

Subject: Community Infrastructure Planning to Match Provincial Housing Goals for Squamish

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From: Leah Hodges

To: HMA.minister@gov.bc.ca

CC: BCHInquiries-DemandesMC@inf.gc.ca, media-medias@inf.gc.ca, Media@pmo-cpm.gc.ca

Dear Honourable Christine Boyle,

I am writing on behalf of the Squamish Minor Hockey Association (SMHA) regarding the Province's recently announced (<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2025HMA0065-000778>) five-year housing goal for Squamish. While we welcome the commitment to addressing our region's housing needs, I must highlight the urgent parallel requirement for community infrastructure, particularly recreation facilities, that will allow families to live, work, and thrive here.

Current challenge

- Squamish has already far outgrown the existing Brennan Park Recreation Centre, which is the community's only arena, <https://squamish.ca/projects-plans-and-initiatives/master-plans/facilities/brennan-park-recreation-centre/>.
- The facility is operating at capacity and has now been closed due to major retrofits causing issues, leaving hundreds of families traveling to North Vancouver, Burnaby, and Langley just to access ice time, <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1B4cT3Pcvs/>.
- This shortage has significant impacts on youth sport participation, equity of access, and family well-being.

Impact of housing growth

With the Province's five-year housing targets, the population growth will continue to far outpace current recreation capacity. Without parallel investment in infrastructure like a multi-purpose recreation multiplex, <https://squamishminorhockey.com/advocating-new-ice/>, Squamish families will face worsening barriers to community sport, wellness, and cultural activities.

Call to action

We urge the Provincial and Federal governments to:

- Integrate community recreation infrastructure into housing and population growth planning for Squamish.
- Consider funding partnerships or grants to support a new multi-sheet ice and recreation multiplex that can serve as a long-term anchor for youth sport, adult recreation, and community gatherings.
- Recognize that supporting local facilities reduces travel emissions, promotes equitable access, and builds stronger community ties.

We would welcome an opportunity to engage in conversation or meet and share data on current demand, projected need, and potential partnership models for delivering a modern facility that

meets the needs of a growing Squamish.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Ensuring that housing growth is matched with community infrastructure is critical to building not only more homes, but a healthier and more connected Squamish.

Yours truly,

Leah Hodges
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