



THE SHA HOCKEY CLUB

Deputation to the City of Toronto Budget Committee regarding ice permit rental increase

The Board of the SHA Hockey Club is unanimous in its rejection of the proposed plans for a more than 7% increase in the cost of ice rentals at City of Toronto arenas. Given the current levels of service and maintenance of arena complexes in Scarborough, we believe any increase is out of line and without justification. As a non-profit organization providing an important recreational program to more than 1000 families and children in Scarborough, we are currently hard pressed to offer a cost effective program for these children to experience the joy of playing Canada's most popular team sport-ice hockey. Because of the demographics of our local community, many of our families are not in a position to afford the cost of hockey without the benefit of the low cost program we are able to offer. More than 10% of our families currently depend on corporate or private sponsorship to provide their children with the recreational benefits of hockey. Ice costs represent more than 2/3's of our total expenses (more than \$350,000 annually) and any increase in ice costs resulting from this proposed adjustment could not be easily absorbed by these families and would result in their withdrawal from this important fitness program. And in a recent survey completed by Hockey Canada and Bauer Canada, Scarborough was identified as a region where hockey is declining because of the cost and the large influx of immigrants with lower incomes.

As the largest ice permit holder within the Scarborough area, we have also experienced the impacts of recent service cuts to City of Toronto arenas, in particular the facilities of the Don Montgomery complex. Day and night time cleaning services of washroom and dressing rooms have deteriorated resulting in an unhealthy environment. Washrooms and dressing room shower facilities have been inoperable for lengthy period of time resulting in unsanitary conditions for players and spectators. Make shift arena glass has become the norm in recent years. These conditions exist in spite of fee increases in the past few years of more than 10%. Several recent photographs are attached that support these issues.

The image of both the SHA Hockey Club as well as the City of Toronto has suffered as a result and we believe the City needs to take positive actions to address these issues. In the absence of concrete actions and actual improvement in the operation and maintenance of these facilities, we find your plans for such a substantial increase to be unjustified and without merit.

We would be happy to meet with city officials including our new mayor and our city councilor to further outline these concerns and to develop a plan for an improvement of these facilities. Once an action plan has been developed, we are then prepared to discuss a change in the current ice rental costs.

Regards,

The Board of Directors of the SHA Hockey Club

www.syhl.ca

416 267-9431

January 9, 2015

Copy: Mr. John Tory, Mayor, City of Toronto
Ms. Michele Berardinetti, Ward 35 councillor
Mr. Ed Wahl, President, SHA Hockey Club
Mr. Bruce Hamilton, Director and Chair, Board of the SHA Hockey Club

