

Skate Forward – *A New Multi-Sheet Ice Complex in West Van*



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PRESENTATION PRIORITIES

1. History and background
2. Skating in Canada
3. A community outgrowing its ice
4. Current stakeholders
5. Why a multi-sheet ice complex is urgent
6. Key elements to consider
7. Recommendation



HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

2013: Enhance West Van launched the *Blue Sky Task Force* — a volunteer-led initiative to explore future recreational and cultural needs for West Vancouver’s Civic Site

2017: After four years, the *Emerging Vision* was presented to Council in December

Spring 2018:

- Council approved the immediate replacement of the arena floor due to leaks
- Emerging Vision community engagement process led by *Idea Space*

July 2018: Council unanimously approved forming a District led Steering Committee to refine the vision and determine next steps of the Emerging Vision

Fall 2018 – August 2024

- Fall municipal election brought in new Council — strategic review delayed progress
- COVID-19 stalled efforts just as Steering Committee Terms of Reference were drafted

Current: Enhance West Van is prioritizing **Phase One** of the Emerging Vision:

- **Developing a new multi-sheet ice complex in West Vancouver**



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SKATING IN CANADA

- ❄️ Skating has been a part of **Canadian life** since before Confederation, tied to recreation, sport and community connection
- ❄️ Ice Arenas are **community hubs**, bringing families, schools and local leagues together year-round
- ❄️ Canada's global reputation in winter sports is built on **grassroots access** to skating facilities
- ❄️ Skating is an activity that spans generations and skill levels – providing **inclusive programming** and promoting healthy lifestyles



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A COMMUNITY OUTGROWING ITS ICE

🚧 Population and Community Growth

- West Vancouver is experiencing growth in population and community engagement

🚧 Hockey and Ice Sports are Expanding

- Demand for hockey and ice-related activities is rising
- Youth and adult participation continues to increase

🚧 Facilities are Falling Behind

- Existing rink and facility no longer meet the basic needs of the community
- Limited access = limited opportunities for local athletes and families







CURRENT STAKEHOLDERS

Stakeholders include:

- Adult and Senior hockey groups
- BC Spartans Hockey
- Community public skating
- District led lessons and programs
- North Shore Female Hockey
- North West Hawks - Zone Hockey
- North West Vancouver Ringette
- Private rentals to support skating development
- School District Programs
- Vancouver Skating Club
- West Vancouver Minor Hockey Assoc.
- West Vancouver Residents



WHY A MULTI-SHEET ICE COMPLEX IS URGENT

-  West Vancouver has the lowest rink-to-population ratios in Canada
-  The current arena is over 60 years old, built in 1963
-  Hundreds of local kids and sport organizations currently rely on limited ice time
-  Many commuting outside of West Vancouver and even off the North Shore for ice time
-  Figure skating groups are challenged by the current rink size



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KEY ELEMENTS TO CONSIDER

- 🏒 The current and future demand supports a 2-3 ice sheet facility
- 🏒 Opportunity to build full size arena to support all ice sports
- 🏒 Continuity of service is essential



Investing in the right design now will ensure long-term success and sustainability for our growing community!

RECOMMENDATION



THAT

1. staff establish a District of West Vancouver led Advisory Roundtable, consisting of District of West Vancouver staff, Enhance West Van Directors, and community members, to develop a project plan and budget for the planning process of a new multi-sheet ice complex; and
2. staff report back to Council in fall 2025 once the project plan and budget for the planning process is complete.

THANK YOU



**For more information visit
enhancewestvan.ca**



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