



**KITCHENER-WATERLOO
YOUTH BASKETBALL
ASSOCIATION**

2012 OBA Club-of-the-Year



To whom it may concern

This is a letter of support for the City of Kitchener's grant application that would provide capitol funding towards a new quad gymnasium in the RPG Schlegel Park. The reasons for this support are many.

This infrastructure is long past due. With the tremendous growth in population in the region, we, the KW Youth Basketball Association, are having a very hard time keeping up with the demand for basketball training, teams and time because of a lack of facilities. Since the return from COVID all minor sport youth clubs are facing tremendous growth as parents are anxious to get their children into active sports, Indoors facilities in the Kitchener area are behind the times. Most other major population centers have already built newer facilities and are reaping the benefits from it.

This facility would not only allow minor sports clubs to have a place for their teams to practice but it would also allow the parent clubs to be able to host tournaments which would then bring people into the region spending money on hotels, restaurants and shopping. For the KW YBA this would mean hosting an event like the Ontario Basketball Association's Ontario Championships which draw thousands of parents for an entire weekend.

This new facility would be guaranteed long term tenants as the KW YBA would, as the city's minor sport affiliate for basketball, use as much time as they could rent for their team's practices and games.

It could also serve as a cornerstone in attracting larger sporting competitions such as Ontario Summer Games bids or Canada Games bids. Kitchener ended in 2nd place in the bid for the 2022 Canada Games as the main venue for basketball competition was not as good as that of Niagara Region.

As one of the fastest growing population centers in Ontario, Kitchener needs to get this facility built as soon as possible. This grant would expediate the process for us.

The KW Youth Basketball Association firmly and fully supports their request.

If you need any further information, do not hesitate to contact me by phone at (519) 573-4582 or email at mike@kwyba.com.

Thank You

Mike Quigley
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Director, KW YBA Vipers