

North Cariboo Arena Replacement Project Frequently Asked Questions

Public Open Houses

Thursday, May 29 from 4-8 p.m.
Tuesday, June 3 from 4-8 p.m.
Saturday, June 7 from 1-5 p.m.
in the Quesnel Arena 2 lobby.

These open houses will provide an opportunity for residents to view the conceptual designs and provide feedback. Consultants will be there to answer questions about the proposed project.

Advance Voting Opportunities

Wednesday, June 4 - 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Monday, June 9 - 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

General Voting

Saturday, June 14 - 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

THE PROJECT

What is the proposed North Cariboo Arena Replacement Project?

The overall vision was the first step in the North Cariboo Arena Replacement Project and proposed the following:

- A 1,600 seat (approximately 62,000 square foot) arena with a regulation size ice surface and dry floor support space for arena programs and events;
- Located adjacent to the existing Twin Arenas complex;
- Constructed of engineered steel with wood architectural elements.

Public consultation through CEI Architecture is currently in process and accordingly, the overall vision may slightly change. The design has to make sense.

What are the advantages of the preferred location?

Co-locating the arenas will provide better event hosting capabilities and potential operational savings due to efficiencies related to the co-location.

What will the pre-referendum design include?

The pre-referendum design will include the following:

- a site plan;
- a basic floor plan;
- flow of traffic in the immediate area;
- parking in the area (including accessibility parking);
- renderings of form and character of what the building could look like.

It should be noted that these conceptual drawings presented prior to the referendum

reflect the initial stages of consultation and design work. If the referendum is successful, additional public consultation will occur. The design will continue to be developed and may be adjusted based on community input.

Why can't we renovate the existing arena?

It has been determined that a renovation of the existing arena does not provide good value to the taxpayer. The arena is nearly 60 years old and does not comply with the current building code, is inaccessible, and has an ice surface that is not regulation size. The cost to address these problems through a renovation is likely to result in significant use of taxpayer money on a facility that ultimately does not meet the needs of the community. Facility renovations significantly increase the financial risk to a project and can be expected to result in reduced value. Complete replacement of the facility on the same site is similarly not considered optimal as it will result in the loss of an arena for approximately 18 months, which will negatively impact ongoing arena and community programs and events, and because the site itself is limited in its ability to accommodate increased spectator capacity.

Where can I find more information about the proposed North Cariboo Arena Replacement Project?

More information on this project is available on the Cariboo Regional District website at cariboord.bc.ca or the City of Quesnel website at quesnel.ca, or by calling the Cariboo Regional District at 1-800-665-1636 or the City of Quesnel at 250-992-2111.

COSTS

What is the cost of the proposed facility?

Consistent with this project vision, the loan authorization bylaw is prepared for the borrowing of up to \$7.5 M to allow for an estimated \$17 M arena replacement.

What is the cost of borrowing?

The annual cost of borrowing \$7.5 million is \$26/\$100,000 of assessed residential value over 20 years, independent of other adjustments that may impact the overall budget.

Where do I find this line item (North Cariboo Recreation and Parks) on my property tax notice?

If you are within the North Cariboo Recreation and Parks Service Boundary, this item will be listed as SUBREG REC – res.

How much money has been secured to date for the project?

Approximately \$9.9 million has been secured to date for the project. This includes grants, pledges, donations, and an allocation from capital reserves as follows:

- Province of British Columbia grant - \$ 4 million
- Northern Development Initiative Trust grant - \$ 2 million
- Allocation from capital reserves - \$ 2.2 million
- Donations and pledges - \$ 1.7 million

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REFERENDUM

A referendum will be held on June 14, 2014 to seek voter assent for the Arena Replacement Project for the North Cariboo. Eligible voters who reside within the North Cariboo Recreation and Parks service area will be asked to vote on the bylaw authorizing the borrowing required to proceed with the project.

What will the referendum question be?

“Are you in favour of the Cariboo Regional District adopting Loan Authorization Bylaw 4905 to borrow up to \$7.5 million over 20 years to provide for the construction of a new arena as part of the North Cariboo Recreation and Parks Service? (Based on 2014 assessed values, the estimated annual cost to undertake this borrowing translates to a residential tax rate of \$26/\$100,000 of the net taxable assessed value of land and improvements.)”

If the referendum is successful on June 14, what happens next?

We've got a plan. From June 15 to groundbreaking.

- design work will continue with additional public consultation;
- fundraising efforts will begin and lobbying of senior levels of government will continue;
- construction is anticipated to start in the spring of 2015, with a targeted completion date of September 2016.

What happens next if the referendum fails?

The North Cariboo Joint Planning Committee will determine the next steps.

Why a June referendum versus voting at the November elections? What is the urgency?

- If the referendum were held in November and was successful, there would not be sufficient time to start construction in the spring of 2015. This would effectively result in the loss of a year as construction would likely be delayed until the spring of 2016.
- A delay in the start of construction by a year may jeopardize funding that has been secured for the project. On April 16, 2014, the Northern Development Initiative Trust Board agreed to extend the \$2 million funding approved for the project “subject to confirmation of other funding sources and the project starting construction by June 2015.”

The Province has agreed to extend the deadline for the \$4 million grant, which is critical to the project, however if the project does not proceed in a timely manner there is a risk that these funds may also be withdrawn.

- The Joint Planning Committee received substantial positive support to go to an earlier referendum from the comment forms and the public meetings held this spring.
- The referendum will be held prior to summer holidays during which a good number of residents leave the area for vacation.

Who can vote?

There are two types of voters. Resident and Non-resident.

Resident: You can vote if you live in the North Cariboo Recreation and Parks (NCRP) service area. You MUST: be a Canadian citizen; be at least 18 years old; have lived in BC for at least the last six months and in the area for at least the last 30 days.

Non-resident: You can vote if you own property in the NCRP service area but live elsewhere in BC. You must also be a Canadian citizen, be at least 18 years old, and have lived in BC for at least the last six months. For non-resident voters, there are additional documentation requirements that may need to be completed before the day you vote. We strongly recommend that you contact the Chief Election Officer prior to voting day at (250) 392-3351 or 1-800-665-1636 OR the Deputy Chief Election Officer at (250) 992-2111.

What do I bring?

You must bring at least two pieces of ID. One of them must have a signature. Between the two, they should prove your address, but if you do not have something with your current address you are allowed to make a formal declaration of residency. Picture identification is not necessary. Typical examples of ID that people use are driver's license, BCID, CareCard, credit card, SIN, status card, bank card, firearms license, etc. Even a utility bill will work as a secondary piece of ID. Please note that the new BC Services card only counts as one piece of identification.

What if I will be away on all three voting opportunities, or I am physically unable to attend?

Mail ballot voting is available for those who will be away on all voting opportunities; are physically unable to attend a voting station; or reside more than 90 kilometres from the closest polling station. You can request a mail ballot by phoning the Chief Election Officer starting on May 20 until 4 p.m. on June 12. A mail ballot package will be sent to you and you are able to drop it off or mail it back. It must be received no later than 8 p.m. on June 14, 2014 to be counted.

When and where can I vote?

There are two advance voting opportunities, in addition to general voting day. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of these advance voting opportunities because there is lower voter turnout on these days and therefore less time spent waiting in line.

Both advance voting opportunities will take place in the CD Hoy Room in Quesnel City Hall on the following dates:

Wednesday, June 4 - 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Monday, June 9 - 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

General voting day is Saturday, June 14 - 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the following locations:

- **Red Bluff School**,
1533 Maple Drive, Quesnel
- **Parkland Community Hall**,
5016 Bjornson Road, Quesnel
- **Bouchie Lake Elementary School**,
2074 Blackwater Road, Quesnel
- **Barlow Creek Elementary School**,
816 Barkerville Hwy, Quesnel
- **West Fraser Fire Hall**,
243 Jackpine Flats Road, Quesnel
- **Quesnel Legion Branch #94**,
262 Kinchant Street, Quesnel

Questions about voting?

Call or email:

Alice Johnston, Chief Election Officer
(Cariboo Regional District)
(250) 392-3351 or 1-800-665-1636
ajohnston@cariboord.ca

Gina Albers, Deputy Chief Election Officer
(City of Quesnel)
(250)992-2111
galbers@quesnel.ca

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quesnel.ca 250-992-2111
Cariboo Regional District
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