

PRINCETON



Mayor: Frank Armitage
Councillors: Doug Pateman, Kim Maynard,
Rosemary Doughty and Jerome Tjerkstra
PO Box 670, 151 Vermilion Avenue, Princeton, B.C.
Phone: 250-295-3135 Fax: 250-295-3477
Website: Princeton.ca Email: info@princeton.ca
[Facebook.com/PrincetonBC](https://www.facebook.com/PrincetonBC)

A Newsletter from the Town of Princeton

November 2017

PRINCETON COMMUNITY HEALTH WELLNESS & AQUATIC CENTRE OPEN HOUSES NOVEMBER 8TH 1:00-3:30 p.m. OR 6:30-9:00 p.m. AT RIVERSIDE CENTRE

The community has demonstrated through surveys and various forms of communication a need for an indoor facility. An Economic Development Study further demonstrated that the number one priority continues to be a Health Wellness & Aquatic Centre from both residents and business. Our existing outdoor pool built in 1967 is at the end of its useful life and is expected to be serviceable for only a few more years.

The Town of Princeton's number one priority is to develop a regionally significant public facility to further the revitalization of Princeton. Major industries and the community of Princeton generate in excess of \$750 million per year towards the British Columbia economy annually. Approximately 70% of the workers in these industries live in Princeton and the surrounding area. Our challenge is to have the remaining 30% of the industrial workers and their families live, work and play in Princeton. Having these additional families in town will support the existing business community and create economic activity that will promote the development of new businesses.

The main reason given by workers for not relocating their families to Princeton is the lack of indoor recreation activities and facilities, particularly in the winter.

Our objective is to remove this barrier to relocation and growth by locating a community wellness/aquatic facility in the Town of Princeton. Some of the anticipated benefits of the project to our residents and business community are:

Community Benefits

- Opportunity to provide healthy, positive lifestyle choices for our youth and residents.
- Foster community spirit by providing opportunities for the community to gather together.

Employment Benefits

- Employment opportunities for our youth in preparation for careers and post-secondary education.
- Numerous full and part time employment opportunities.

Economic Benefits

- A community Health Wellness & Aquatic Centre will attract new business to the community. It has been proven in other communities to be a prime economic development and relocation magnet and a major tourism draw. It is important to the retail marketplace to attract new families and businesses to Princeton.
- An indoor facility will provide an enhanced range of recreational opportunities, especially in the shoulder seasons of October/November to April/May. It will be a feature amenity for tournaments, conferences, and special events which all provide spinoff activity for local businesses.



PRINCETON COMMUNITY HEALTH WELLNESS & AQUATIC CENTRE OPEN HOUSE

Economic Benefits

- The construction and operational phases of the project will generate direct spending on goods and services.
- The new facility will allow the Town to host regional events that attract competitors and their families who will enjoy the use of our retail services, hotels, motels, and restaurants while visiting. These events will also retain many families at home during event weekends to spend their money locally.
- Attraction of new family relocations; home sales; business support and school enrollment.

Health Benefits

- Attraction and retention of Doctors and health care professionals and their families.
- Improved family and senior's wellness resulting from improved social and fitness opportunities.
- Ability to offer "in town" Worksafe BC rehabilitation programs as well as rehabilitation programs for recovering hospital patients.
- Provide physical and social activities that all can participate in during the winter indoor season.

Feasibility Study

Council's priority for 2016 was to prepare preliminary concepts and plans, identify funding sources, secure a location, develop a budget, and to work on operational strategies.

The Town of Princeton engaged an expert consultant to initiate a design concept and provide capital and operating cost estimates.

The Project

Overwaitea Food Group donated the lands located at 235, 237, 241 and 247 Bridge Street (the site of the former Overwaitea Food Store) to the Town of Princeton for the purposes of developing the donated lands for civic or public activities. Our plan is to build this community Health Wellness & Aquatic Centre in downtown Princeton.

The project will enable the town to satisfy a major amenity need and contribute to the revitalization of our town centre.

Based on a leisure concept featuring activities and functional amenities we would include exercise and fitness, aquatics, physical rehabilitation, as well as social and community activities.

The centre will be designed to accommodate seniors, families with young children, and people with accessibility challenges in a safe and comfortable atmosphere. The facility will be approximately 40,000 square feet with environmentally friendly and energy efficient operating systems.

The facility capital cost, is \$27 million. Our proposal is to partner with the Provincial and Federal Governments. We are looking for a commitment of \$11 million from Provincial Government, \$11 million from the Federal Government and the remaining funding would come from the Town reserves. The project would be taken to the next step of development only with the Provincial and Federal government commitments.

