

## **MULTI SPORT INDOOR HARDCOURT FACILITY PRESENTATION**

Dear Emergency and Community Services Committee

My name is John Rocchi and I have been a volunteer coach and administrator in the Hamilton Sports Community for over 40 years. I have hands on experience with the growth of the sport in our community and the province having been the President of the Blessed Sacrament Yellow Jackets Basketball Club since 1986 and a Director with Basketball Ontario since 2010. During the period, the club has been a leader in the local basketball community offering both recreational and competitive programs for both boys and girls while organizing the largest annual club basketball tournament in Canada. Additionally in 2010, the club was co-founder of the Smash Volleyball program

I am speaking to you today in support of the Hamilton Collaborative Partnership Group proposal for a multi-sport indoor hardcourt facility. The time sensitive cost-sharing opportunity from the federal government (Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (Community, Culture and Recreation Funding Stream)) has created an opportunity to cover a significant portion of the proposed facility capital costs. The following is a summary of some of the main points for justification of the proposal:

- The City of Hamilton, with an estimated 6,000 participants, has the highest number of registered indoor hard court (Basketball and Volleyball) players per population in Canada (club teams and house league). Participants start playing as young as age four, while competitive boys and girls teams range in age from seven to seventeen. Our continued growth in the sports locally is being challenged by a lack of facilities and the recent changes to the provincial government's Afterhours School Use Program (a program that had offered low cost access to local school board gymnasiums).
- Any concerns about the recovery of the majority of Capital Costs of project can be minimized through the cost sharing offered by the federal infrastructure program and by having the facility managed through a community partnership similar to the City of Hamilton's existing partnership with Nustadia for its Mohawk 4-Ice Center.
- The local basketball community existing events and partnership with Basketball Ontario guarantees a minimum of 50% rental occupancy of a 12 court facility upon the opening of the facility.
- The proposed multi-sport indoor facility would allow the city the opportunity of becoming a beneficiary of recreational sports tourism. The proposed multi-sports facility allows tourism monies to be shared within the community (i.e. hotel accommodation, local restaurants and shopping malls) as opposed to tourism monies being kept by event operators (i.e. concessions, parking, etc).

John Rocchi