

THE CITY OF DAWSON

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING #C23-20

This is to inform you a special meeting of City Council will be held as follows:

DATE OF MEETING: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023
PLACE OF MEETING: COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY OFFICE
TIME OF MEETING: 6:30 PM
PURPOSE OF MEETING:

1. In Camera-Land Related Matter

Date Meeting Requested: December 18, 2023
Meeting Requested By: William Kendrick, Mayor

Original signed by:
A/CAO, Paul Robitaille

December 18, 2023
Date

REQUEST FOR SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING #C23-20

As per Municipal Act Section 184, Special Meetings must be requested in writing by either:
a) Mayor
b) Two Councillors

Date of Request: December 18, 2023
Special Council Meeting request by: William Kendrick, Mayor

Original signed by:
Mayor, William Kendrick

December 19, 2023
Date



Community Services
Community Development Division
PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

December 18, 2023

David Henderson
Chief Administrative Officer
City of Dawson
1336 Front Street
Dawson City, YT Y0B 1G0
cao@cityofdawson.ca

VIA EMAIL

Dear CAO Henderson:

Re: City of Dawson Recreation Centre Funding

I am writing to provide additional clarity regarding the budget and development of Dawson's new recreation centre. We are at a pivotal phase in this project, and it is crucial we maintain a shared understanding as we progress to the next stage of development.

In August 2022, the Minister of Community Services confirmed in a letter to Council the Government of Yukon's decision to increase the project budget to \$60 million. Subsequently, the 2023-2024 capital-planning process acknowledged cost escalations in the construction sector, resulting in a revised capital budget of \$65.6 million for the facility.

The draft schematic design presented to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and City of Dawson councils on November 14 was the culmination of work to incorporate the community's vision for the facility and services the city seeks to operate. This vision informed the draft schematic design, which included cost estimates, energy modelling results, updated building layouts, and 3D renderings. A detailed presentation of the draft schematic design and cost estimates occurred at the Dawson City Council meeting on December 5. Unfortunately, the estimates for the project proposed from that process indicate a \$95 million construction cost, surpassing the \$65.6 million capital budget.

The operations and maintenance costs have also been projected through this process at \$1.54 million per year. I understand the City of Dawson's current estimates for operating the new recreation centre are \$1.24 million per year, an increase of approximately \$300,000 per year.

The Dawson Recreation Centre must be designed within the project construction budget and within municipal operations and maintenance considerations. We must now focus on a process to refine both capital construction and operating and maintenance costs to fit the available budget. This requires a clear plan for reducing costs and the reconsideration of certain components or altered designs.

The project team will work with city administration to maximize the \$65.6 million budget and ensure the facility reflects the municipalities' priorities for recreation services to the community. The budget and approach were conveyed in a meeting between the Minister of Community Services and Mayor Kendrick on December 1, 2023, and again by the project team in the presentation to Dawson City council on December 5, 2023.

In January 2024, the Infrastructure Development branch is seeking Dawson City Council's acknowledgment of the following process, either with a council resolution or response to this letter. I would additionally like to provide the following timeline and steps that we can expect over the next few months:

From January to April 2024, the project team will move forward with the procurement and hiring of a design team who will be engaged to see the project through design phases and construction. Throughout this process, we will continue to work closely with municipal staff and keep Council informed on progress.

In the spring and summer of 2024, the contracted design team will lead us in the necessary revision of the schematic design to bring the project within budget while maximizing the components of the facility and the potential recreation services offered by the city. Input from the project team, stakeholders, and municipal council will occur throughout this process. With careful attention, we will create an outstanding and affordable facility that aligns with the community's vision. The revised design will be brought back to Council for consideration.

During the timelines above, the project team will continue to advance various regulatory approvals and environmental assessments. We will carefully manage these timelines to allow the project to move forward and ensure site preparation starts in 2024, with construction to follow in late 2024 or 2025.

I am confident that through a dynamic and collaborative approach we can ensure a facility that meets community needs, maximizes the services provided, and stays within the project budget. Additionally, we can ensure the ongoing costs align with the city's capital, operations, and maintenance budget. The continued support and leadership from the City of Dawson are crucial

as we navigate these next important phases. The commitment and collaboration between the project team and the Dawson City Council and staff have brought us this far, and I am confident that, together, we can navigate the challenges ahead. I appreciate your dedication to this project and await your indication of readiness to proceed.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to reach out. I look forward to our continued partnership and bringing this project to fruition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Damien Burns', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Damien Burns
Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Development
Community Services, Government of Yukon
867-332-0642

cc. Paul Robitaille, A/CAO
recmanager@cityofdawson.ca