

**AGENDA
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PINCHER CREEK NO. 9
Wednesday, June 17, 2026
6:00 pm
1037 Herron Ave
MD of Pincher Creek Council Chambers**

****Additional Information Provided as of June 17, 2026**

- A. CALL TO ORDER
- B. AGENDA APPROVAL
- C. PUBLIC INPUT SESSION ON PINCHER CREEK CURLING CLUB
 - **Pincher Creek Curling Rink Update**

Both written and verbal presentations may be made to Council at the public input session

WRITTEN: (received as of June 17, 2026, to the MD office)

**Curling Alberta - Jill Groves
Alan Anderson
Brian Boyce and Shauna Sky Romano
Curling Canada – Nolan Thiessen
University of Cape Breton - Simon Barrick
Kevin Crook
Jerry and Lisa Dupius
Jim & Lynda Dyck
Marie Everts
Derek and Lorna Fidler
Liana French and James Crowley
Samantha Hoffman
Ann Kettles and Cindy Porter
Carrie Kinahan**

**Esther Koop
Grace MacMillan
Carolyn Mclaurie
Sheila McRae
Lucas Pittman
Missy Primrose
Catherine Sheard
Sandra Stafford
Jennifer Thompson
Michelle Visser
University of Waterloo - Heather Mair
University of Waterloo - Laura Leitch
Anna Welsch
Ken Wood**

- D. STANDING DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - a) Eco-Centre Update – Circular Materials Update
- E. CLOSED SESSION
 - a) Early Childhood Learning Centre Update – ATIA Sec. 19.1
- F. ADJOURNMENT

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

June 17, 2026

M.D. of Pincher Creek and Town of Pincher Creek Pincher Creek Curling Rink Update

A Bit of History

The development of a new curling rink has been an issue in this community for a very long time. In March of 2015, the MD heard from a delegation of Pincher Creek Curling Club (CC) members asking the MD to consider matching the Town of Pincher Creek's financial support. The projected total at that time was \$3 million based on a 2011 estimate. At that time the CC stated that the existing curling rink had an estimated usefulness for 6 years at the most. The MD received the request for funding as information. No commitment from the MD was made regarding funding for a new facility.

In February of 2017, the MD, Town, and Curling Club (via Grant) contributed 1/3 of the cost for a new ice plant for the curling rink. All parties involved shared the cost of the new ice plant. It was a condition of funding, that the plant be portable to allow for utilization in a new facility when required.

In January of 2018 the CC requested that the MD match a proposed Town contribution of \$1.25 million. The CC stated that they had applied for a grant for a new facility. The MD did not at this time commit to any funding.

In November of 2019, the Golf Club and Curling Club attended a Council meeting to discuss the state of both facilities.

In May of 2022, the Town directed their administration to move forward with an RFP for a design/build of a new curling rink.

In December of 2022, the Town established a Curling Rink Task Force. In February of 2023 the task force was dissolved, and the Town postponed indefinitely the curling rink facility.

At the following meeting in February 2023, the Town approved a proposal to construct a new Town owned curling rink facility on the golf course lands.

The proposed new facility would be owned by the Town, and a \$4 million borrowing bylaw was approved in February of 2023. As the Town went through the process of preparing and finalizing the borrowing bylaw, they received a sizeable petition in opposition to the bylaw that the proposed bylaw was not adopted.

In June of 2023, the Town signed a Memorandum of Understanding that would allow the CC to develop the new rink on a portion of Town land occupied by the Golf Course.

From June of 2023 to January of 2025, the Town and the Curling Club made efforts to have the new Curling Rink constructed at the Golf Course Location. On January 27, 2025, the Town defeated a motion to submit the Development Permit for the Golf Course site.

At the next Town Council meeting of February 10, 2025, Town Council directed administration to draft a lease agreement for the current location. In July of 2025 the Town proceeded with submission of the Development Permit for the site on Chief Mountain Avenue.

Construction of the new rink started in October of 2025.

In November 2025, the CC received notice that they were unsuccessful in receiving the ACI grant after they had broken ground. At the November 25, 2025, MD Council meeting, the MD increased their funding from \$868,637 to \$1 million.

In April of 2026, the CC met with the Reeve and CAO of the MD to inform them of the need of further funding as they foresaw the upcoming shortfalls as the funds available were being depleted. They stated that they were reapplying for the ACI grant once again. The CC was asking if the MD would consider supplying bridge funding to complete the project, with CC paying back the MD and the Town if they were successful in their reapplication for the ACI grant (\$1.5 million) or other grants they are applying for.

Bridge funding has been requested from both Councils.

Current Construction Timeline

Broke ground at the current location on October 18, 2025. Original completion date was to be August 31, 2026. This has been extended to end of September 2026.

Original Budget

\$5,475,261

Current Budget

\$5,230,000

Completed to Date

- Project planning and design completed.
- Required approvals obtained.
- Initial funding secured.
- Construction commenced (October 18, 2025).
 - 50%-60% complete
- Ongoing fundraising efforts continue to support project completion.
 - Application submitted to Active Communities Initiative Alberta for \$1,500,000

FAQ

Tax Increases – The MD will not see an increase in property taxes because of this project, even if the Active Communities Initiative Grant is not awarded. Should additional funding be approved, it can be provided through existing reserves and unrestricted surplus funds without increasing property taxes.

Demolition Costs of Old Site – Some initial environmental work has been done to assess the situation and provide a rough estimate. These costs are not included in the current budget for the new rink.

Ice Plant Move – Planned to have transportation costs donated, installation is part of construction contract, with potential for small changes to be required when on site.

Project Shut Down Costs – No firm penalty is in the contract, however materials ordered and demobilization would be payable. Rough estimate of 80% of contract, (\$4,000,000) already committed with work completed and materials ordered. Additional site security costs of \$2,000/month.

CFEP Grant Status – Extension has been submitted and approval is pending. Curling Club is required to maintain control of the operation of the facility and original completion date was August 31, 2026.

CFEP Grant requires the CC to run/control the facility for 5 years.

CC will continue to cover all insurance, maintenance, utilities, and upgrading of equipment as required.

Curling Club Project	
Funding To Date	
Community Facility Enhancement Program	1,000,000
Town of Pincher Creek	1,250,000
Municipal District of Pincher Creek	1,000,000
Community Donations	202,000
Corporate Donations	67,000
Total Funding Secured	3,519,000
Project Costs	
Site Preparation	173,000
Building Construction	5,057,000
Total Project Cost	5,230,000
Funding Shortfall	(1,710,000)
Request (Up to a Maximum)	1,800,000

Letter of Support for Pincher Creek Curling Club

To Whom it may concern;

When I returned to Pincher Creek to retire after being away for over 30 years in 2018, I discovered the fantastic sport of Sturling which my partner and I have come to love doing in the winter months. I raised my family here with 3 children and then moved away to pursue my career as a Safety Consultant which took me many places in Canada as well as to different countries.

Since then, I have watched the sport grow and have taken on several roles within the Curling Club which include being on the organizing team for the Sturling League, being on the Executive of the Pincher Creek Curling League (PCCC) & part of their Fundraising Committee, Being the Organizer and Coach for our amazing School Program which is second to none and taking on being one of the Lead Instructors for this years, **Ready to Rock Program sponsored by the Alberta Curling Association** which Canyon School participated in for the first time for their Grades 4 to 6 students with 130 participating! I also manage the Sturling Facebook page which we post all events, Bonspiels, School Programs and much more.

Being part of these teams and the Curling Community has been a truly enlightening adventure meeting people I knew from the past and forming friendships with them plus all the new people that have also come to enjoy this sport.

The greatest and most rewarding thing for me has been teaching the students from our local schools and the surrounding communities which include Mathew Halton, St Michaels, Canyon School, Livingston School as well as Mountain View School, Cardston High School and the Riverside Colony.

I am hoping this letter will help to reinforce the importance of getting our new Curling Rink completed to ensure the PCCC continues to provide all of the aforementioned curling activities now and well into the future.

Kind Regards,
Alan Anderson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Anderson', written over a horizontal line.

Re: Extra Funding for the PCCC Questions and Concerns

From

From: Brian Boyce <>

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2026 9:33 AM

To: Tony Bruder <CouncilDiv1@mdpinchercreek.ab.ca>; Rick Lemire <CouncilDiv2@mdpinchercreek.ab.ca>; Dave Cox <CouncilDiv3@mdpinchercreek.ab.ca>; Jim Welsch <CouncilDiv4@mdpinchercreek.ab.ca>; John MacGarva <CouncilDiv5@mdpinchercreek.ab.ca>

Subject: Fwd: Extra Funding for the PCCC Questions and Concerns

Good morning,

I am contacting you this morning to share an email that Shauna Sky Romano and I sent to Town Council. We are speaking for the majority of the taxpayers in the Town and MD of Pincher Creek, regarding grave concerns around continuing to support this Curling project financially, when it is clear that this build should never have commenced without proper funding in place. While we understand that the Open House is a venue to ask questions, it would certainly also be expected that we should be able to obtain some answers to "How did we get here?" How is it possible to start a project of this magnitude without the proper funding in place? Why should more funds be provided when it appears that the project began without proper funding from day one?

Perhaps this is a dangerous precedent to set in the town and MD for future organizations seeking funding in the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Brian

From: Brian Boyce <>

Date: June 11, 2026 at 3:47:49 PM MDT

To: woliver@pinchercreek.ca, mbarber@pinchercreek.ca, snodge@pinchercreek.ca, vwinder@pinchercreek.ca, gmcullen@pinchercreek.ca, BMcGillivray@pinchercreek.ca, bcyrr@pinchercreek.ca

Cc: cao@pinchercreek.ca

Subject: Extra Funding for the PCCC Questions and Concerns

Good day,

As discussed during the June 8 Town Council meeting, we are submitting the following questions and concerns regarding the Pincher Creek Curling Club (PCCC) project. Due to delegation time limits, we were unable to present all concerns raised by taxpayers; however, we feel the following issues warrant immediate attention and clarification.

Public Consultation and Process

On January 13, 2025, Council moved to direct administration to organize an open house within 4–6 weeks to gather public input and information

Again, on March 10, 2025, Council directed administration to establish an open house date and return to Council for discussion once the PCCC had construction cost information and could fulfill the requirements of the MOU.

As of today, no open house occurred prior to project commencement. While one is reportedly planned, many taxpayers question why meaningful public engagement did not happen before ground was broken.

Funding Decisions and Financial Oversight

On February 10, 2025, Council directed administration to prepare a report outlining cost recovery and additional expenses associated with relocating the curling club.

On February 24, 2025, Council approved up to an additional \$59,600 in funding for relocation costs, to be funded by reserves, as well as up to \$125,000 in in-kind and third-party contributions.

This raises several important questions:

- Why did the PCCC begin preliminary work before confirming adequate funding for the project?
- What specifically is included within the \$125,000 in in-kind and third-party contributions?
- Why were taxpayer funds committed before all remaining funding requirements had been secured

Many taxpayers believe responsibility for premature expenditures should remain with the organization that chose to proceed before complete financing was confirmed.

Governance and Neutrality

Questions have also arisen regarding the appearance of neutrality in decision-making.

Specifically, concerns have been raised regarding Councillor Cleland reportedly taking elevations and measurements at the golf course site using surveying equipment. Taxpayers would appreciate clarification regarding:

- Whether this work was performed in an official capacity;
- Whether the councillor possessed the qualifications to undertake this work;
- Whether compensation was provided; and
- How Council ensured impartiality throughout the process.

Even where no wrongdoing exists, public confidence depends upon transparency and avoiding situations that may reasonably create the appearance of bias.

MOU Obligations and Escalating Costs

The MOU emphasized a responsible and efficient process supported by a detailed business and financial plan. Based on publicly available information, many taxpayers believe these expectations have not been fulfilled.

The MOU appears clear that:

The PCCC is responsible for any costs exceeding \$1.25 million; and
The PCCC is responsible for demolition costs associated with the old facility.

Despite this, construction commenced without all funding in place, and the project is now reportedly facing a significant financial shortfall while only partially complete. Questions remain regarding additional future costs, including demolition, commissioning, equipment, rink sand, kitchen requirements, and retaining wall expenses.

The Town of Pincher Creek should not be viewed as an unlimited financial resource for repeated funding requests, particularly when the MOU clearly outlined financial responsibilities.

Further concerns exist regarding the level of financial detail provided. For example, categories such as “General Requirements,” “Openings,” and “Special Construction” appear broad and lacking detailed breakdowns necessary for taxpayers to fully understand project expenditures.

Financial Sustainability

Based on the financial information provided, the PCCC appears to have operated at a loss in two of the last three years. This raises legitimate concerns regarding long-term sustainability and the organization’s ability to maintain operational and maintenance costs once construction is complete.

Additionally, in an interview with *Shooting the Breeze*, it was reported that the funding gap was approximately \$1.6 million and that municipal assistance may be required as

short-term bridging financing. At the same time, comments suggested immediate cash flow was required to continue construction.

This raises a fundamental concern: why was construction initiated before required funding was secured?

Taxpayers also note concerns within the club's own funding documents, where numerous potential funding sources remain listed as "waiting on reply," "researching," "application underway," "outreach ongoing," or similar wording. These do not represent secured funding and arguably should have been finalized prior to construction.

Further, the August 2025 project cost summary reportedly notes that pricing excludes kitchen equipment, curling rink equipment, rink sand, and retaining wall improvements—indicating additional costs remain outstanding.

Stewardship of Taxpayer Funds

It is difficult for many taxpayers to understand why grants from the Town and MD of Pincher Creek were not held in trust until the PCCC could demonstrate:

- All remaining project funding had been secured;
- Demolition and commissioning costs were covered; and
- A viable long-term operational and maintenance plan existed.

Many taxpayers believe these safeguards should have been in place before construction began.

Broader Community Priorities

Taxpayers also question whether additional municipal funding for this project represents the best use of limited public resources, particularly given broader recreation needs within the community.

Some residents have suggested alternative options, including evaluating whether the partially completed structure has alternate community or commercial uses, or reconsidering long-term recreational planning such as a multi-sport facility that could serve a broader segment of the population, including figure skating, hockey, and other user groups.

Closing Questions

In closing, we respectfully ask Council to consider the following:

1. Why were grants released before proof existed that the remaining required funding had been secured?
2. Was it responsible to begin a project of this scale without confirmed financing to completion?
3. Given the former Mayor's role as liaison between Council and a club of which he was reportedly a member, what safeguards existed to ensure transparency, accountability, and avoidance of perceived conflicts of interest?

Regardless of one's position on the curling club itself, many taxpayers believe this process has raised serious concerns regarding financial stewardship, transparency, and project oversight.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these concerns. We respectfully remind Council that elected officials have a responsibility to represent all taxpayers ethically, transparently, and financially. We believe there is still an opportunity to reassess the current path and pursue a solution that is sustainable, transparent, and broadly beneficial to the community.

Kind regards,

Shauna Sky Romano
Brian Boyce

June 8th, 2026

RE: Curling as a contributor to wellbeing, belonging & community connection

To whom it may concern:

I currently serve as an Assistant Professor at Cape Breton University (Sydney, Nova Scotia), where my research examines the social impacts of sport on individuals, communities, and society more broadly. Over the past 13 years, my scholarship has focused extensively on the sport of curling and its capacity to foster wellbeing, belonging, and community connection.

My research consistently demonstrates that curling is uniquely positioned as a deeply community-oriented sport. Participation provides meaningful physical, mental, and social health benefits, particularly during the winter months when opportunities for recreation and social interaction can become more limited. Curling clubs serve as vital public community spaces where individuals connect face-to-face outside of work and home environments. In an era increasingly shaped by digital communication, social fragmentation, and isolation, these spaces are more important than ever.

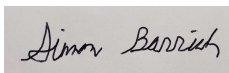
Curling is also one of Canada's most accessible and intergenerational sports. Individuals can begin at virtually any stage of life and continue participating well into older adulthood. It is common to see young children sharing ice time and social space alongside adults in their 80s and 90s. The sport has also made important strides in fostering inclusive environments for girls and women, persons with disabilities, members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community, and participants from diverse ethno-racial and cultural backgrounds. Curling facilities play a critical role in reducing barriers to participation by offering affordable introductory programming and welcoming opportunities for community engagement.

To continue providing these essential social and recreational benefits, curling facilities require ongoing investment in safe and functional infrastructure. Aging sport infrastructure represents a growing challenge for many community organizations across Canada. Supporting curling facilities is an investment not only in a building, but also in community wellbeing, social connection, active living, and the long-term sustainability of one of Canada's most important winter sports.

I strongly and unequivocally support investments in the curling community, as they will help ensure that future generations continue to benefit from the inclusive, healthy, and community-building environment that the sport of curling provides.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should further information be helpful.

Sincerely,



Simon Barrick, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor – Cape Breton University
Simon_barrick@cbu.ca | 587-439-9095

From: Kevin Crook Outlook <>

Date: April 22, 2026 at 6:33:35 PM MDT

To:

Cc: Derek Fidler <>

Subject: Curling is core to Canadian culture

Hi,

Barb and I have been curling at different venues in Winnipeg and Calgary for close to 30 years. When we moved back to the family farm in 2012 one of the first winter sports we signed up for was curling. Since then, due to our abilities we have moved to Stirling and really appreciate the availability of a curling club in Pincher Creek.

The culture of small town Alberta includes a lot of activities, but the top 3 must be hockey, curling, and golf.

Thanks for your efforts to keep our community complete!

Kevin Crook

June 11, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

RE: Letter of Support – Pincher Creek Curling Club Building Replacement Project

Curling Alberta is pleased to provide its full support for the Pincher Creek Curling Club's project to replace its aging facility with a new, fully accessible, year-round community hub. As the provincial sport organization representing more than 160 curling facilities and over 29,000 participants across Alberta, we are well positioned to speak to the role curling plays in supporting community wellbeing, connection, and access to sport, and the importance of local facilities in making those outcomes possible.

The Pincher Creek Curling Club is an important gathering place that contributes to the social fabric of the region. Curling is unique in its ability to be learned at any age and sustained across a lifetime, with participants ranging from youth to older adults well into their senior years. The sport also offers a high degree of accessibility, with adaptations that enable participation for individuals using wheelchairs or delivery sticks, as well as those with visual or hearing impairments and others who benefit from flexible, inclusive programming approaches, allowing people to be active and engaged regardless of mobility or ability. Pincher Creek's distinction as the "Stirling Capital of Alberta" (per capita) reflects the community's leadership in keeping participants - particularly older adults - engaged in the sport and connected to their community.

Equally important is curling's unique ability to bring together individuals from a wide range of backgrounds. Participants from different professions, income levels, cultures, and life experiences come together on the same ice and in the same social space - creating connections and a sense of belonging that is increasingly rare in organized sport. These relationships often extend beyond the game itself, contributing to stronger, more connected communities.

As a four-sheet facility in a rural region, the Pincher Creek Curling Club plays a key role in supporting access to sport and recreation in southwest Alberta. It provides opportunities for local participation while also contributing to regional activity through events and programming that bring participants and visitors into the community, supporting local businesses and economic activity. The club's long-standing culture of volunteerism demonstrates the deep community investment that underpins its success.

For many residents, particularly in a rural region, facilities such as the Pincher Creek Curling Club provide accessible, affordable, and welcoming opportunities for organized recreation and social engagement close to home. Supporting this infrastructure helps ensure these opportunities remain available for current and future generations.

Curling Alberta and Curling Canada are committed to growing participation through continued investment in grassroots programming and community engagement. These efforts, combined

with the sport's strong visibility - including coverage of the Scotties Tournament of Hearts, the Montana's Brier, and the Olympic Games - are helping to attract new participants and sustain interest in curling. Facilities like the Pincher Creek Curling Club play a critical role in turning that interest into participation and helping to ensure the long-term sustainability of both the sport and the community organizations that deliver it.

This project represents an important investment in community infrastructure. With the transition to a modern, accessible facility, including a concrete floor, the Pincher Creek Curling Club will be able to operate as a year-round, multi-use space, accommodating a variety of community activities and events beyond the curling season. This expanded functionality will maximize public value and help ensure the facility remains a vibrant and well-utilized community asset for years to come.

The Pincher Creek Curling Club has demonstrated strong support through local, municipal, and provincial investment, fundraising, and external partnerships, and continues to work toward completing the project. The community has already demonstrated a significant commitment to this project, and additional investment will build on that momentum while helping secure the long-term sustainability of an important regional asset.

Curling Alberta fully supports this project and respectfully encourages favourable consideration of the Pincher Creek Curling Club's funding application.

Sincerely,



Jill Groves
Executive Director
Curling Alberta



June 15, 2026

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of Curling Canada, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for investments in curling facility infrastructure across Canada. As the national sport governing body, Curling Canada recognizes that these projects represent critical investments in sustaining the infrastructure that underpins curling's continued growth, accessibility, and impact in communities nationwide.

Curling reaches more than 2 million Canadians annually through recreational play, school programs, and introductory experiences, with opportunities that extend to competitive play at the World and Olympic levels. More than 158,000 Canadians are registered curlers, with participation spanning communities of all sizes—from rural towns to major urban centres—highlighting curling's unique role as both a recreational pastime and an accessible organized sport for people of all ages and abilities.

While national tracking—introduced in 2015 and based on self-reported data—likely understates total participation, the broader trend is clear: curling has rebounded strongly following the COVID-19 pandemic, recovering from lows in 2021 to reach record levels by 2025, with continued stability in 2026.

This growth is being driven by a combination of factors, including expanded school-based programming, community activations, and strengthened participant pathways that support engagement at every age and stage. The continued evolution of adaptive curling programs is also expanding access for participants of all abilities, while international growth and the emergence of a professional league are further broadening the sport's appeal.

Strong national visibility is also a key driver. Broadcast coverage of the 2026 Tim Hortons Brier and Scotties Tournament of Hearts reached nearly 9 million Canadians over the course of the winter, while Olympic competition reached more than 6 million viewers for the recent men's gold medal final, won by a team from Alberta. This exposure consistently translates into increased interest at the community level, with clubs across the country reporting heightened demand following major events.

Clubs play a central role in converting that interest into ongoing participation—from first-time participants to experienced and highly engaged players—while supporting increased participation among youth, girls and women, neuro-diverse individuals, and



newcomers to Canada. This is reflected locally in growing demand for Learn to Curl opportunities, recreational leagues, and club-based programming.

Curling delivers meaningful economic benefit across Canada. The most recent comprehensive national impact study (2017) found that curling contributes approximately \$584 million annually in economic activity, supporting more than 3,400 jobs, \$186 million in wages, and \$89 million in tax revenues.

While this remains the most recent national benchmark—reflecting the complexity of conducting large-scale economic impact assessments—more recent participation and event data indicate that this contribution remains strong. The 2025 Canadian Curling Trials in Halifax, for example, generated approximately \$42 million in economic activity, driven by visitor spending and tourism activations.

This impact is made possible by the strength of curling's volunteer base, which is developed through local clubs. Communities that host regional, national, and international curling events are able to attract and deliver these opportunities because of this volunteer capacity. These events generate substantial economic activity through accommodations, dining, transportation, and local business engagement and leave lasting impact for the curling community.

Equally important is the day-to-day impact of local participation, which supports ongoing facility use, volunteer engagement, and community programming in towns and cities across the country.

Sustaining club infrastructure is essential to maintaining both participation and the broader economic impact generated by curling.

Clubs are fundamental to Canada's curling system — they are where participation begins, where skills are developed, and most importantly where communities connect. These facilities serve as accessible community hubs, providing opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to participate in affordable recreation, build social connections, and stay active, particularly during the winter months. In many communities, curling clubs are among the few spaces that regularly bring together youth, families, and seniors in a shared environment.

Curling facilities across the country are long-standing community assets, often with deep historical roots and broad membership bases. Many clubs also play important roles as hosting partners for local, regional, and national events, while supporting athlete development at all levels—from grassroots through to competitive pathways.



Curling remains one of the most accessible and affordable organized sports in Canada, making these facilities especially important for inclusive community recreation.

Investment in core infrastructure is essential to maintaining both grassroots programming, community belonging, and the ability to host competitions and events. Without continued investment in these critical components, the ability to support participation growth, deliver programming, and host events is at risk.

Investing in existing facilities is one of the most effective ways to ensure the long-term sustainability of curling and sport in Canada.

Curling Canada fully supports investments in curling infrastructure. Curling clubs play an important role within Canada's curling system, and these projects represent necessary and impactful investments in maintaining infrastructure that supports participation, economic activity, and social connection nationwide.

Thank you for your consideration. We would be pleased to provide additional information if required.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Thiessen', is enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Nolan Thiessen
Chief Executive Officer
Curling Canada

Jerry and Lisa Dupuis
Pincher Creek, AB T0K 1W0
June 11, 2026

Municipal District of Pincher Creek Council
info@mdpinchercreek.ab.ca

Subject: Concerns Regarding Additional Municipal Support for the Curling Club Project

Dear Members of Council,

We are writing to express our concerns regarding the curling club construction project and the possibility of further municipal involvement and/or additional financial support.

While we recognize the value that recreational facilities provide to our community, we are concerned about the project's escalating costs and substantial remaining funding gap. We also would like to know if other recreational facilities were considered in this build - for example a multi purpose complex to serve more people - hockey, indoor walking track, bowling just to name a few - cost sharing and having impact on the broader population.

According to publicly reported figures, the project cost has increased from approximately \$4.58 million to more than \$5.02 million. Despite fundraising efforts, grants and contributions already received, the project reportedly still requires more than \$1.6 million in additional funding. These figures are very alarming and raise important questions about the potential continuing financial risk to municipal taxpayers.

Residents are already facing rising costs of living, and many may not support the use of additional taxpayer dollars for a project that remains significantly underfunded but went forward without all the monies secured prior to breaking ground.

Before any further commitments are considered, we respectfully request that Council:

- Require a detailed public accounting of all project finances, expenditures, and outstanding obligations.
- Ensure that no additional taxpayer funding is committed without meaningful public consultation and input.
- Assess the long-term operational sustainability of the facility, including future maintenance, repair, and operating costs.
- Clearly define the municipality's financial exposure and any potential liabilities associated with the project.
- Consider whether available municipal resources would be better directed toward services, infrastructure, and priorities that benefit the broader community.

Given the project's cost overruns and remaining funding shortfall, we believe Council should proceed with caution and prioritize transparency, accountability, and fiscal responsibility in any future decisions related to this project.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our comments. We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this important community discussion and look forward to Council's careful consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely,

Jerry and Lisa Dupuis

To whom It May Concern

We are writing to state the benefits of the curling rink to our community.

First of all, we are seniors, living in the town of Pincher Creek, but have moved in from the MD of Pincher Creek in the last few years

We have participated in curling over the years in bonspiels and leagues. The curling rink has offered our family a place to enjoy sporting activities and community, meeting new people and having an activity that promotes physical exercise.

Most recently we have been involved in the sturling league. We know that this league has benefited the community, specifically seniors, by giving the opportunity to get exercise and socialize. This is vital to senior health. It gets people out during the bleak winter days to enjoy the company of others and get moving.

It has also been an opportunity to volunteer by helping with the school physical education program. It has been a joy to watch the many children come through to learn the sport and encourage them in participating as they become adult members in the community. (Not everyone is a hockey or basketball player).

Curling also provides the opportunity to meet people from other towns by traveling to their facilities but also inviting them to our beautiful town to participate in bonspiels here and potentially using the commercial outlets in Pincher Creek.

Thank you for considering helping our community grow with a facility that contributes to physical, social and mental health to all.

Sincerely

Jim and Linda Dyck

June 17, 2026

Dear Reeve & Council,

I am writing as a resident and taxpayer regarding the request for additional municipal funding for the new Pincher Creek Curling Club facility.

I want to be clear that I support recreation in our community and appreciate the significant volunteer effort that has gone into this project. My concern is not about curling. My concern is about financial planning, long-term sustainability, and the responsible use of taxpayer dollars.

Based on the information provided to Council in the MD Council Package on May 12, 2026, the project currently faces a funding shortfall of approximately \$1.6 million. While there are several grants, sponsorships, and funding opportunities being pursued, my understanding is that the current request is for the Town and MD to fill that gap if those efforts are unsuccessful.

As a taxpayer, I believe it is important to understand not only how the building will be completed, but how it will operate successfully in the years ahead.

The materials presented to Council describe the facility as having potential for events, community activities, tourism, and year-round use. These are positive aspirations; however, I would encourage Council to ask what specific plan exists to generate that activity and revenue.

Are there currently enough events in our region to support another event facility?

If the curling club hosts trade shows, markets, meetings, or community events, will those events be new to the community, or will they simply move from existing facilities?

For example, the Pincher Creek Community Hall is already working hard to remain financially viable through rentals, community events, and volunteer support. If bookings shift from one community facility to another, the community as a whole may not gain additional economic activity. Instead, we may simply redistribute limited revenue while increasing operating costs across multiple facilities.

If that occurs, are we creating a situation where one community organization receives additional municipal support today while another may require support in the future because it has lost rental revenue?

I would also encourage Council to consider whether a detailed business plan exists that demonstrates how the facility will generate sustainable revenue beyond curling memberships.

Questions I hope Council will consider include:

- What **new** revenue-generating opportunities will be created by the facility?

- What events are expected to occur that are not already being hosted elsewhere in the community and who will be spearheading them?
- What is the projected annual operating budget and what assumptions support it?
- What happens if projected event revenue does not materialize?
- How many future municipal funding requests could reasonably be anticipated?

Large community projects can provide tremendous value, but only when supported by realistic financial planning and a clear understanding of their long-term impacts. Before committing additional taxpayer dollars, I believe Council should have confidence not only that the building can be completed, but that it can operate sustainably without negatively affecting other community facilities and organizations.

Thank you for your consideration and for the difficult work of balancing community priorities and public resources.

Sincerely,

Marie Everts
Resident, Beaver Mines

To whom it may concern,

We are writing this letter of support for the Pincher Creek Curling Club because we truly believe in the importance of a curling club in our community.

We have lived in the MD of Pincher Creek for 10 years, after retiring and moving here from Calgary. The attractions for us included a beautiful mountain setting with all the recreation choices we could want, including a swimming pool, library, arena, bowling alley, golf course, and curling rink. Of course, we discovered so much more once we moved here. The first friends we made were through these activities, those friendships led us to other connections and friendships. Now a trip to the grocery store typically involves several conversations with our many friends and acquaintances, exactly what we were hoping for when we chose to move to a rural setting.

We joined the curling club three years ago and have loved it from the start. We play Sturling, which suits us as a fun, fairly non-competitive, and very sociable game. Our fellow players involve people who have been playing curling since their school years, people who want a safe sport that gets them out on a winter day, and people who are new to the community and want to make friends. The socialization time gives us the opportunity to support each other through health issues, life changes, and even tragedies. We have also volunteered with the school programs and love seeing the excitement and enthusiasm of the kids as they learn the game.

The Pincher Creek Curling Club is important to us, and we believe it is a necessary and important part of our town and MD. Curling is representative of small town, rural, prairie, Alberta, and Canada. That rounded roof on a large building in any town brings to mind community, connectivity and fun. Our curling club is so special, because we offer a sport that can be played at any age and ability. Our school programs and youth league mean children as young as six can play. We also have Sturling players in their nineties. Physical needs can be accommodated, in fact, in the new rink people will be able to play in wheelchairs. There are morning classes, afternoon and evening leagues and drop-in, to suit anyone. The new building is also meant to be open year round, as a much needed venue for summer sports and events such as markets, trade shows, fairs, and celebrations.

The members of our club have been raising the money for the new building for more than ten years, through fundraisers, casinos, grant applications, and personal donations. This is a monumental task and we need help to get to the finish line. Your support will mean we get to continue playing the game we love and the MD and Town of Pincher Creek will have a venue that they can proudly add to the list of reasons why people want to live in this incredible community.

Derek and Lorna Fidler

Liana French & James Crowley
, Pincher Creek, T0K1W0

June 10, 2026

Municipal District of Pincher Creek Council
info@mdpinchercreek.ab.ca

Subject: Concerns Regarding Additional Municipal Support for the Curling Club Project

Dear Members of Council,

We are writing to express our concerns regarding the ongoing curling club construction project and the possibility of further municipal involvement or financial support.

While we recognize the value that recreational facilities provide to our community and appreciate the dedication of volunteers who have worked to advance this project, we are concerned by the project's escalating costs and significant remaining funding gap.

According to publicly reported figures, the project's cost has increased from approximately \$4.58 million to more than \$5.02 million. Despite substantial fundraising efforts and contributions already received, the project reportedly still requires more than \$1.6 million in additional funding. These figures raise important questions about the long-term financial viability of the facility and the potential risk to municipal taxpayers.

We are particularly concerned that further municipal involvement could create pressure for additional financial contributions should fundraising goals not be met. Residents are already facing increased costs of living, and many may not support the use of additional public funds for a project that remains significantly underfunded.

Before any further commitments are considered, we respectfully request that Council:

- Require a detailed public accounting of all project finances and outstanding obligations.
- Ensure that no additional taxpayer funding is committed without meaningful public consultation.
- Assess the long-term operational sustainability of the facility, including future maintenance and operating costs.
- Clearly define the municipality's financial exposure and any potential liabilities associated with the project.
- Consider whether available municipal resources would be better directed toward services and infrastructure that benefit the broader community.

Good governance requires careful stewardship of public funds. Given the project's cost overruns and remaining funding shortfall, we believe Council should proceed with caution and prioritize transparency and fiscal responsibility.

Thank you for considering our comments. We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this important community discussion.

Sincerely,

Liana French & James Crowley

Letter of Support: Pincher Creek Curling Centre

From Samantha H <>

Date Mon 2026-06-15 08:23

To MDInfo <MDInfo@mdpincercreek.ab.ca>; woliver@pinchercreek.ca <woliver@pinchercreek.ca>; mbarber@pinchercreek.ca <mbarber@pinchercreek.ca>; bcyr@pinchercreek.ca <bcyr@pinchercreek.ca>; bmcgillivray@pinchercreek.ca <bmcgillivray@pinchercreek.ca>; gmcullen@pinchercreek.ca <gmcullen@pinchercreek.ca>; snodge@pinchercreek.ca <snodge@pinchercreek.ca>; vwynder@pinchercreek.ca <vwynder@pinchercreek.ca>; Tony Bruder <CouncilDiv1@mdpincercreek.ab.ca>; Rick Lemire <CouncilDiv2@mdpincercreek.ab.ca>; Dave Cox <CouncilDiv3@mdpincercreek.ab.ca>; Jim Welsch <CouncilDiv4@mdpincercreek.ab.ca>; John MacGarva <CouncilDiv5@mdpincercreek.ab.ca>

Dear Members of Council,

I'm writing as a local resident to share my support for the new curling centre project.

Curling is something that's important to both me and my partner, Ken. It's one of the ways we stay active through the winter and stay connected to the community. Like many people here, it's not just about the sport, it's about getting out, seeing familiar faces, and being part of something local.

We also have a son, Max, and it matters to us that he grows up with the same opportunities. We'd love for him to learn to curl when he's older and experience that same sense of community that comes with it.

At the same time, it's pretty clear that the current building isn't something we can rely on long-term. It doesn't make sense to keep trying to patch something that isn't safe or sustainable. A new facility just feels like the right step forward.

What stands out to me is how much effort has already gone into this project: fundraising, volunteers, and support from across the community. That says a lot about how important this is to people here.

A new rink isn't just about curling. It's a space for kids to get involved in something active, for families to spend time together, and for the community to come together: whether that's leagues, events, or just a place to connect in the winter. It also brings people into town during bonspiels and events, which helps local businesses.

For a small community like Pincher Creek, places like this really matter. They're part of what makes people want to live here and stay here.

I appreciate that MD's Council is taking time to hear from the public on this, and I hope you continue to support moving this project forward.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Samatha Hoffman

June 15, 2026

Dear Pincher Creek Town Council and MD Council,

There has been much debate regarding the new curling rink and we would like to submit our view for the upcoming joint council meeting to be held on June 17th, 2026.

The Curling Club had previously stated that they had all of the funding in place for the building of the new curling rink. This project should never have gone ahead if the funding was not totally secured. The Town and MD have both already donated the land use and a much money towards the building of the rink and should not be expected to donate any further funds. This is taxpayer money which could be better spent in other areas such as town infrastructure, walking paths and updating the arena (which gets much more use than the curling rink).

Included in the May 25, 2026 Town Council meeting agenda was the MOU with the Pincher Creek Curling Club dated April 7, 2025, Item 6.1, Page 36:

“Funding – The Town has committed to providing \$1,250,000.00 for this project and should be recognized as providing the proposed land/location as an additional “contribution in kind”. **All other funding is the responsibility of the club.**”

This clearly states that it was not, and should not be now, the intention of Town Council to donate or lend any further funds to this project as the Town should not be in the banking business. If the curling club has not raised the funds for the completion of the new curling rink, it must be up to them to find further financing wherever it may be and not be requesting or expecting any further funding from the taxpayers of Pincher Creek.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Ann Kettles and Cindy Porter

Good afternoon, Mayor and councillors,

May 27, 2026

As one of the many curlers in Pincher Creek and a member of this community for more than 30 years, I want to share the importance of curling with you.

Curling is not just another sport — it's a way of life.

I was raised around the curling rink, watching my grandfather volunteer at the Lethbridge rink and seeing both my grandfather and parents curl for many years before eventually throwing a few rocks myself.

When we moved to the Milk River area, I had the opportunity to curl in the same rink where my great-grandfather had curled in his younger years. Later, when we brought our young family to Pincher Creek, I was able to return to a sport that had been such a meaningful part of my youth.

Over the years, I have enjoyed not only the sport itself, but also the friendships that have grown into family.

Curlers are a special breed of people. When faced with a problem, they pull together, support one another, and find solutions. That spirit of community is what makes curling so important.

Today, the curling family is working toward helping our community grow and remain welcoming for future residents of Pincher Creek. Our vision is not only for the curling community, but for creating an event space that the entire community can enjoy and use for years to come.

We hope you will help us bring that vision to life.

Sincerely,

Carrie Kinahan

resident of Pincher Creek & a part of the curling family

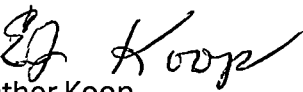
Support Letter for the New Pincher Creek Curling Rink.

Curling is such an important part of my life. I love the sport, the socializing, and the connection with so many fellow curlers.

I volunteer with the school program giving children a chance to try curling. As most volunteers are seniors, I believe, this is such a good thing as it provides a positive interaction between seniors and the youth of our community.

Our Stirling league provides an opportunity for seniors to be active even if they have a physical disability. This is so important for the mental and physical health for seniors. At the rink they are social, active, and connected.

I believe, it is important for communities to provide facilities for activities which in turn keep people of all ages physically and mentally healthy.


Esther Koop

New Curling Rink Support

From Grace MacMillan <>

Date Mon 2026-06-08 18:54

To Jessica McClelland <AdminExecAsst@mdpinchercreek.ab.ca>

From: Grace MacMillan <> **Sent:** June 8, 2026

6:40 PM

To: 'Wayne Oliver' <woliver@pinchercreek.ca>; 'Mark Barber' <mbarber@pinchercreek.ca>; 'Bernice Cyr' <bcyr@pinchercreek.ca>; 'Brian McGillivray' <bmcgillivray@pinchercreek.ca>; 'Val Wynder' <vwynder@pinchercreek.ca>; 'Gord McMullen' <gmcullen@pinchercreek.ca>; 'Sarah Nodge' <snodge@pinchercreek.ca>; 'AdminExecAsst@md-pinchercreek.ab.ca' <AdminExecAsst@md-pinchercreek.ab.ca>

Cc: 'pincher creek Curling club' <pinchercreekcurlingclub@gmail.com>

Subject: New Curling Rink Support

Dear Mayor, Reeve and Councillors:

This letter is in support of the Pincher Creek Curling Club.

The curling club provides a winter activity for all ages from both the Town and the MD. It brings community members together for bonspiels as well as brings in revenue for local businesses and provides students with the opportunity to learn one of Canada's most iconic sports. Every sport or activity should be encouraged in a community. The curling club currently rents the land that the old building sits on but it does not rely upon the Town for any of its operational costs unlike the swimming pool, arena and sports fields. These all use paid town employees to operate or maintain.

According to the Town of Pincher Creek newsletter attached to my current year's property taxes and listed at #7 "Recreation & Culture" my taxes are used to support the "arena, pool, Lebel Mansion, numerous parks, sports fields, walking trails and 2 early learning centres". It does not list the Pincher Creek Curling Club as it has never paid for the maintenance or the running of the club. It has provided obstacles (e.g. Engineer's study approximately 15 years ago with constant inspections at significant cost to the club or changing from the golf course to the existing site which was also a significant financial expenditure as this was not the first time plans were drawn for that site).

The use of tax payer funds goes to support the various recreation and culture listed above EVERY YEAR. The curling club is asking for a loan. Something that will be paid back. Not something given every year.

I don't use pool, the ball diamonds, soccer fields or have any use of the Lebel Mansion or the 2 early learning centres but others do. My taxes go to support them. I do curl. What supports it? There have been concerns about "how many use the rink?" Are there statistics out there as to the numbers using the Lebel or the early learning centres? Do they have to justify their existence with numbers?

I enjoy curling and would like to continue to do so in this community that has been my home for over 30 years. I think its pretty cool that you can have four generations curl on one team as this is one of the few sports that

encourages both young and old to participate at the same time. I sincerely hope the Town of Pincher Creek and the MD will serious consider making this possible.

Sincerely

Grace MacMillan

Carolyn McLaurie<>

You

We have immensely enjoyed Stirling Curling during the last five years and hope to continue on in our new curling rink in the Fall.

We travel a considerable distance twice a week to play in the various leagues, men's, ladies, mixed and fun.

Not only does it provide a social outing, laughter and often times spent reminiscing. It's all in the spirit of the sport.

For us, it shortens our Winters up.

Being able to associate with new people, it strengthens our Community.

Our bonspiels bring in fellow curlers from outlying towns including Calgary.

This attracts business to our retail outlets, restaurants, accommodations and various tourist attractions in the area.

Wayne and Carolyn McLaurie

Fw: TONIGHT. MEETING June 17

From carrie kinahan <carrie_kinahan@hotmail.com>
Date Wed 2026-06-17 15:17
To Jessica McClelland <AdminExecAsst@mdpinchercreek.ab.ca>

Thank you,

Carrie

From: Sheila McRae <sheilammcrae@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 3:13 PM
To: carrie kinahan <carrie_kinahan@hotmail.com>
Cc: woliver@pinchercreek.ca <woliver@pinchercreek.ca>; Mark Barber <MBarber@pinchercreek.ca>; bcyr@pinchercreek.ca <bcyr@pinchercreek.ca>; bmcgillivray@pinchercreek.ca <bmcgillivray@pinchercreek.ca>; vwyynder@pinchercreek.ca <vwyynder@pinchercreek.ca>; gmcullen@pinchercreek.ca <gmcullen@pinchercreek.ca>; snodge@pinchercreek.ca <snodge@pinchercreek.ca>
Subject: Re: TONIGHT. MEETING June 17

I'm so sorry I can't attend this evening's discussion due to a previous commitment.

I would like to say that the Stirling/Curling group has meant so much to me because it connected me with so many classmates and friends from my youth. I left PC at age 17 and returned after retirement. For several years I lived in Costa Rica in the winter so when it came time to reintegrate into the community Stirling was there for me. I cannot imagine not having a Curling Rink available to the citizens of Pincher Creek and area. I am unable to understand the constant vocal opposition to an activity that supports physical and even more importantly, the mental health of its citizens, especially senior citizens. The social connections have value beyond measure.

I am certain that a solution can be found with support from the citizens of the Town and MD

Respectfully,

Sheila McRae

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 17, 2026, at 2:29 PM, carrie kinahan <carrie_kinahan@hotmail.com> wrote:

Thank you, Katie,

See everyone there.

Carrie

Subject: TONIGHT. MEETING June 17

Don't forget happening tonight!! 6pm
We need your support 🍷

On Mon, Jun 15, 2026 at 5:02 PM Katie & Marty Lemire <mkle mire11@gmail.com> wrote:
Just a friendly reminder

The Curling Club is so much more than a place to play a game. It is where friendships are built, memories are made, and a strong sense of community is created. It brings people together, supports one another, and provides a place where everyone belongs. This project is about preserving and strengthening that community for future generations.

Thank you for your continued support, encouragement, and belief in this project. Together, we can demonstrate the positive impact our Curling Club has on our community.

We hope to see you on Wednesday, June 17. 6pm

15 June 2026

To Whom it May Concern:

RE: Letter of Support to Complete the Structure of the New Curling Facility in Pincher Creek, AB

My name is Lucas Pittman. In 1996, I was first introduced to curling at the Pincher Creek Curling Club. I was six years old and I remember never wanting to curl again—the rocks were big and I was small, even for my age, and pushing them down the rink seemed like an impossible feat. Contrary to my preconceived notions, the next year I was back pushing those rocks to the best of my ability. My friends and family were there, and soon enough I overcame the challenges with the support of the Junior Rock League Program, led by exceptional instructors, mentors, and volunteers. Curling gave me a sense of community, and it still does to this day.

I now live a short distance away in Diamond Valley, AB, and return to Pincher Creek each year to curl in weekend bonspiels with old and new teammates alike. The Pincher Creek Curling Club has been a cornerstone of our community for generations, providing not only recreational opportunities but also fostering friendships, physical health, and life skills across all ages. From teaching young athletes about perseverance and teamwork in the Junior Rock League, to offering a warm gathering place for families and seniors during our long Alberta winters, the Club plays a vital role in the social fabric of Pincher Creek and surrounding areas.

The new facility represents a critical investment in our community's future. Completing construction this summer could enable the Club to open its doors in advance of the upcoming curling season, avoiding disruption to programs, leagues, and events that locals and visitors rely on. I understand the Club has encountered funding shortfalls and that the Town and Municipal District are considering a loan to bridge the gap until grants and corporate sponsorships are secured. I strongly support this approach. A short-term loan is a prudent and forward-thinking step that will protect a beloved community asset, enable continued operations, and position the Club for long-term sustainability and growth.

As a lifelong curler with deep roots in Pincher Creek, I have seen firsthand how this Club brings people together and strengthens our community. I urge you to approve the necessary loan to complete the facility. This decision will have lasting positive impacts for families, youth, and everyone who values the traditions and connections that curling provides.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration. I am happy to discuss this further or provide additional information.

Sincerely,

Lucas Pittman

Diamond Valley, AB

Curling rink

From missyprimrose <>

Date Mon 2026-06-15 12:23

To MDInfo <MDInfo@mdpincercreek.ab.ca>

Been following the ongoing saga of the curling rink in the paper. Not hard to see that this scenario of lack of funds was guaranteed to happen. I believe this was one of the reasons there was so much pushback from concerned citizens before this project was started. Perhaps the club should have been made to establish a trust fund, holding all of the required money before they started... too late for that now. We feel the rink has used enough of our tax dollars in an irresponsible way, and should not receive any more. Don't know what the solution will be. And how are they going to have any money to clean up the old rink? Stay tuned I guess.... Henry and Missy Primrose.

Sent from my Galaxy

To: MD of Pincher Creek: Town of Pincher Creek

Subject: Curling Club Project

As a land owner, resident, and retiree I do not encourage anyone to dump money into a black hole. I never been able to afford that and certainly can't at this time.

I do believe that curling is one of the few athletic activities that can involve individuals of all ages, physical abilities, and skill levels; thus it can facilitate interactions between citizens with a wide range of attributes and experiences. Participation is possible for all and some are not just forced to the sidelines. Although accessible to all, of course not every person will be actively involved - but this is the same within all other facilities and opportunities. It seems that both physical and mental health can be positively impacted by these activities.

I believe that certainly there are many questions to be asked (researched and answered) before a decision can be made. Questions regarding finances, possible additional uses, ownership, ...

I do hope that a deep investigation shows that this project will be a positive addition to our area.

Sincerely,

Catherine Sheard



Sandra Stafford<>

Sturling has become a big part of our winter time routine. It does a lot more than take us to Pincher Creek twice a week. As an older senior with some mobility issues sturling is one activity that I can take part in and really enjoy. In addition it also provides a time for socializing which is so important for our over all health. It is a sport for all ages.

Sandra

Mom for Curling

From Jennifer Thompson <>

Date Mon 2026-06-15 15:26

To Jessica McClelland <AdminExecAsst@mdpinchercreek.ab.ca>

Cc woliver@pinchercreek.ca <woliver@pinchercreek.ca>; mbarber@pinchercreek.ca <mbarber@pinchercreek.ca>; bcyrr@pinchercreek.ca <bcyrr@pinchercreek.ca>; bmcgillivray@pinchercreek.ca <bmcgillivray@pinchercreek.ca>; vwynder@pinchercreek.ca <vwynder@pinchercreek.ca>; gmcullen@pinchercreek.ca <gmcullen@pinchercreek.ca>; snodge@pinchercreek.ca <snodge@pinchercreek.ca>

Dear Members of Town Council,

I am writing to you today not as an expert in recreation or economics, but simply as a mom, a neighbour, and someone who has recently discovered the joy of curling.

Like many people in our community, I have spent years putting everyone else first. Raising children, volunteering, and taking care of the endless responsibilities that come with everyday life. As my kids have gotten older, I have been searching for something that gets me out of the house, helps me connect with others, and gives me a reason to be part of our community in a new way.

That is exactly what curling has done.

This year, along with a group of friends, my husband and I took the leap and bought our own curling gear. We have invested in this club because we believe in it. We believe in the friendships being built, the laughter shared, and the sense of belonging that happens when people of all ages and backgrounds step onto the ice together.

I have never had more fun at a public event than I have had at a curling event. There is something truly special about the atmosphere. Newcomers are welcomed with open arms, experienced curlers are eager to teach, and everyone, regardless of age, athletic ability, or experience level, has a place.

In recent years, there has been so much discussion around the concept of "Blue Zones" . These are communities around the world where people live longer, healthier lives. A key factor that researchers have identified is social connection. People who belong to clubs, maintain friendships, and participate in meaningful community activities are healthier, happier, and more engaged. In a time when loneliness and isolation have become increasingly common, places like our curling club are not simply recreational facilities; they are essential spaces where community is created.

Our curling club has been a part of this town for generations. It carries memories of grandparents, parents, and children who have gathered there before us. Now, we are seeing a new wave of people ready to continue that legacy. Young families, new residents, and people like myself are eager to try something new and become part of something bigger.

But we need a place to do it.

If the building is left unfinished, it will not only become an eyesore in our community, it will become a symbol of a missed opportunity. A chance to bring people together, to preserve a long-standing tradition, and to create a healthy, welcoming space for future generations.

I understand that the council has difficult decisions to make and many competing priorities. But I ask you to consider what we are really investing in when we support the completion of this building. We are investing in connection. We are investing in physical and mental health. We are investing in a place where people can laugh, compete, volunteer, and build friendships that may last a lifetime.

The momentum is here. The interest is here. The people are here.

Please help us finish what we have started. Help us ensure that this historic club continues to be a gathering place for our community for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Jen Thompson (A hopeful new curler, a mom, and a proud member of this community)

Dear Mayor and Councillors

June 6, 2026

I greatly appreciate the support the Town has given the Curling Club and the building of a new rink. Community recreation is so important and curling is a sport that includes all ages and abilities from elementary school-age children to seniors. The equipment required is minimal (broom & slider) and fees are very reasonable. It is a sport you can easily play for a lifetime.

My earliest experience with the curling community was as a young child going to the rink to watch my dad play and then later on playing in high school bonspiels. The curling rink was the gathering place for playing and socializing. In neighbouring communities with cement bases (our town had sand base such as the Pincher rink has presently), summer markets, weddings, and other social events were held in the off-season. Fifty+ years later, I see the same sense of community where everyone from families, seniors and newcomers gather to get some exercise and some social interaction. A great way to have fun while staying fit physically and mentally through those winter months. I myself curl twice a week playing doubles and open league.

There are many leagues to cover all who want to participate; juniors, open 4 person teams, doubles and sturling with 2 person teams. There are curling events held throughout the season including out-of-town teams. All these leagues and events are organized through a great volunteer base with most members involved in some form. There are also schools programs and private rentals making use of the facility. With the new curling rink, I see greater opportunities to host both winter and summer events. It can only benefit the recreational offerings of our community.

Thank-you for your time

Michelle Visser

To whom it may concern:

Re: Letter of Support for Investments in Curling

I am writing this letter of support for investments in curling in my capacity as a doctoral candidate at the University of Waterloo, and as a researcher whose work has focused on the multiple physical and social benefits that can be achieved through curling. Curling is a sport whose benefits can be realized across the life span and frequently extends to persons with disabilities. Sporting opportunities for older adults are quite rare, yet curling has a long history of being a sport that develops and sustains both physical and mental wellbeing for older adults. For curling to be a viable sporting option, the infrastructure must be maintained.

Investment in curling infrastructure is not merely an expenditure on a sports facility; it is a direct, evidence-based investment in public health, preventative healthcare, and social integration. Academic research increasingly demonstrates that curling provides unique, comprehensive health benefits across the life span, particularly for often overlooked demographics.

As the population ages, preventative wellness measures are paramount. Curling offers physical, mental and social benefits to participants. Research published in the *Journal of Aging and Physical Activity* demonstrates that older adults who curl possess significantly superior functional mobility and “falls efficacy” (balance confidence) compared to non curlers (Stone, et al., 2018). Training core stability and balance on a low-friction surface (pebbled ice), curling acts as a highly effective, yet fun and community-based fall prevention program. Investing in curling ensures that older adults can continue to access a sport which is a vital tool in preventing falls and injuries.

Curling also contributes to maintain physical activity standards for participants of all age groups. A 2024 study tracked recreational curlers using accelerometers and found that a single typical game contributes to roughly 24% of the weekly Moderate-to-Vigorous Physical Activity (MVPA) recommended by public health guidelines, with players averaging over 3,000 steps per game (Kanters, 2024). Furthermore, research in *The Journals of Gerontology* notes that the strategic, multi-layered cognitive demands of the sport (“chess on ice”) actively help older adults keep their minds sharp, combatting cognitive decline while simultaneously attending to the public health epidemic of senior isolation (Allain & Marshall, 2024).

Curling is one of the most uniquely integrative sports in the world. With minor adaptations, such as delivery sticks, individuals with physical disabilities compete directly alongside able-bodied peers. Research highlights that wheelchair curling provides excellent low-risk upper-body rehabilitation and significantly boosts the intrinsic motivation and psychological well-being of para-athletes by embedding them in an inclusive social framework (Daşkesen et al., 2025; Wang et al., 2022). While there are innumerable benefits of curling for people with disabilities, not all facilities are accessible -- making investment into and preservation of such facilities even more important. Additionally, curling programming can be adapted for athletes with visual and hearing impairments.

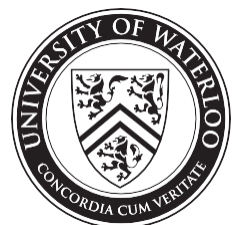
Despite the immense benefits of curling, aging infrastructure limits potential and has resulted in many facilities closing. When facilities close, avid curlers may seek other facilities, but many are already at capacity and the net result is fewer sporting opportunities, often for populations like older adults and people with disabilities who benefit significantly yet have limited access to sport. Without financial support to replace and repair infrastructure, communities risk losing a vital and long-standing hub that keeps older adults active, people with disabilities integrated, and offers broad health benefits to the whole community.

With financial support, curling facilities can play a central role in a community's sporting landscape for decades to come. Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued commitment to community sport and wellness. Should you like to further discuss any of the research here, or means through which curling can serve the community, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,



Laura Leitch, PhD candidate
Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies
Faculty of Health, University of Waterloo
laura.leitch@uwaterloo.ca



June 8, 2026

To whom it may concern:

Re: Letter of Support for Investments in Curling

I am writing in strong support of investments in curling. I do so in my capacity as a Professor in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies at the University of Waterloo and as a researcher who has spent more than twenty years studying curling clubs as sites of community life, health promotion, and social belonging in Canada. It is my view, which is grounded in peer-reviewed research, national multi-site studies, and sustained community partnership, that investment in curling facility infrastructure is, first and foremost, an investment in community infrastructure. To help provide an understanding of the importance of curling and curling clubs for community building, I want to share four major insights from my work.

Curling Clubs as Community Infrastructure

My earliest curling research (listed below) established what subsequent work has continued to confirm: the curling club is not simply a sporting venue. It is, in sociological terms, a 'third' place. It is a gathering space that stands apart from home and workplace and that provides the social glue holding communities together across generations, seasons, and life circumstances. Curling clubs have historically served as sites of volunteerism, intergenerational connection, civic celebration, and informal support networks. When a curling club building deteriorates to the point of being unusable or unsafe, we lose more than the sport, we lose the community infrastructure that the building provides.

Mair, H. (2007). Curling in Canada: From gathering place to international spectacle. *International Journal of Canadian Studies*, 35, 39–60.

Mair, H. (2009). Club life: Third place and shared leisure in rural Canada. *Leisure Sciences*, 31(5), 450–465.



Barrick, S.J., & Mair, H. (2025). Hurry hard!: Exploring the possibilities and pitfalls for curling to help (re)build society in/through community sport. *Leisure/Loisir*, 1–29. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14927713.2025.2503184>

Health Promotion and Wellbeing Across the Lifespan

A sustained body of evidence (including a national multi-site photovoice study conducted in Ontario, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, and the Northwest Territories) demonstrates that participation in curling is meaningfully associated with physical health, mental wellbeing, and the development of social support networks, particularly for women. Participants in this research described the curling club not simply as a place to play sport, but as a space that sustained their health, connected them to others, and gave structure and meaning to their lives. Physical access to a safe, well-maintained facility is the precondition for all of this benefit. A club that cannot keep the lights on, or that defers ice-plant maintenance until it becomes non-functional removes a health resource from the community.

Leipert, B.D., Plunkett, R., Meagher-Stewart, D., Scruby, L., Mair, H., & Wamsley, K.B. (2011). 'I can't imagine my life without it!' Curling and health promotion: A photovoice study. *Canadian Journal of Nursing Research*, 60–78.

Mair, H., Leipert, B.D., Scruby, L.S., & Meagher-Stewart, D. (2019). Making health: Sport and women's care in rural Canada. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 65, 90–98.

Scrubby, L.S., Rona, H.A., Leipert, B., Mair, H., & Snow, W. (2019). Exploring social support, sport participation and rural women's health using photovoice: The Manitoba experience. *Canadian Journal of Nursing Research*.

Inclusion, Accessibility, and Equitable Participation

Relative to many organized sports, curling's structure, which is built on mixed-gender traditions, volunteerism, relatively low cost of entry, and accessibility across a wide age range, gives it unusual potential as a vehicle for equitable community participation. Our research on introductory league programs has documented how curling can serve as an accessible entry point for adults who have not previously engaged in organized sport, including newcomers to Canada and older adults seeking social connection alongside physical activity. Recent work has also examined curling's growing commitment to inclusion for persons with disabilities, including through wheelchair curling programs.

It is worth being clear, however, that this potential for inclusive participation is only realizable when the physical facility supports it. Aging infrastructure creates barriers that disproportionately affect newcomers, older adults, and participants with disabilities. Facility investment is therefore equity investment.

Barrick, S., & Mair, H. (2019). Experiencing learn-to-curl leagues: A qualitative case study analysis of adult introductory sport programs. *Qualitative Research in Sport, Exercise and Health*, 12(5), 730–748.

Serpil, D.S., Bedir, D., Ilhan, E.L., Demir Onur, T., & Mair, H. (2025). Motivations of wheelchair curling athletes to participate in sport: A qualitative research. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 16.

Long-Term Social Return

Investing in curling facility infrastructure is about social sustainability. Curling clubs, particularly those with deep roots in their communities, represent decades of accumulated social capital: volunteer networks, programming traditions, intergenerational relationships, and community identity. When a facility reaches the end of its functional life and investment is deferred, this social capital erodes rapidly and is difficult to rebuild. The cost of losing a community curling club, in health outcomes, social isolation, lost volunteer infrastructure, and diminished civic life, far exceeds the cost of timely facility renewal.

Conclusion

I offer this letter of support without reservation. The body of evidence my research program has built over more than twenty years speaks directly and consistently to the social value of curling clubs as community infrastructure. I am confident that investment in curling will generate long-term social returns that extend well beyond the sport itself.

I am happy to speak to any aspect of the research cited here, or to provide additional references, should that be of assistance to the review process.

Sincerely,



Heather Mair, PhD

Professor and Chair, Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies
Faculty of Health, University of Waterloo
Fellow, The Academy of Leisure Sciences
hmair@uwaterloo.ca

June 3, 2026

Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9 Council
Pincher Creek, Alberta

Re: Continued Support for a New Curling Rink Facility

Dear Reeve and Members of Council,

I am writing in support of continued MD funding and advocacy for the construction of a new curling rink facility in Pincher Creek.

Curling has been a part of my life since I was six years old, when I first joined the junior curling program. Some of my fondest childhood memories are walking down to the curling rink with my cousins every Monday after school with two dollars to spend at 7-11 along the way, excited for another evening on the ice. From an early age, curling taught me something unique: it is a sport with no age limits.

One memory that stands out is playing in the Perish Bonspiel, where my cousin won the award for the youngest curler while my grandfather won the award for the oldest curler. Few sports can bring together multiple generations in the same way. Curling has always been a place where young and old, rural and urban residents, beginners and experienced players can participate together as equals.

I remember when the mixed league regularly filled two draws on two nights each week, with sixteen teams on the ice every evening. The curling rink was a hub of activity and a gathering place for our community. It was more than a sports facility; it was a social centre where friendships were built and maintained.

When I moved back to Pincher Creek, joining the curling club was one of the first community organizations I became involved with again. One of the greatest joys was finding myself curling alongside many of the mentors and volunteers who had taught me the game years earlier. That continuity between generations is something special and increasingly rare.

Unfortunately, the rink experienced a significant setback when it was unable to obtain the necessary insurance to operate for a season. That interruption was enough to dramatically slow membership growth and participation. Since then, the club has worked diligently to rebuild its membership base and restore momentum. While progress has been made, it has not been easy.

Today, the aging facility presents ongoing challenges. Chinook conditions make it difficult to maintain quality ice. Volunteers routinely shave down ice distortions caused by leaks in the roof, and portions of the cinder block walls require reinforcement after years of wear and occasional vehicle impacts. The building has served our community well, but it is reaching the end of its useful life.

I will be the first to admit that curling is not everyone's sport. I can likely count on one hand the number of times I have laced up a pair of skates or picked up a set of golf clubs. Those activities simply are not for me. However, I would never begrudge support for the facilities that serve those sports. The diversity of recreational opportunities available in our community is what makes Pincher Creek special. Not every facility serves every resident, but together they create a vibrant and healthy community.

The curling club has understood the need for a replacement facility for many years. Members have been fundraising tirelessly for more than seventeen years, knowing the lifespan of the existing rink was limited. They worked hard to reach funding targets and position the project for success. Unfortunately, when those goals were achieved, additional obstacles delayed progress. During those years of delay, construction costs escalated dramatically, making the challenge even greater. This reality should also be considered when evaluating the project today.

The club has also adapted to changing interests and demographics by expanding its programming to include opportunities such as doubles curling and stick curling, helping attract a broader range of participants. It continues to evolve while maintaining the community spirit that has always defined it.

For me personally, curling is an opportunity to connect with others during the winter months. It is a place where I see friends and neighbours that I may not have crossed paths with since the previous season. For many residents, the rink provides an important social outlet, a sense of belonging, and a connection to the community during the long winter season.

I respectfully ask Council to continue supporting the development of a new curling facility. The curling rink has served generations of Pincher Creek residents, and with your support, it can continue serving generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Welsch', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anna Welsch

Support for New Curling Rink Development

From Ken Wood <>

Date Tue 2026-06-16 10:04

To MDInfo <MDInfo@mdpincercreek.ab.ca>; woliver@pinchercreek.ca <woliver@pinchercreek.ca>; mbarber@pinchercreek.ca <mbarber@pinchercreek.ca>; bcyr@pinchercreek.ca <bcyr@pinchercreek.ca>; bmcgillivray@pinchercreek.ca <bmcgillivray@pinchercreek.ca>; gmcullen@pinchercreek.ca <gmcullen@pinchercreek.ca>; snodge@pinchercreek.ca <snodge@pinchercreek.ca>; vwynder@pinchercreek.ca <vwynder@pinchercreek.ca>; Tony Bruder <CouncilDiv1@mdpincercreek.ab.ca>; Rick Lemire <CouncilDiv2@mdpincercreek.ab.ca>; Dave Cox <CouncilDiv3@mdpincercreek.ab.ca>; Jim Welsch <CouncilDiv4@mdpincercreek.ab.ca>; John MacGarva <CouncilDiv5@mdpincercreek.ab.ca>

Dear Members of Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the ongoing efforts to develop a new curling rink in our community. This project represents many years of dedication from local curlers, volunteers, and residents who have worked tirelessly to raise funds, secure grants, and advocate for a facility that will serve the community for generations to come.

Curling has long been more than just a sport in our town—it is a tradition that brings people together across age groups and backgrounds. A new rink would provide a welcoming space for youth programs, recreational leagues, senior leagues, bonspiels, and community events. In a time when many people feel increasingly disconnected, facilities like this play a vital role in strengthening social ties and building community spirit.

On a personal note, I am especially looking forward to the opportunity to get my newborn son involved in the game as he grows up. It would mean a great deal to be able to introduce him to a sport that has such deep roots in our community, in a facility that reflects the pride and commitment of local residents.

Beyond recreation, the proposed rink would offer broader benefits. It would support local economic activity by attracting tournaments and visitors, provide opportunities for volunteerism, and contribute to the overall health and wellbeing of residents. It would also ensure that future generations have access to affordable, inclusive sport and recreation in our community.

I understand that the project continues to face significant obstacles, including funding challenges and other logistical barriers. However, given the years of effort already invested and the clear need for a new facility, I respectfully encourage Council to continue working collaboratively with stakeholders to help bring this project to completion.

This rink is more than a building—it is an investment in community connection, active living, and local pride. I urge the Council to continue supporting this important initiative and to help ensure it becomes a reality.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

-Ken Wood

Pincher Creek Resident