

# Submission by John Rudd, West End Curling Committee

# EX9.5.39

## West End Curling Committee presentation

Dear Mayor Tory and City of Toronto Executive Council Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

My name is John Rudd and like my colleagues, I'm speaking on behalf of the West End Curling Committee.

The closing of private curling facilities in Etobicoke has many impacts. Our group has spent the last year working tirelessly to fill the void left by these closings.

In the package you have received is a summary of the elected officials and Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff we have contacted and an abbreviated timeline showing when that contact occurred. We have done our best to ensure the key people and groups know about the critical position of curling today and the serious need for action. Curling is far too important to our community to let it wither and die.

We have a vision for a strong, vibrant curling community in west Toronto. That vision is not just within our committee. That vision is shared across Toronto, across Ontario and across Canada.

Your package includes a collection of formal Letters of Support from major sporting organizations that agree with the creation of our new curling facility.

Curling Canada, Ontario Curling Association, Ontario Curling Council, Toronto Curling Association, Toronto Blind Curling Club, Special Olympics Ontario, Wheel-Chair Curlers, and Humber Seniors Curling Club

We have a petition for the creation a new curling facility signed by members of our community. It is growing daily (currently at over 800 people).

Curling is part of the social fabric of the community. Curlers meet, mingle, socialize, and make life-long friends in the traditions of curling.

Your package includes a collection of personal curling stories submitted as part of a fundraising contest we entered with Kraft Heinz. These stories are heartfelt expressions of what curling means to each of the 29 individuals who wrote them. Unfortunately we didn't win the contest but the stories show how deep the love for curling goes. Here's a couple of examples ...

"Last season, my granddaughter started Little Rock's which teaches the game using smaller stones. She loved it so much that she wants to continue. Sadly after this coming season, Etobicoke will no longer have a curling facility"

"I have been curling nearly 30 years....it is my life in the winter. Not only is it exercise for the body but it stimulates the brain. At 90 plus, it involves me in the community and keeps me in touch with younger people...and that is very important as one ages."

And it goes on and on.

Curling is for everyone and it is for life. Curling is inclusive and diverse. These are principals we will enshrine in our new curling facility. We will make sure that if someone wants to curl, we will help them to curl. We know that curling includes:

All ages (7-97), all genders including LGBTQ; all cultural groups; all socio-economic groups; all ethnic groups; all levels of ability including blind, Special Olympics, wheel-chair and more; all academic levels from kindergarten to university or collage; all religious affiliations; and all professional & business groups such as teachers, church groups, private companies, and more.

In closing, yes, curling is for everyone and it is far too important to our west Toronto community to let it wither and die. The city can be a powerful and important partner. We would love to partner with the city to keep curling alive and well in west Toronto.