

**REPORT TO CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 09, 2020**

SUBJECT **Rowing BC – NextGen Performance Centre – Expression of Interest**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To seek Board approval to respond to an Expression of Interest issued by Rowing BC to locate the NextGen training centre at Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park.

BACKGROUND

Rowing Canada Aviron and Rowing BC have partnered to deliver the NextGen portion of the Athlete Development Pathway for rowing in BC through 2028. Provincial Development and Canadian Development athletes are considered NextGen Athletes in BC, i.e., athletes who are typically 5-8 years away from a potential Olympic or Paralympic podium.

Rowing BC is seeking a permanent home for the BC NextGen Performance Centre and has issued an Expression of Interest. Initial responses are due to Rowing BC on January 11, 2021 (see Appendix A).

In order to further understand this opportunity, the CRD Chair, the Mayor of Saanich and the General Manager of Parks & Environmental Services met by conference call with Mr. David Calder, Executive Director, Rowing BC, on December 7. Rowing BC is looking for a simple letter of interest by the deadline in order to continue the discussions and explore the opportunity further.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

That the CRD Board endorse staff responding to the Rowing BC Expression of Interest in order to continue exploring the concept of the NextGen Performance Centre to be located at Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park.

Alternative 2

That the CRD Board not pursue the opportunity at this time.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

At this time, it is understood that there would be no financial commitments required of the CRD to support the new training centre. Rowing BC has indicated that funding for any new infrastructure, such as a permanent anchoring system for race lane buoys, and a floating finish line viewing boardwalk, would be funded by the rowing community.

Social Implications

More work is necessary to determine how best to respond to the proposal call with community partners. If the CRD were to pursue supporting a new training centre located at Elk Lake, a planning process would be required to ensure all stakeholder interests are considered. Rowing BC has some expectations for enhanced infrastructure to support the training centre, which would need to be carefully considered within the broader context of the park and the management plan. Transport Canada sanctions all surface activities on Elk Lake.

The Victoria Rowing Society has a license of occupation with the CRD for use of a 0.675 ha portion of the regional park along the eastern shoreline of Elk Lake. The license was renewed in 2018 for 10 years, with an option to renew for a further 7 years. Current users of the site that fall under the Victoria Rowing Society include Rowing Canada Aviron, Victoria City Rowing Club, University of Victoria Rowing Team and Greater Victoria Youth Rowing Society.

Rowing BC anticipates that if such a training centre were to be located at Elk Lake, it may draw interest from the national program for various events and would open up opportunities for events in other sports, such as canoe, kayak, long-distance swimming and triathlon.

CONCLUSION

Rowing BC is seeking a permanent home for its new training centre, NextGen Performance Centre. This centre aims to prepare athletes for national training and bridges the gap to the national level training program from other existing training programs. The CRD, potentially in support of other rowing community partners, must respond to an Expression of Interest by January 11, 2021 in order for Elk Lake to be considered as the location for this facility. No commitments other than an interest to continue the discussions would be made by the CRD at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Capital Regional District Board endorse staff responding to the Rowing BC Expression of Interest in order to continue exploring the concept of the NextGen Performance Centre to be located at Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park.

Concurrence:	Larisa Hutcheson, P. Eng., General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment: BC NextGen Performance Centre – Expressions of Interest and Request for Proposals – November 30, 2020