020 7:37:58	Larissa Nickerson	Centreville South Side Road					
11/5/2020 7:56:55	Karine Smith	Doctors Cove					
11/5/2020 8:27:04	Sandy Thorburn Goodwin	Barrington NS	N/a				
11/5/2020 8:27:51	Chris Goodwin	Barrington ns	N/a				
11/5/2020 8:28:23	Lindsey Nickerson	Barrington	N/A				
11/5/2020 8:39:04	Vanna Ross	Northeast point					
11/5/2020 8:44:20	Marina Williams	Port Clyde					
11/5/2020 9:04:26	Michelle Stoddard	Clyde River	N/A				
11/5/2020 9:23:23	Shauna Snow	Stoney Island	N/a				
11/5/2020 9:37:40	Della smith	Clark's Harbour Shelb. Cc	n/a				
11/5/2020 9:45:20	Joyce Newell	North East Point	NA				
11/5/2020 9:46:44	Karen Stoddard	Newellton	NA				
11/5/2020 9:47:15	Matt Stoddard	Newellton	Na				
11/5/2020 10:00:13	Stephen Maxwell	Beaverdam , Shelburne C	I fully agree with this letter.				
11/5/2020 10:16:38	Lori Smith	Newellton					
11/5/2020 10:34:23	Samantha Atkinson	Woods Harbour					
11/5/2020 10:56:30	Claire Newell	Centreville	N/a				
11/5/2020 11:00:46	sharon wolkins	wireless station rd					
11/5/2020 11:26:57	Kegin watt	Shag harbour	N/A				
11/5/2020 11:29:21	Jennifer messenger	Clark's harbour	N/a				
11/5/2020 11:35:17	Lorraine	Stoney Island	N/a				
11/5/2020 11:44:19	Karen	Cape sable island					
11/5/2020 12:04:55	Robin MacDougall	Beaverdam	N/a				
11/5/2020 12:47:28	Geri ross	Shag harbour					
11/5/2020 12:50:54	Gina Smith	Woods Harbour	Would love for more fans to be able to support our barons. Many siblings,step parents, grandparents etc. are being left out with such a low spectator limit				