



October 3, 2024

Dear Neil Lumsden,

I write to you today to lend my full support to the application from the City of Kitchener to the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund – Stream 2.

If approved, this grant will be used to support the construction of a facility that will function as part of a community hub. This facility will include much needed gymnasium space for members of our community. Kitchener is currently lacking facilities that can offer pickleball and para-pickleball programs, tournaments and special events. This new facility will create space for basketball, volleyball, badminton and pickleball players, and with the 40-foot ceiling height is perfectly suited for pickleball play. The sport of pickleball is the fastest growing sport in North America, and facilities are needed to meet the demand.

Our not-for-profit organization, Pickleball of Waterloo Wellington Region (POWWR), was incorporated in 2017 and has close to 600 members. POWWR lacks access to facilities to offer pickleball programs to all our Youth and Adult members. Our membership has doubled in the last year, and gymnasium space is urgently needed. Registrations for our pickleball programs fill up within the hour, leaving many members without a place to develop their skills and play the sport in a safe and welcoming environment.

A quad gymnasium with court dimensions that are designed for pickleball play will go a long way to meet the demand of the ever-expanding pickleball community. In partnership with the City of Kitchener, POWWR will be able to offer a variety of pickleball programs, including Drill & Play, Open Play, Clinics, Local and Regional Tournaments. Our organization has an energetic Board of Directors, Certified Coaches, experienced Volunteers and the drive to offer dozens of programs and tournaments throughout the year. All we lack is the facility to meet the growing demand.

By including pickleball courts in the design, this facility will be the hub of pickleball activities serving youth, adults, seniors and para-pickleball players. This project will enhance physical and mental wellness in our community and encourage intergenerational connections.

Sincerely,

Fiona MacGregor
President, Pickleball of Waterloo Wellington Region (POWWR)
www.powwr.ca