

# NORTH CARIBOO multi-centre

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the Multi-Centre?**

The proposed Multi-Centre is a new facility containing a 2,000-seat NHL-sized arena, a 450-seat performing arts theatre and accompanying event and assembly space. The facilities combined could become a destination point for conventions and trade shows in addition to their traditional uses.

### **What's happening now?**

#### ***Design work***

The Multi-Centre Design Advisory Committee is currently working on the preliminary design for the building. A contractor has been hired to assist with this process.

The committee will take the project to the point where a Request For Proposals for a Design-Build project can be issued. This will be complete by mid-October. At that point all funding must be in place before any more work can be done.

#### ***Lobbying***

The Cariboo Regional District has submitted a grant application to the Building Canada infrastructure program in hopes of securing the remaining \$15 million.

This project remains a top priority for the City and CRD. Both City and Cariboo Regional District elected officials continue to actively lobby representatives from senior government in hopes of securing the funding that will allow the project to proceed.

### **Will I have to pay for the Multi-Centre?**

You must live or own property within the North Cariboo Recreation and Parks boundary before you pay taxes to support recreation in the North Cariboo, including the costs of constructing and maintaining the proposed Multi-Centre. There is a map showing the North Cariboo Recreation and Parks boundary available for online viewing at [www.city.quesnel.bc.ca/multi-centre](http://www.city.quesnel.bc.ca/multi-centre).

### **How much will the Multi-Centre cost?**

The North Cariboo Joint Planning Committee has set a project cost of \$30 million. The referendum approved borrowing **up to \$15 million** towards the cost of the Multi-Centre. This equals approximately \$60 per \$100,000 of assessed residential value annually. The remaining \$15 million will need to come from the federal and provincial levels of government, local fundraising efforts and corporate sponsorship before the project can proceed.

### **Where will the Multi-Centre be built?**

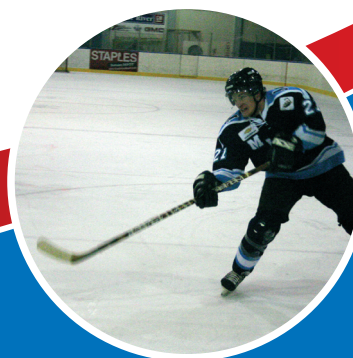
The Multi-Centre Task Force considered many options and a downtown location in the vicinity of the existing arenas was deemed superior when all factors were considered. The preferred location would see the arena built on the former library site, with the theatre built encroaching slightly on LeBourdais Park. This location takes both public input and cost efficiencies achieved by co-locating with existing facilities into account.

### **When will the Multi-Centre be built?**

There is no set timeline for construction. The first thing that must happen is the City and CRD must secure at least \$15 million in funding from senior levels of government, corporate sponsorship and grassroots fundraising efforts. Once all funding is in place, the construction period could begin, which would take an estimated 18 months to two years to complete.

**Visit the Multi-Centre website at:**

**<http://www.city.quesnel.bc.ca/multi-centre.asp>**



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## **What will the Multi-Centre look like?**

The City and CRD are using the "Design-Build" method of construction. This requires determining a strict list of criteria and specifications by involving stakeholder groups, elected officials, City and CRD staff, ice users, theatre/performing arts groups, local businesses and the broader community at large. The City and CRD are preparing a Request for Proposals for the design and construction of the facility for \$30 million. Once all project funding is in place, the best design incorporating the criteria and specifications will be selected and constructed for a fixed fee, providing greater cost certainty than the traditional "Design-Bid-Build" model.

## **How long are the referendum results good for?**

The results of the referendum are good for five years. The \$15 million must be borrowed by November 14, 2013. If this doesn't happen, a new referendum would have to be held to gain voter approval for the project.

## **Where are we going to park?**

The Task Force commissioned an Arena Parking and Traffic Study in October 2007. There are 2,300 public and private, on- and off-street parking stalls located within 400 metres of the proposed facility. Through good project design, revising parking signage and conducting education programs regarding available parking in the downtown core, it is anticipated the needs of the Multi-Centre and the surrounding facilities can be met by existing parking. The cost of developing parking makes it vital that all existing infrastructure is used before significant investment is made in new parking infrastructure.

## **Why don't we build the Multi-Centre at Alex Fraser Park or south of Quesnel?**

From an urban planning perspective, experts indicate it makes more sense to build a facility of this nature in the downtown core. This limits urban sprawl and maintains a vibrant downtown. Another important factor is cost of operations. It is more economical to house the various facilities in close proximity so that operational and energy efficiencies can be realized. It also makes tournament and special event hosting more practical for user groups. The Alex Fraser Park site was ruled out due to traffic and parking issues that arose. To build a 1,000-space parking lot would cost approximately \$4 million

(in 2007 dollars), plus the added cost of maintaining that lot. It would also replace a large green space with a massive asphalt footprint.

## **Why don't we just refurbish the old rink?**

There are two major problems with refurbishing the old rink. The first is that given the level of construction required for the facility to meet the current BC Building Code, this work would likely not provide the best value to taxpayers. Second, by simply refurbishing, it is felt that the many varied user groups would not have the best, most adaptable facility in which to hold their events. Investment in modern amenities will also help retain residents, attract new residents and attract and retain skilled workers and new business people.

## **Where can I get more information?**

A great source for information is the Multi-Centre website at [www.city.quesnel.bc.ca/multi-centre](http://www.city.quesnel.bc.ca/multi-centre). You can send your questions via e-mail to [multicentre@city.quesnel.bc.ca](mailto:multicentre@city.quesnel.bc.ca). You may also contact the Cariboo Regional District by phone at 1.800.665.1636 or the City of Quesnel at 250.992.2111.

### **For more information:**

Website: [www.city.quesnel.bc.ca/multi-centre](http://www.city.quesnel.bc.ca/multi-centre)

E-mail: [multicentre@city.quesnel.bc.ca](mailto:multicentre@city.quesnel.bc.ca)

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