

Dear Mayor and Council,

On behalf of the Mackenzie Figure Skating club, I would like to express my dismay regarding the closure of the recreation centre on Sundays and Mondays.

As many of you know, the limited ice time available is currently split up between figure skating, hockey, curling, speed skating, and public skating. To start, taking away the Monday ice time would result in these organizations getting less ice time than we already do.

As a former figure skater and current figure skating coach, I am disgusted that council would consider something that takes away from the youth in this community. Our club has operated Monday to Friday for as long as it has been a part of Mackenzie and will hopefully continue to do so in the future.

Sundays are a vital day for the facility to be open as many parents take advantage of the pool, play gym, and rink as a safe place to spend quality time with their children especially when the weather is poor. Many sports organizations and people of the community rely on these activities. Hockey and lacrosse tournaments happen on Saturdays and Sundays. Figure skating seminars and shows occur on Saturdays and Sundays. How are tournaments and events supposed to happen if the facility is closed?

I understand the staffing issues and budget cuts that are in the works, however, I do believe that closing a vital hub in our community is not the way to achieve the best results for your budgets.

Please consider this letter in your decision.

Sincerely,

Allison McDonald