

October 4, 2024

Government of Ontario - Ministry of Sport

Re: Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund – Stream 2

Dear Minister Neil Lumsden:

Please let this letter demonstrate our strong support for the City of Kitchener in their application for funding from the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund – Stream 2. The Sport Hosting Office at Explore Waterloo Region sees an existing deficit of gymnasium space in our community. We believe this facility will significantly enhance our Region and the potential for hosting sporting events in Kitchener.

If approved, the funding would be used toward the build of a new quad gymnasium with four (4) full-size basketball courts that could support a range of sports including volleyball, badminton, pickleball and others, as well as providing multi-purpose space for non-sport events and programs. With a 40-foot clear ceiling height and specialized flooring, the gym would support tournament level play at high performance levels and would enhance our region's capacity to host a wide variety of sporting events and tournaments, attracting visitors from across Ontario and beyond.

The demand for venues that can accommodate regional, provincial, and national competitions continues to grow, and this gymnasium would strengthen Waterloo Region's position in the sports tourism market; also contributing to the local economy. This space would create new opportunities for community engagement with state-of-the-art recreational opportunities, positively impacting local residents where we live, work, and play.

We fully support the City of Kitchener for this funding opportunity and are confident that the project will deliver substantial benefits to our community. The funding opportunity provided by the province to support sport infrastructure is essential and will allow for facilities to be built that not only serve the local community – but enhance Ontario's profile as a sport hosting destination on the national stage.



We appreciate your consideration of this application and look forward to the positive impact it will bring.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "MS", on a light blue background.

Michele Saran
CEO, Explore Waterloo Region

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Allister Scorgie", on a light blue background.

Allister Scorgie
Director, Sport Hosting, Explore Waterloo Region