



SUMMERLAND COMMUNITY RECREATION & HEALTH CENTRE Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Updated October 7, 2020

Why is a replacement for the Aquatic and Fitness Centre needed?

Public engagement during the Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2018) identified replacing the Aquatic and Fitness Centre as one of the highest priorities for the community. The Facility Condition Assessment (2018) also found that:

- Most building systems were past their expected lifespan,
- The facility is energy inefficient, using 86% more energy by size than the average swimming pool, and
- The facility spaces are not meeting community needs.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan identified replacement of the existing facility as the best option. In 2019, Council confirmed that the replacement of the Summerland Aquatic & Fitness Centre and that the consideration of a new Recreation Centre and Health Centre was a strategic priority for the District of Summerland.

Why is a healthcare centre being considered?

Currently, 12,000 residents in Summerland and Penticton are without a family doctor; this number is expected to reach 22,000 within 3-5 years. Family physicians and nurse practitioners are attracted to environments where they can work as a team with nurses, allied health professionals, and other service providers. A centralized location for a primary health clinic in the District of Summerland would help attract and retain doctors and other health professionals.

This Needs Assessment will seek to better understand what is needed for a primary health clinic and how it might work as part of a new community recreation centre.

How is the School District involved?

The School District is an important partner in this project for a number of reasons:

- The current Aquatic and Fitness Centre is located on School District 67 property - across the street from Summerland Secondary School;
- The gymnasium at the secondary school – which also hosts some community recreation programs during evenings and weekends - needs to be replaced;
- While the District of Summerland does not currently have a public gymnasium, flexible indoor recreation space has been identified as a need.

With all these factors in play, we will be working closely with the School District throughout the project.

How much will the facility cost?

The cost of the facility will depend on the size and types of amenities that are included. While there could be grants and partnership funding, much of the cost will land with District of Summerland taxpayers. We are seeking clarity from the community on how much should be invested in this facility.

Based on current square foot project costs, a **facility** that is the **same size as the current facility would cost approximately \$15 to 19 million. A facility that is 50% larger would cost approximately \$22.5 to \$26 million.**

A Primary Care Health Clinic of 8,000 to 10,000 square feet would **add another \$4 to \$6 million** in costs.

What is the Summerland Community Recreation & Health Centre Steering Committee?

The Project Steering Committee is a collaborative partnership between the District of Summerland, School District 67, Interior Health, and the South Okanagan Similkameen Division of Family Practice. It includes local doctors. The partner organizations agree that this process is a way to fulfill many community needs including the replacement of the Summerland Aquatic & Fitness Centre, a new high school gymnasium, clinic space for primary health care, as well as emerging needs such as child care spaces, youth services, and other health-related needs.

When did this Community Engagement & Needs Assessment project get started?

On Monday, July 27th the consultants for the Consultation and Needs Assessment for Summerland Community Recreation & Health Centre officially launched the project with a presentation to District Council. Glen Stokes, principal of Carscadden, Stokes, McDonald Architects and Megan Turnock, principal of LEES+Associates Planners and Landscape Architects, described and heard feedback on the plans for public and stakeholder engagement. Council is very excited to see this project move forward.

“It was exciting to receive the presentation from Carscadden & Lees that lays out the timeline and a number of opportunities for community engagement,” said Summerland Mayor Toni Boot. “This is a large and comprehensive project that will benefit everyone in the community. The District needs to hear early in the process what the community identifies as service gaps in Summerland. Council is pleased that—even in this time of the pandemic—we are pressing on and getting the input that is critical for success.”

Has a site location for this proposed new facility been determined?

No, this phase of the project is to identify community and facility needs. Once the Needs Assessment has been completed and the size and scope of the facility has been determined, a site location review will be completed to confirm a preferred site.

Will the existing gymnasium remain while the new one is being built?

No, the existing gymnasium will be demolished first, and the new gymnasium will be built on the same footprint.

Would the health centre include mental health services, additions services, and services needed by low income people?

Yes, we are considering what the community needs in terms of broad health and wellness services.

Has a business model been adopted that outlines how various agencies will contribute to the overall capital and operating costs?

No, a business model has not been determined. The current priority is to establish what the community needs are and then to explore location, cost, feasibility, funding, and partnerships.

Will the future referendum be presented with a breakdown on what each step/component costs?

The referendum has not been developed yet but will be supported by the information the public needs to make an informed decision.

Can the timing of this project take advantage of the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program that is available right now?

The CERIP program requires projects to be fully completed by March 2023 which does not fit with this project timeline. We are taking the required steps to be “shovel-ready” as quickly as possible. We will be monitoring all funding opportunities and submitting applications where applicable.

Will the future pool allow for competition? Will it be 25m or 50m? How many lanes will be included?

We are currently exploring what the community needs in terms of replacing the existing aquatic centre and recommendations will be presented later this fall.