

Decision Note
Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation

Title: Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Council

Decision/Direction Required:

- Whether to approve annual funding in the amount of \$44,000, to the Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Council (SPARC).

Background and Current Status:

- The Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Council (SPARC) is the primary minister-led federal-provincial-territorial (FPT) forum for collective action on sport, physical activity, and recreation issues of national and international concern.

Analysis:

- In November 2020, SPARC became incorporated under the **Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act**, with bylaws for the newly incorporated entity filed on April 22, 2021. The Province of Newfoundland and Labrador was accepted as a SPARC member in November 2021.
- Prior to incorporation, collective action on sport, physical activity and recreation among provinces and territories occurred via the Interprovincial Sport and Recreation Council.
- Provinces and territories are assessed an annual membership fee, with amounts per capita based.
- The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation recently received an invoice in the amount of \$44,000 for 2024-25 SPARC membership. Funding is available in the 2024-25 Recreation and Sport Division budget.

Alternatives:

1. Approve \$44,000 in funding to the Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Council.
(Recommended)

Advantages

- Opportunities for collaboration and engagement in FPT collective action on sport, physical activity and recreation would continue.

Disadvantages

- No disadvantages identified.

2. Do not approve \$44,000 in funding to the Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Council.
(Not Recommended)

Advantages

- No advantages identified.

Disadvantages

- Collaboration and engagement in FPT collective action on sport, physical activity and recreation may be negatively impacted.

Prepared/Approved by:
Ministerial Approval:

A. Wright / B. Gardner / J. O'Dea
Received from Hon. Steve Crocker

August 23, 2024

Meeting Note
Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation
St. John's Tennis Association
Monday, August 19, 2024, 10:00 a.m.
Executive Boardroom

Attendees:

- Honourable Steve Crocker, Minister, Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation (TCAR)
- Jamie O'Dea, DM, TCAR
- Ben Gardner, ADM, TCAR
- Andrew Wright, Director(A), Recreation and Sport Division, TCAR
- Gord Breen, President, St. John's Tennis Association (SJTA)
- Mark Ploughman, SJTA Facilities Renewal Committee

Purpose of Meeting:

- SJTA representatives will present an update on the 2025 Canada Games facilities renewal project (Renewal Project).

Background:

- In January 2023, TCAR provided funding to Tennis NL in the amount of \$1.4M to support the Renewal Project. The Renewal Project is ensuring that the Riverdale Tennis and Greenbelt Tennis facilities meet 2025 Canada Games minimum sport technical standards. It will also provide a legacy for recreational and competitive tennis development in the province.
- SJTA is a self-funded operation, which manages Greenbelt and Riverdale, the two active tennis facilities in St. John's. The Renewal Project is being managed by Gord Breen, SJTA's President.

Analysis

- Phase 1(Riverdale) of the Renewal Project, which included the reconstruction of 3 courts, resurfacing of all six courts, new LED lighting, and essential clubhouse maintenance, was completed in 2023.
- Phase 2(Greenbelt) of the Renewal Project is underway, which includes a new 7 court air dome, LED lighting upgrades, repair and resurfacing of 7 courts, a new electrical building, and 600v service. The City of St. John's is also relocating and stabilizing underground services and reconstructing the parking lot.
- There were planned upgrades for each phase which were/are largely dependent on supplementary Federal funding and private donors. These include accessibility and sustainability upgrades for Riverdale, and geothermal heating, clubhouse extensions and accessibility upgrades for Greenbelt.
- SJTA's ability to fund the Renewal Project has been negatively impacted by:
 - Tennis Canada reducing their contribution by \$400,000;
 - ACOA reducing a contribution by \$58,000;
 - Federal grant applications for geothermal heating and accessibility were rejected amounting to over \$2M;
 - Private donations reduced by \$250,000; and

- A 16 per cent forecasted increase in construction costs (as of March 26, 2024).
- On March 26th, 2024, SJTA representatives met with the Minister of TCAR to discuss the project status. A focal point of that meeting was the risk to the Greenbelt Tennis Club upgrades and accessibility provisions, which are outside of the technical requirements for the Canada Games. During the meeting, SJTA advised the Minister they couldn't meet their accessibility goals without major changes to the clubhouse, and highlighted their application for Federal funding under the Enabling Accessibility Fund. The Minister and SJTA representatives discussed the possibility of TCAR contributing to these upgrades.
- On August 8th, Gord Breen advised TCAR that SJTA's Enabling Accessibility Fund application was rejected. He further stated that SJTA's capital account will be empty in a month.
- SJTA is now focused and committed to ensuring their essential scope of work gets completed. However, SJTA needs:
 - \$250,000 to complete the remaining essential scope; and
 - \$500,000 credit line guarantor, to help manage HST credit cash cycle. SJTA is working with the City of St. John's on this matter.
- SJTA updated the Canada Games Host Society in late July. Following the update, Gord Breen sent an email to the 2025 Canada Games CEO. The contents of that follow-up email, which Gord Breen shared with TCAR, is provided in Annex A. The email provides additional context and project budgets.

Potential Speaking Points

- Thank you for updating me on your Renewal Project. This is a big project, congratulations on your success so far.
- It is unfortunate your application for the Enabling Accessibility Fund was rejected, which has impacted your vision for the Greenbelt Clubhouse.
- I have reviewed the information that was previously submitted, and the information shared today was very helpful in understanding your current financial need.
- I will consider your request, and I understand the urgency of the matter, so I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Prepared/approved by: A. Wright / J. O'Dea
Ministerial Approval: Received from Honourable Steve Crocker

August 16, 2024

Annex A
Email from Gord Breen to 2025 Canada Games CEO

Column 1 was the presentation from Monday.

Column 2 is the current gap to complete the entire project assuming the EDDC accessibility grant gets rejected.

Column 3 is the gap to complete the addition, while leaving the expensive accessibility provisions for another day. This option leaves the current clubhouse interior partitions and access ramp unchanged for now. The building exterior and addition would be enclosed and re-sided with something new and cohesive. Inside, we would complete basic finishes in the addition, as well as cosmetic upgrades (plaster, paint, ceiling tiles, lighting) in the existing clubhouse space. The result would be functional and attractive, but admittedly falls short on the accessibility goals. (For Canada Games, there is still a separate accessible entrance into the dome tunnel that doesn't require using the clubhouse entrance ramp off the Newtown Rd. Parking lot.)

In completing the incremental scope for Option 3, we additionally have the benefit of time. For example, if *some* of the additional money was committed now—say, enough to enclose and roof the clubhouse addition this year—that leaves time to chip away at the balance of the work, as funding became available. If further funding did not arrive until 2025, that would still not be too late. There would be time between then and Games to complete further cosmetic improvements, including items such as additional fencing, walkways, and grounds.

In the interim, we might even be fortunate enough to talk our anchor donor back into the fold. The closer we can get that clubhouse addition to looking like its going to get finished the more likely that is, as the naming rights on that clubhouse were of keen interest.

I guess the summary points in the above are that:

1. We can do a lot of impactful improvements with relatively little once the essential “field of play” work to get us reopened is behind us.
2. All the money wouldn't need to arrive at once.
3. Enclosing that clubhouse addition before winter is a key element of attracting that donor back.

*more details on the next page

Work Remaining	Contractor	Essential Scope	Complete Scope	Basic Clubhouse & Field of Play	Comments
Dome Supply, Install, Commissioning	Farley Group	\$ 1,115,000	\$ 1,115,000	\$ 1,115,000	Includes M&E equipment package
Site Civil/Structural	Bursey's Excavating	\$ 967,932	\$ 967,932	\$ 967,932	
Dome M&E					
New service, electrical and mechanical	CTS	\$ 233,000	\$ 233,000	\$ 233,000	
Building architectural	CTS	\$ 32,000	\$ 32,000	\$ 32,000	
Electrical building foundation	Burseys	\$ 12,500	\$ 12,500	\$ 12,500	
Subtotal - Dome M&E		\$ 277,500	\$ 277,500	\$ 277,500	
Tennis Sleeves & Equipment	Spartan	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	
Court resurfacing	Tennis Construction	\$ 107,916	\$ 107,916	\$ 107,916	
Clubhouse					
Extension					
Foundation	Burseys	\$ 46,500	\$ 46,500	\$ 46,500	Awarded in Burseys Civil/Structural package
Basic Tunnel Connection	TBD	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	Kneewall and doorway to allow dome tunnel connection
Structural envelope			\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	
Roofing			\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	
Envelope Architectural			\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	
Interior Architectural			\$ 80,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	
M&E upgrades			\$ 60,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	Applicable to whole building; required for occupancy
M&E room extension			\$ 35,000.00	\$ -	Required to complete above
Original Clubhouse					
Roofing			\$ 35,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	Repairs vs. new roof
Envelope Architectural			\$ 60,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	Excludes new window openings and windows
Interior Accessibility Upgrades			\$ 150,000.00	\$ -	
New accessible exterior entrance ramps			\$ 200,000.00	\$ -	
Subtotal - Clubhouse Upgrades		\$ 71,500.00	\$ 791,500.00	\$ 281,500.00	
Fencing allowance	TBD	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	
Landscaping allowance	TBD	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	
Consultants	Gibbons Snow	\$ 80,000	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	
Contingency		\$ 136,142	\$ 179,142	\$ 150,142	
Subtotal Estimate to Complete		\$ 2,858,990	\$ 3,761,990	\$ 3,152,990	
Current Forecasted Funding		\$ 2,666,500	\$ 2,666,500	\$ 2,666,500	
EDDC Enabling Accessibility Fund			\$ -	\$ -	
Forecasted Shortfall		\$ (192,490)	\$ (1,095,490)	\$ (486,490)	
Incremental funding needed over Essential Scope (Field of Play)			\$ 903,000.00	\$ 294,000.00	

Meeting Note
Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation
Federal, Provincial and Territorial Tourism Deputy Ministers Committee Meeting
2:30 pm NST, Wednesday, August 28, 2024

Attendees: Deputy Ministers and Assistant Deputy Ministers, Provincial and Territorial Tourism Departments/Ministries

Purpose of Meeting: The Deputy Minister meeting will be an opportunity to review the plans and status of the CCTM's work for 2024, including the draft agenda for the October 2024 CCTM Meeting.

Background:

- The Canadian Council of Tourism Ministers (CCTM), formed in 2003 via the Quebec Declaration, fosters coordination between the federal, provincial and territorial levels of government. Annual meetings and ongoing working groups identify priority tourism issues for cooperative action.
- The CCTM meets annually and is guided by priority areas to improve tourism industry competitiveness and accelerate growth. The priorities include marketing, access, Indigenous tourism, product development and tourism information and statistics.
- Three separate working groups were formed in 2022: Tourism Workforce; Destination Access; and Economic Growth. The mandate of these three working groups is to identify foundational and systematic challenges of regarding access, economic growth and workforce (working group suspended). In 2024, there are two active working groups: Destination Access and Economic Growth.

- [REDACTED]

- The Agenda for the Deputy Ministers meeting is provided in Annex A.

[REDACTED]

- Draft agenda for the October 2024 CCTM Meeting and logistics information note for information have been circulated for review.

- [REDACTED]

- A draft agenda for the October 2024 meeting has been prepared. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- Once approved by Deputy Ministers, the draft agenda will be presented to Ministers.

Analysis:

- The proposed CCTM Agenda is provided in Annex B. [REDACTED]
- The agenda is robust and provides an opportunity to get updates on current issues and policy priorities relevant to all provinces and territories.

Potential Speaking Notes:

- Newfoundland and Labrador supports the agenda as presented. The topics are aligned with priorities impacting our provincial tourism industry. We are looking forward to contributing to the conversation and identifying areas that we can advance together.
- It should be noted that the agenda is quite full, which may impact the opportunities for Ministers to have meaningful dialogue and discussion about these important issues.

- [REDACTED]
- The lead of the working group will present the following:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]

Section 34(1)(a)(i)(b)

- [REDACTED]

Section 34(1)(a)(i)(b)

- [REDACTED]

Section 29(1)(a), Section 34(1)(a)(i)

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED] Destination Canada spearheads air access initiatives through the 2030 Tourism Strategy. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Ongoing collaboration on destination access will take place at FPT Directors Committee level.

Section 29(1)(a), Section 34(1)(a)(i)

Analysis:

- Improving access is identified as a strategic priority for Newfoundland and Labrador's tourism industry in Vision 2026.
- Recent research conducted by the Department regarding travel attitudes about Newfoundland and Labrador revealed that the availability of convenient transportation options to the destination plays a larger role in converting dreamers to active consideration for NL more than for any of the other destinations in Canada.
- With 8 in 10 (80%) of non-resident visitors travelling by air, air travel to Newfoundland and Labrador continues to be the dominant mode of travel to the province.
- While the majority of non-resident parties from all markets travel by air, the proportion travelling by vehicle is noticeably higher among visitors from the Maritimes and the United States compared to visitors from other regions.
- Early in 2024, a report completed by Intervistas for the Atlantic Canada Airports Association showed that NL's air service seat capacity in Q1-Q2, 2024 was expected to be 107 per cent compared to the same period in 2019. This puts NL ahead of most other provinces and territories in the country, except for Quebec and Prince Edward Island.
- This seat capacity has been largely gained in new routes outside of the Atlantic Canada region, with NL's seat capacity to the rest of Canada at 133 per cent compared to 2019.
- According to the report, average seat capacity recovery for Atlantic Canada airports is 100.1 per cent and the average for Canadian airports is 98.2 per cent.

- Mechanical issues with the new Marine Atlantic Inc. vessel, Ala'suinu, was an unexpected disruption in service in late June that impacted visitation for the 2024 peak tourism season and Newfoundland and Labrador's reputation as a tourism destination.

Potential Speaking Points:

- Thank you, Stephanie, and working group members.

Section 29(1)(a)

- [REDACTED]

- Newfoundland and Labrador experienced this first-hand this summer when we experienced a disruption in service with Marine Atlantic due to mechanical issues with their new vessel at the start of the season. The disruption lasted well into July and was not the start to the busy season that we were hoping for.

- This disruption in service not only impacted thousands of visitors, who had to rearrange or cancel their entire vacation in the province, but also will have an impact on our reputation as a viable vacation destination.

[REDACTED]

- The lead of the working group will present the following:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

Section 34(1)(a)(i)(b)

- [REDACTED]

- EGWG considered the context and projections put forth in DC's Tourism Outlook, which predicts a high growth trajectory for Canada's tourism industry in the coming years. Reports

from jurisdictions likewise point to positive recovery and anticipated growth for their respective sectors.

- However, the EGWG also operated within the context of challenges to the sector, including difficulty securing capital and investment for development; labour market shortages; natural disasters becoming more frequent and severe; and rurality/geographic dispersion – challenges examined and addressed by the Working Group.

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Analysis:

Section 29(1)(a), Section 34 (1)(a)(i)(b)

- Realizing Vision 2026 will require an integrated approach to attract more visitors, increase length of stays, and encourage year-round travel, which will require the proactive attraction of external investment, targeted development of key destinations, and coordination of stakeholders toward this shared vision and action plan.
- Of particular importance is increasing the accommodations capacity, especially near key attractions to relieve constraints in peak season, driven by limited accommodation offerings, lack of trade supply despite strong demand and incongruence in the product/market mix particularly for high value guests.

Section 29(1)(a), 35(1)(d)

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Section 29(1)(a), 35(1)(d)

- [REDACTED]

Section 29(1)(a), 35(1)(d)

- [REDACTED]

Potential Speaking Points:

- Thank you, Eduardo, and the working group members. This is a very important area of focus for our province.
- One of the priority investment attraction activities in Newfoundland and Labrador is the development of new, high-quality accommodations, particularly in key destination areas, in addition to the development of high value, experiential offerings.

Section 29(1)(a), 35(1)(d)

- [REDACTED]

- We are pleased that Destination Canada, as part of the 2030 Tourism Strategy, has created a task force around investment, which will formulate actionable recommendations to overcome the key impediments to investment.
- This work will go a long way to support the provinces and territories to further define and target our investment attraction initiatives.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Analysis:

- The deliverables presented by the working groups are reflective of their objectives and aligned with Newfoundland and Labrador's key priorities.

Potential Speaking Points:

- I approve the deliverables reflective of the comments that I and others have made during the presentations.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Analysis:

- To support the policy work of the CCTM forum, three Working Groups were launched in January 2022 focusing on the key priorities of Tourism Workforce, Destination Access, and Economic Growth.

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

Section 34 (1)(a)(i)(b)

- [REDACTED]

Section 34 (1)(a)(i)(b)

- [REDACTED]

- As others in the sector may be pursuing work in similar thematic areas, new Working Groups will need to ensure that initiatives do not overlap or duplicate with initiatives led by others.

Potential Speaking Points:

Section 34 (1)(a)(i), Section 35(1)(d)

- Newfoundland and Labrador supports the recommendations [REDACTED]

Section 29(1)(a), 35(1)(d)

- [REDACTED]

- All of our destinations have experienced these emergency situations and we have every reason to believe that they will continue and unfortunately, grow even more intense.

- Focusing our efforts will empower the industry to adapt to this new reality and enable more effective responses to incidents and more efficient recovery in the aftermath.

Analysis:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Process-related elements were also refined to align with current practices, such as the roles and responsibilities of committees and the selection of co-chairs.

Potential Speaking Points:

- Newfoundland and Labrador is supportive of these recommended changes.
- It is a healthy practice to review how the CCTM is working well and how we can improve. I commend the Directors' Committee for taking on this task. I am confident the changes will drive even more progress on our main areas of focus.

Prepared/Approved by: J. Angelopoulos/ C. Gilliard/J. O'Dea
Ministerial Approval: Received from Hon. Steve Crocker

August 22, 2024