Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER

REPORT
Parks & Recreation

To:	Mayor Coté and Members of Council	**Date:**	4/12/2021
From:	Dean Gibson Director of Parks and Recreation	**File:**	1795355
		Item #:	121/2021

Subject: **New Westminster Arena Strategy**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT this report be received for information; and
THAT the Arena Strategy recommendations are referred for inclusion in the pending update to the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan in 2022-23.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Mayor and Council with the draft report – *City of New Westminster Arena Strategy* that will be accompanied by a presentation from the consulting firm that conducted the arena needs assessment review. This report also outlines the proposed next steps in the process for completing the work of this study.

BACKGROUND

The City has two standalone arena facilities. Queen's Park Arena (QPA) was built in 1930 as a sports facility, modified in 1938 to become the present day arena. This facility operates with an ice season September – March, and a dry floor season April – August. Moody Park Arena (MPA) was built in 1975 with an ice season July – March, and a dry floor season April – June. QPA is a spectator facility, host to tournaments like the Mann Cup, and MPA has a recreation focus with most of the Parks & Recreation Department's skating lessons and public skate opportunities occurring at this facility.

In the summer of 2017 a petition was circulated amongst the hockey and lacrosse communities appealing to the City to build a third arena in New Westminster. In follow-up to this process, the organizers approached the City to present a case for a third arena. This was initially presented at the November 29, 2017 Parks and Recreation Committee meeting, and subsequently as a delegation to Council March 12, 2018. At that meeting Council resolved that:

> *...the delegation's request for an additional arena in Queen's Park be referred to staff, with a report back to Council.*

In 2018, Council directed staff to proceed with conducting an Arena Needs Assessment study that was budgeted for and conducted in 2019. RC Strategies was contracted to complete a review of the current arena provisions in the City and develop a strategy moving forward. This process included meeting with arena stakeholders including New Westminster Minor Hockey, New Westminster Minor Lacrosse, staff from the New Westminster School District, adult hockey renters, and program participants.

The report, *City of New Westminster Arena Strategy* (Appendix A), is the result of that study.

DISCUSSION

The draft New Westminster Arena Strategy was developed with input from City staff and stakeholder representation from both ice and dry floor user groups. The Strategy also included an environmental scan of arena use and trends throughout the region and analysis of the current utilization rates of both Moody and Queen's Park Arenas. The draft Strategy has been presented to the Facilities, Infrastructure and Public Realm Advisory Committee, at the February 18, 2021 meeting. The Facilities, Infrastructure, and Public Realm Advisory Committee has supported the advancement of this information to City Council with the following recommendation:

> *THAT the Facilities, Infrastructure and Public Realm Advisory Committee endorses the Arena Strategy as presented at the February 18, 2021 meeting of the Committee and recommends it be presented to Council for their consideration.*

This report accompanies a presentation from the consultant (Attachment B).

Key recommendations arising from the draft Strategy include:

1. Add no new arena capacity during the next five years.
2. Explore ways to accommodate spring lacrosse in new City sports facilities.
3. Plan for a new full sized arena sheet to be added to Queen's Park Arena.
4. Plan for the future longer term replacement of Moody Park Arena.

Next Steps

The draft Arena Strategy is the culmination of feedback from stakeholders that includes both ice and dry floor user groups.

One of the options for future consideration will include that the Arena Strategy be considered and incorporated into Parks & Recreation Master Plan update scheduled for 2022-23.

OPTIONS

There are three options for Council's consideration; they are:

1. Receive this report for information.
2. Refer the Arena Strategy recommendations for inclusion in the pending update to the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan in 2022-23.
3. Provide staff with further direction.

Staff recommend Options #1 and #2

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A- New Westminster Arena Strategy, Report
Attachment B- New Westminster Arena Strategy Final Report Presentation April 12, 2021

This report has been prepared by Ron Booth, Manager, Arenas & Queen's Park Facilities.
This report has been reviewed by Steve Kellock, Senior Manager, Recreation.

This report was reviewed by:

Approved for Presentation to Council

Dean Gibson
Director of Parks and Recreation

Lisa Spitale
Chief Administrative Officer

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Attachment A -

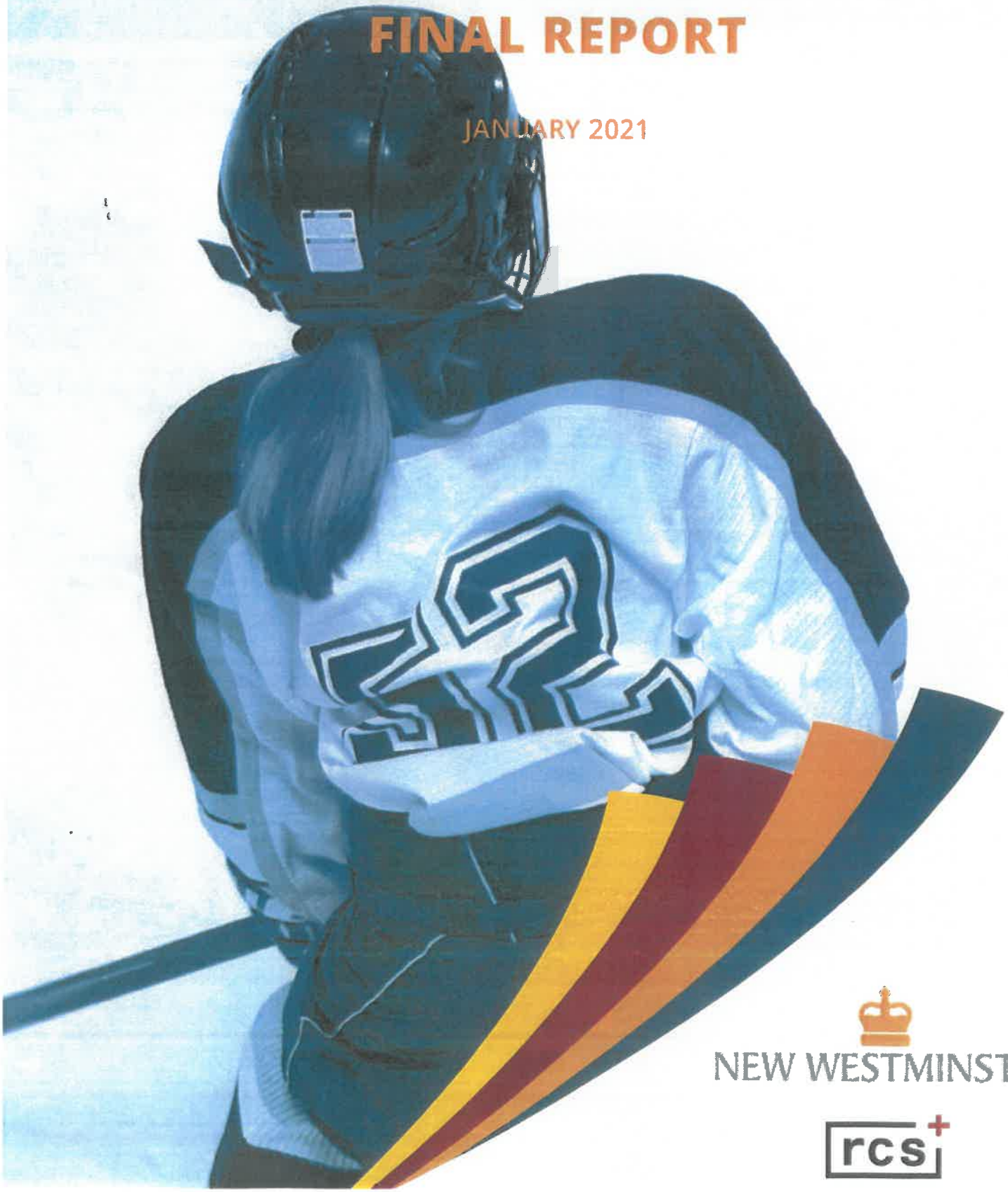
New Westminster Arena Strategy, Report

CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER

ARENA STRATEGY

FINAL REPORT

JANUARY 2021



NEW WESTMINSTER

rcs+

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Attachment B-

New Westminster Arena Strategy

Final Report Presentation

New Westminster Arena Strategy

Presented to Mayor and Council (Closed Council Meeting) November 9th, 2020





Purpose of the Arena Strategy

The goal of the new Arena Strategy is to recommend the most efficient and sustainable path forward in terms of all ice based and dry floor uses of arenas in New Westminster

- Arena user groups had asked the City to review the situation recently
- The 2009 Comprehensive Master Plan had indicated a review was warranted
- A2015 Queen's Park Master Plan indicated there was room in the park to add a second ice sheet when it became needed.

The Market Place

Current population is approximately 77,000

- One projection has the population growing to 110,000 by 2041
- The proportion of elderly residents is projected to increase
- The proportion of children is projected to remain the same
- The proportion of working age adults is projected to decline



The Historic Context

- The service level in 1975 was 1 sheet per 19,000 people, double what it is today.
- This is consistent in the region.
- The use of arenas in the region has been quite cyclical in nature, but the historical 20 year trend shows an overall decline in demand.



How Much Capacity do we Have?

The two existing arena surfaces have total capacity of 9,768 hours of potential use each year

- Ice in 6,229 hours
- Dry floor 3,539 hours
- Total 9,768 hours



How much of that capacity is being used?

Use in 2019 was approx. 6,362 hours or about 65% ofcapacity

Use of Ice Time	4,638 hrs	74% capacity
Use of Dry Floor	1723 hrs	49% capacity
Total Use	6,362 hrs	65% capacity



What are the trends in use?

Recent trends in use in both New Westminster and the region are slightly downward

If they stabilize, there could be more users in future due to growth in population

What is happening in the region?

- Two new sheets are under construction in south Burnaby

- One new sheet has been added in North Surrey





What is an appropriate service level?

Recommend a service level of one arena surface per 30,000 residents in the long term future, adjusted over time as trends change

Recommended path forward

- When should a third sheet be contemplated? Not in next 10 years
- What to do with Moody Park facility? Replace rather than retrofit
- How can we have a multi-sheet complex? Asecond sheet at Queen's Park
- What sized pads are needed? Potentially multiple smaller sheets



Next Steps

- Stakeholder review of the draft
- Prepare a final report
- Present final report to Council