HOCKEY CALGARY

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Date: November 17, 2026 #2604
To: HC Families, HC Member Club President's, Administrators
From: Kevin Kobelka – Executive Director
CC: HC Board

SUBJECT: City of Calgary Budget 2027-2030

As most of you are aware the City of Calgary released the proposed budget for the 2027-2030 budget cycle last week. Based on the Gameplan documents released by the City of Calgary last year, we expected to see funding going towards recreation infrastructure including arena facilities. We were dismayed to see minimal investment in 'ice facilities', and even more surprised to see a significant increased in proposed 'youth prime ice rates'.

1. **No additional ice facilities planned for the 2027-2030 time period.**
    a. No mention of, or funding support for the addition of a 4th sheet of ice at Flames Community Arena. This arena is operated by SWAS (SW Arena Society), is privately operated and plans for the 4th sheet were in place when the 3rd sheet was added. This would be the lowest cost and fastest initiative to secure more ice for the Calgary market
    b. No mention of, or funding support for another sheet of ice at Westside Rec (which also has plans in place) or for the Flourish Center project, in Alpine Park (which adds, ice, gyms, field houses, libraries and cultural spaces), These are more long term projects, 4-5 years.
2. **Increased rental ice rates for 2027 and beyond at city facilities**
    a. Youth prime rates proposed increase of +17.6%, 2% in subsequent years
    b. Adult prime rates proposed increase of +7%, 2 % in subsequent years
    c. User rates at arenas, pools, and fields proposed increase of only 3.1%

NOTE: Hockey Calgary and our member clubs are 'not for profit societies', and **the ice costs make up 65 – 70% cost of family's registration fees**. If approved, increases of approximately 17% will have to be passed on to the member base.

It is our understanding that the next step in the process is for council to review the recommendations that have come forward from administration and make a final decision on the overall budget and spending priorities for the city for the next 4 years. This deliberation period happens over the next 3 weeks.

Calgary needs to hear from you!

As part of the **Keep Calgary Playing** campaign, we are encouraging families to speak directly to City Council during the November 23 public hearing on the proposed 2027–2030 budget or contact your city councillor directly.

Over 2,000 Calgarians already showed support via their pledge to the **Keep Calgary Playing** campaign; their testimonial and experience have been shared with Councillors.

Like you, we believe **children deserve the opportunity to play safely, in their own communities and at reasonable times.** Families should not have to travel outside Calgary, accept unreasonably late practices or give up opportunities because suitable facilities are unavailable.

We ask that all families support this initiative and share with council the concerns that expensive ice rates and a lack of facilities will have on enabling your children and others to remain involved in the great game of hockey.

Regards,



Kevin Kobelka
Executive Director