



October 15, 2019

His Worship Fred Eisenberger  
Mayor, City of Hamilton  
71 Main Street West, 2nd floor  
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y5

Honourable Members  
City Council, City of Hamilton  
71 Main Street West  
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger and Members of City Council:

I am writing to you in support of SportHamilton's proposed indoor multi-sport facility in Hamilton.

There is much good news about Canadian basketball. It is the fastest growing sport in Canada and the most participated sport amongst youth aged 12 to 17. Basketball is considered the coolest sport amongst 18 to 24-year-olds and the first sport choice for newcomers to Canada. But that popularity and growth also brings capacity issues. Canada Basketball is working hard to increase the number of qualified coaches, referees, administrators .... And facilities!

The need for additional basketball facilities has been a long-standing problem in Canada, particularly in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. That problem has only increased as the popularity of the sport grows, and access to general purpose sports facilities such as schools becomes more restrictive and expensive.

The importance of basketball to a community and the need to provide additional facilities for the ever increasing demand has been recognized by other communities in the Golden Horseshoe (for example, see the "Basketball Development Plan" prepared by the City of Toronto's Parks, Forestry and Recreation Department which can be found on-line at <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2016/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-98433.pdf>).

Canada Basketball would also be interested in using this facility for its own programs, games and other events. We had engaged in discussions with the City of Hamilton about relocating Canada Basketball's headquarters and men's national training centre to Hamilton earlier in the year. Although those discussions did not result in an agreement, we would be very interested in exploring all possibilities for our involvement in this proposed facility. Canada Basketball's participation in the Hamilton facility could bring significant exposure, employment, and valuable sport tourism benefits.



Finally, I know firsthand how much unfulfilled demand for basketball courts exists in the area from my experience as the former Director of Athletics and Recreation at McMaster University and also as the co-founder/chairman of HoopDome, a seven court privately owned basketball facility located in Toronto's Downsview Park.

At McMaster, we could not fulfill much of the third-party requests for rentals of our gymnasiums. Similarly, our courts at HoopDome are often booked to capacity with leagues, rentals and tournaments and we regularly must turn away rental requests. HoopDome has been profitable since inception and usage has increased year over year in all twelve years of its existence.

I strongly encourage Hamilton to move forward with this important and well-needed community and recreational infrastructure.

Please feel free to contact me if you should need any further information or assistance.

Sincerely,

Glen Grunwald  
President & CEO Canada Basketball