



Mackenzie Minor Hockey

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Mackenzie, BC

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February 26, 2025

Mayor and Council
District of Mackenzie
1 Mackenzie Blvd, Bag 340
Mackenzie, BC V0J 2C0

Dear Mayor and Council,

On behalf of Mackenzie Minor Hockey, we want to begin by expressing our appreciation for the recent upgrades to the Mackenzie Recreation Centre. The improvements, particularly to the ice surface, have been well received and are essential for maintaining a quality facility for our community and visiting teams. We look forward to the final phase of repairs to the arena floor scheduled for completion this summer.

However, we would like to bring forward a pressing concern that has been raised repeatedly over the course of this hockey season—the extreme cold inside the arena. While we recognize the importance of maintaining proper ice conditions, the temperatures within the facility, particularly during cold weather events, have become a serious issue. This concern was most recently highlighted during the U11 tournament (February 15/ 16, 2025), where temperatures outside dipped below -30°C.

Throughout the season, we have received numerous complaints from both local and out-of-town teams regarding the cold conditions inside the rink. During the U11 tournament, coaches reported that players were on the verge of tears due to the cold, and in some cases, teams were forced to sit players who could not tolerate the extreme temperatures. Additionally, young officials learning to referee the game have struggled with the cold temperatures as they can not wear coats and other winter gear while officiating. Some teams have even indicated that they may reconsider attending future tournaments in Mackenzie due to these conditions.

Beyond the discomfort, there are significant concerns regarding player safety. Exposure to extreme cold during high-intensity physical activity increases the risk of muscle stiffness, reduced reaction times, and potential injury. The risk is even greater for younger athletes, who may not yet have the physical resilience to endure such conditions.



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We are hopeful that solutions can be explored to improve the heating situation within the arena while still maintaining proper ice conditions for next season. Whether it be adjustments to the existing heating system, additional insulation, or other potential remedies, we are eager to work with the District to find a way forward.

Mackenzie Minor Hockey is committed to fostering a safe and enjoyable environment for our players, officials, and visiting teams. We appreciate your time and attention to this matter and look forward to discussing potential solutions to ensure that our arena remains a welcoming venue for all.

Sincerely,

Cherri Carlson
President, Mackenzie Minor Hockey

Justin Hawkins
Vice President, Mackenzie Minor Hockey

cc: Mackenzie Recreation Centre Management
Mackenzie Minor Hockey Executive