



Patricia Wilson <communications@squamishminorhockey.com>

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## Fwd: Squamish Left Off the Ice: Rapid Development, Failing Community Infrastructure

2 messages

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Sarah Norman <sarahannenorman@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 8, 2025 at 4:13 PM

To: Patricia Wilson <communications@squamishminorhockey.com>

Hi Patricia, See below.  
Cheers,  
Sarah

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sarah Norman** <sarahannenorman@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Sep 7, 2025 at 5:49 PM

Subject: Squamish Left Off the Ice: Rapid Development, Failing Community Infrastructure

To: <jthuncher@squamishchief.com>

Cc: <editor@squamishchief.com>

Hi Jennifer,

I'm sure you're well aware of the Brennan Park ice closure, but wanted to share some additional information that I thought would be great coverage in the Chief:

As of September 2, 2025, the Brennan Park Recreation Centre ice rink — Squamish's only sheet of ice — has been closed due to unsafe ice conditions created during renovations. The District of Squamish has now confirmed the closure will last at least 10 more days.

**17 teams (roughly 250 families) had to travel as far as Langley (upwards of 2 hours each way) this weekend** for ice time in order to complete try-outs and practices needed to start the season.

The current renovations at Brennan Park however, do nothing to expand access or capacity to the rink or the pool. Families are left stranded, while the fundamental problem remains: Squamish has outgrown its single ice surface and single pool/

- **Population:** 30,000+ residents (one of the fastest-growing communities in Canada)
- **Ice Access:** Just **1 sheet of ice** for the entire town
- **Demand:** Children turned away from hockey; long waitlists
- **Equity:** Female athletes and adult players face little to no local opportunity
- **Comparison (Communities of similar size):**
  - Salmon Arm (16,065) — 3 ice sheets
  - Cranbrook (20,008) — 3 ice sheets
  - Fort St John (21,123) — 3 ice sheets
  - Port Alberni (21,711) — 2 ice sheets
  - **Squamish (23,968) — 1 ice sheet**
  - Duncan (24,358) — 5 ice sheets
  - Parksville (27,330) — 2 ice sheets

Squamish trails far behind every comparable community in BC when it comes to recreational infrastructure. This is especially alarming given that ours is one of the youngest and fastest-growing populations in Canada.

Meanwhile, Squamish Mayor and Council continue to approve major new developments — **over 1,000 new homes at a time** — while essential amenities like rinks and pools are left underfunded and crumbling.

Adding to the imbalance is the **\$8.8 billion Woodfibre LNG project, within eyesight of downtown**. Despite approvals from federal and provincial governments and co-regulation by the Squamish Nation, the District of Squamish sees little direct benefit:

- **Municipal taxes:** Roughly **\$1.5 million annually** — most of which is allocated to policing costs, and currently under dispute in court.
- **Community contrast:** While LNG proceeds with historic investment, Squamish families can't even secure safe, reliable access to a sheet of ice or a functioning pool.

**This is not sustainable.**

We need:

- **Immediate commitment to new infrastructure**
- **At least two additional ice sheets** within a modern multi-sport complex
- **Funded timelines** that match the pace of development in our town

The children of Squamish deserve better than being sidelined while new housing and billion-dollar projects rise around them.

I can offer interviews with:

- **SMHA President, Leah Hodges**
- **Hockey families**

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,  
Sarah

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**Patricia Wilson** <communications@squamishminorhockey.com>  
To: Sarah Norman <sarahannenorman@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 8, 2025 at 4:33 PM

thank you

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Regards,  
Patricia Wilson  
SMHA Administrative & Marketing Assistant  
**NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESS:** [communications@squamishminorhockey.com](mailto:communications@squamishminorhockey.com)

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