

Dear District of Mackenzie Council and Staff,

This is Khristian (Laroche) and Kate (Elliott). We regularly attend council meetings via Zoom or the District's YouTube channel. We're sending this email to all councillors.

We watched the council meeting last night and were grateful for time given to the discussion about the proposed slide and its impact on the full use of the pool's swim lanes.

Full disclosure: we are not affiliated in any way with the Rainbow swim club; we are simply interested residents here in Mackenzie.

Since moving here, we've been hearing about the difficult financial situation the District is facing, impacts that include having to close the rec centre for at least one day a week, and not being able to offer complimentary rec centre passes to groups who have requested them (as discussed at a couple of meetings over the past few months). We completely understand and support these decisions.

The purchase of such an expensive slide seem contradictory to these cost-saving measures.

We see full use of the pool — recreational infrastructure that already exists — as the key priority.

Further, we found the arguments offered by representatives of the swim team extremely compelling.

The 6-lane pool benefits not just the local swim team and local lane swimmers but also potentially a larger network of competitive swimmers in the region. We know what it's like being required to participate in a certain number of hosted events in order to qualify

for upper levels of competition. A network of fully functioning pools is integral to that access.

Building on many of the recreational plans to increase tourism to Mackenzie (such as the highly praised bike trails, and the disc golf proposal), a fully functioning swimming pool (with 6 lanes and 6 secure starting blocks) would benefit more than just the swim team.

As someone who used to swim competitively (Kate speaking here), I remember swim meets as whole-family events. This did not mean that all family members spent the entire day at the pool: some would explore the town and various local attractions/activities. We can easily imagine this would be true of out-of-town families travelling to a swim meet hosted at the Mackenzie pool.

However, this is possible only if Mackenzie has a pool that can accommodate a swim meet that ends at a reasonable time. The loss of a lane, as observed by the swim team spokespeople last night, adds extra heats and extra hours, compromising the feasibility of a well-attended swim meet.

The slide currently seems like a huge expense and potential barrier when the town may have a possible economic opportunity to host competitive swim events — particularly if Prince George is recommending Mackenzie for a meet that PG cannot host in the coming months.

If there is future discussion about this, we give consent for this email to be included in the public agenda.

Many thanks for all the work you do. We're so grateful to have such a hardworking council and staff.

Sincerely,

Khristian Laroche & Kate Elliott