



March 5, 2020

Mayor Chopp and Councillors
Norfolk County
50 Colborne Street South
Simcoe, ON N3Y 4H3

Norfolk Minor Hockey Association - Community Arenas

Dear Mayor Chopp & Councillors:

Further to the Simcoe & District Minor Hockey Association's ("SDMHA's") recent letter, the Norfolk Minor Hockey Association ("NMHA") held a Board meeting at which Norfolk County's 2020 Tax Budget arena decisions were discussed. As you are aware, the newly formed NMHA is an organization formed through the cooperation of the Port Dover, Simcoe, and Waterford Minor Hockey Associations to provide "A Level" hockey in Norfolk.

The NMHA shares the SDMHA's very serious concerns and would like to further express our particular concern over the difficulty in launching a new and exciting hockey association at the same time a key community arena is being closed and the County is considering the private management of the remaining arenas, or else threatening additional arena closures. While NMHA is looking to enhance Norfolk's hockey opportunities and grow hockey enrollment, these budget decisions are at odds with this vision and make our efforts all the more challenging.

Our Board discussed the number of ice rental hours to be redistributed from the Rec Centre arena to other facilities. This redistribution will be very daunting and will surely have adverse consequences to our programming and that of other organizations. Further, at a time when we are completing our budget for our first year of operation we are at a loss for reliable information regarding what ice will be available and on what terms.

Our Board further discussed possible solutions to the arena budget challenges, solutions which we believe could help maintain Norfolk's existing arenas in a more sustainable fashion. We would be excited to meet with Norfolk County staff, or as otherwise directed, to discuss these solutions within the context of Council support to try to maintain the existing arenas. It is unfortunate that such an opportunity was not provided prior to making dramatic budget



decisions. However, if there could be a delay to those decisions we are confident that Norfolk County and its many arena user groups could creatively and constructively find a better path forward.

We respectfully request your further consideration of this matter and the opportunity to work with you to find solutions which will better serve our community's recreation needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat Meahan'.

Pat Meahan
1st Vice President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Darnell Lambert'.

Darnell Lambert
2nd Vice President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Jefferson'.

Martin Jefferson
President
Norfolk Minor Hockey Association