



East Hants Curling Association
1157 Hwy 2
Lantz, Nova Scotia B2S 1T6

17 December 2012

The Honourable Bernard Valcourt, ACOA
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

The Honourable Peter MacKay
509s Centre Block
House Of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

The Honourable Scott Armstrong
House Of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Scott Brison, MP
915 Confederation Building
House Of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

MULTI PURPOSE CURLING FACILITY
EAST HANTS CURLING ASSOCIATION (EHCA) – LANTZ- NOVA SCOTIA

I am communicating to enhance my earlier correspondence with you in regards to funding for a Multi-Purpose Curling Facility in East Hants, Lantz, Nova Scotia. The EHCA letter previously dated 29 August 2012 contained details and the EHCA Business Plan. This letter provides amplifying information to strengthen our “ask” for Federal Government funding.

Mr. Bernard Valcourt, this is my first direct communications with you, so I have included a Business Plan and other correspondence that are applicable to this specific “ask”. Thank you for your time.

The goal of the East Hants Curling Association has been since 1993 to construct a Multi-Purpose Curling Facility in East Hants. The Business Plan delineates all the details so I will not repeat those items in this letter to ensure brevity and each of you now have a copy of the Business Plan and it is also available at www.easthantscurling.ca.

The EHCA, was incorporated as a Not-For-Profit on 30 December 2008 Registry Number 3233708 and has been seeking funding partners for the better part of five (5) years. The EHCA applied during the Federal Government Stimulus package and unfortunately did not have municipal funding at the time, funding has been secured from the Municipality of East Hants in the amount of \$850,000 - \$900,000., which consists of money and land.

The EHCA has an active funding “ask” on file with the Nova Scotia Provincial government presently.

The Federal funding “ask” in response to my letter of 29 August 2012 initially began with talking and meeting with Mr. Chris Storseth, ACOA at the suggestion of Jennifer Wadden from MP Peter MacKay’s Halifax office. This conversation was very good, but support is presently not available under the present working mandate. Mr. Storseth was extremely helpful to EHCA, met the undersigned at the building site, presented the EHCA funding request to management, but again not fully within their mandate. I will explain and add additional details so that the EHCA mandate can be further amplified as I believe there is a case for funding support. I will provide part of Mr. Chris Storseth’s reply to me: Quote: *I’ve had my discussions with my senior program managers and have hard news for you. As anticipated, we don’t see a fit with our Innovative Communities Fund for a number of factors along the lines we discussed when we met on-site.*

I am available to discuss further – just let me know if you want me to contact you at one of the numbers below. I’m not sure how far afield our toll free number works (1-800-565-1228, ask to be transferred to Chris Storseth) or you can call me directly at 902-867-6075. Regards, Chris. Unquote. I have since spoken with Mr. Chris Storseth and hence this communications to further explain the EHCA application agenda.

The EHCA has a working partnership with Maritime Lumber Bureau and Atlantic Wood Works to build an iconic SHOWCASE building that could be utilized to the benefit of the Nova Scotia forestry industry and the communities within the “centre of the forestry industry” in Nova Scotia.

In the review process the EHCA envisioned that our project would fit well into the Innovative Community Fund program guidelines. The sustainable economic growth for Nova Scotia and indeed Canada that the SHOWCASE building would make visible: an important supporting icon. It is felt that there are tangible and non-tangible or direct and non-direct benefits to support this extremely worthwhile project. There are immediate economic spinoffs for construction, employment in construction, infrastructure for a community in need of a facility and an iconic SHOWCASE building for the community and the Nova Scotia forestry industry, Maritime Lumber Bureau and Atlantic Wood Works. EHCA believes this project to be of a long term financial benefit to the area, Nova Scotia and indeed Canada. The facility would be a positive contributor to the area, the forest industry and indeed the building would be an iconic beacon for promotion of wood products. The building will be an example of wood construction and its many usages in both household and commercial applications. The Multi-purpose facility would be a very visible and valuable resource with significant potential in many, many financial perspectives for Nova Scotia, East Hants, Maritimes and Canada.

The effect on long term employment would be felt immediately by direct employment within the Multi-purpose Curling Facility and the economic mainstays of the areas such as Elmsdale Lumber, Ledwidge Lumber, Goodfellows Wholesale, Home Hardware stores (3), RONA, truckers, mills, forestry workers and the supporting jobs, indirect and direct, from the industry. This multi-purpose year around facility would only increase the visibility and strengths of the East Hants area and community. East Hants is

strategically located within minutes of the Halifax International Airport and many of the employees live in the immediate area.

The Multi-purpose Curling Facility has the full support of the East Hants Municipality, Maritime Lumber Bureau and the Not-For-Profit EHCA has a dedicated Board of Directors. The economic capacity of the facility has both immediate and long term financial benefits: the direct support to the health and welfare of the local business community is immense; providing a facility for use and to improve quality of life; participation to the benefit of all citizens in a variety of activities. The soul of a community is its ability to gather and share and this facility would be an addition of a better living space in an area that has very limited public meeting places and would fill a void that presently exists. The ability to hold sports competitions in a variety of disciplines would be improved as the building would have the capacity to initiate and sponsor functions and the Sportsplex facility could be used to complement the EHCA efforts to stimulate the local economy. There are many items in a community that make up the economic mosaic and the Multi-purpose Curling Facility as year round facility would be dynamic.

Summary

The requested funding support for the Multi-purpose Curling Facility, with the full support of the Municipality of East Hants, partnership with Maritime Lumber Bureau, Atlantic Wood Works in support of the Nova Scotia and local forestry industry which includes: mills, forestry workers and truckers can only improve the profile of both the East Hants Community and the Nova Scotia forestry with such a SHOWCASE that will serve as an iconic example for decades. This one time commitment which will permit a self supporting EHCA organization to move forward and serve the community of East Hants with a Multi-Purpose Curling Facility will bode well now and into the future. A win, win for all.

I am forwarding with hopes one Federal Maritime representative and three Nova Scotia representatives will sit down as a group and discuss the merits of this project: MP Mr. Valcourt, ACOA; MP Peter MacKay, Nova Scotia, as Nova Scotia Representative; MP Scott Brison, Kings-Hants representative; and MP Scott Armstrong, Maritime Lumber Bureau Headquarters riding. You are our representatives and I would like you to meet to discuss this important community project and receive a reply so that EHCA is able to move forward and hopefully with immediate Federal Support.

I thank each of you for your consideration and I am hoping that as a collective team at the Federal level that the Nova Scotia East Hants project funding "ask" could be realized. I look forward to your reply.

Harold MacNeil
Director, East Hants Curling Association

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