



Patricia Wilson <communications@squamishminorhockey.com>

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## Re: Hi Conny

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Conny Bonthron <registrar@squamishminorhockey.com>

Sat, Sep 6, 2025 at 8:22 PM

To: gagandeep ghuman <gaganscribe@gmail.com>

Cc: president@squamishminorhockey.com, Patricia Wilson <communications@squamishminorhockey.com>, Craig Halliday <vprep@squamishminorhockey.com>, Jordan <tdho@squamishminorhockey.com>

Hi Gagandeep,

I am going to answer as the Registrar, Risk Manager, and Camp Administrator at SMHA

### 1. How have the SMHA programs been affected by this abrupt closure?

- SMHA has been affected in many ways - programs and practices cancelled, tryouts delayed, house team balancing delayed, all in-season programming will be pushed back and need to be condensed, kids losing out on ice time and being even further behind than they usually are with ice not going in until mid to late August relative to most other associations, coaches losing hours and pay, increased travel and expenses for SMHA volunteers and members (mileage, hotels, meals) to attend practices and tryouts in the lower mainland, and a massive increase in time and effort required by our volunteer board members to find solutions and alternatives to the closure for our members (not to mention the added expense to SMHA in outsourcing ice in the lower mainland at significantly higher prices).

### 2. Has the district been forthcoming in providing information? What could the DOS have done differently?

- On August 18th, our preseason camps started. As soon as our Technical Director of Hockey, Jordan McCarl, arrived with his coaches for the 8:00 a.m. session, it was undeniable that we had a major problem. It was very humid, there was water dripping from the ceiling rafters, and holes in the ice because of this constant dripping. The glass panes were all fogged up, and you could not see from the stands, and there was a constant fog on the ice. By the end of the week, the coaches had sore lungs from breathing in that humidity all week.
- Early in the week of August 18th - 22nd (the first week the ice was in), Jordan indicated to the arena staff that warm air seemed to be coming in from the lobby renovation, likely leading to the humidity and poor ice conditions. Unfortunately, nothing changed or was done about it. In week 2, Jordan indicated to the arena staff that there was a single sheet of plywood as an exterior wall of the rink, separating the indoors from the 30-degree outdoors. This sheet of plywood had 3 holes cut out, each roughly 6" in diameter, which were covered up with a single layer of duct tape. The tape on the bottom hole, however, was cut out, which left a gaping hole directly from the rink to the outdoors.
- The very noticeable issue was that they took the wall that separated the lobby from the rink and did not completely seal it up, so no air was coming in. If you stood at the south end of the rink, you could feel the heat flowing in. They finally put up Polly on Monday, Aug 25th, when they said it would be done over the weekend. Our VP of Rep was the person who went and talked with Brennan Park and also Squamish Fire on Thursday, Aug 21, to address the issue that was not being fixed. There had been multiple emails with Brennan Park, but no changes had happened previously.
- The humidity did get better after the Poly went up on Monday. However, come Friday, it was night and day what the rink condition was on Thursday. It was worse than the first week of camps. Friday evening, we had our final 2 Tryout games for U13 and U18. We had parents going around the rink with a squeegee and paper towel to clear up the glass panes as much as possible so that the evaluators could see the players on the ice. We had to get the Zamboni to do another clean as it had sat for a while before the last user group, and there were ice chunks all over that were dangerous for the players.
- Nothing had changed over the weekend, and our 2 morning groups went out on the ice Tuesday, and it was not good. We then received news that the rink would be shut down for the rest of Tuesday and Wednesday. We are hoping it will be back open on Saturday, Sep 13th. The urgency to fix this problem has been lacking. There have been many parents in our hockey community who have experience offering their services to get this resolved quicker; however, they have been told no.

- SMHA inquired as to why Brennan Park doesn't use the Zamboni garage door to keep the heat out of the rink area, and we were told the door has been broken for a year and a half without a budget to fix it.

### 3. What needs to change at the district and Brennan Park? What is the lesson for DOS?

- Aside from needing additional ice surfaces and significant upgrades to the recreation facility, the ice needs to stay year-round or go in much earlier. This has been requested in the past, but has yet to come to fruition. SMHA starts their camps as soon as the ice goes in every year, and it was especially clear this year, with the renovation and getting the ice in at the very last minute, it was not in good enough condition to begin with.
- The DOS needs to be open to allowing a Private Organization to buy land and build a new Rec Center that is large enough to have at least 2-3 sheets of ice plus other amenities to support the youth and community in our town that has grown to almost 30,000. This will bring in revenue into our town, and we will be able to host tournaments again that we haven't been able to do since December 2020. These tournaments bring in revenue to our Hotels and Restaurants, just to name a couple.
- There is land that has had a for sale sign up for months, right across the highway from Brennan Park, it is right beside a hotel, restaurants, and breweries. There is a dedicated group of parents who have been working on a second rink. Here is their website <https://secondrinksquamish.ca/support>. I encourage all to go and support the initiative and sign their petition.

Regards,

Conny Bonthron

Registrar, Risk Manager, and Camp Administrator

Squamish Minor Hockey Association



*I acknowledge that I work and play on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded Indigenous territory of the Sk̓wxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish) people.*

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