

## Mount Pearl Announces Plans to Invest in New Civic Centre *Including Splash Pad and Outdoor Ice Rink*

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**July 21, 2021 (Mount Pearl, NL)** – The City of Mount Pearl proposed plans earlier today to build a new civic centre focused on meeting the growing demands of its diverse population. The centre, located at the Team Gushue Sports Complex proposes 18,000 square foot space equipped for social, arts, and recreation events and dedicated space for community groups. In addition to the indoor space, the Civic Centre will also be home to an outdoor splash pad and ice rink surface.

In February 2021, the city hired consultant, KPMG Ltd. to complete a feasibility study on the development of a new multi-purpose civic centre. The comprehensive study outlined existing gaps in the Park Place Community Centre, including space, parking, and accessibility. The proposed centre will replace Park Place, which was acquired by the city from the Royal Canadian Legion in 1999 to serve as a community centre and update the city's suite of facilities to be more in-line with community needs.

"This council's vision is to create a multi-purpose gathering space for inclusive community programming," said Mayor Dave Aker. "It will be a place for residents of all ages and abilities to come together for social, cultural, and recreation activities. COVID-19 has highlighted the need for indoor and outdoor gathering space in communities as the impacts of isolation were evident around the world."

Community engagement plays an important role in what makes Mount Pearl a welcoming, vibrant, and inclusive place to live, work and enjoy. The city values community engagement as a critical part of municipal decision making and is seeking input from residents on the conceptual plan, as they look to finalize the design and costing. Starting today, the city is inviting all residents to share their feedback on the proposed design concept for the new Community Centre at the Team Gushue Sports Complex.

"As a part of the concept development, we consulted with community groups, who provided valuable feedback in the design concept," said Mayor Aker. "Now, we want to extend that consultation to all our residents, including seniors and young families. We are building this centre to meet their needs, as a place where all feel welcome, whether that's through a good card game, dance recital, a skip through the splash pad in the summer, or a skate in the winter."

The city anticipates investing nine million dollars in the centre, including a \$750,000 splash pad allocation from the 2021 budget announced in December of last year. The city has launched a resident survey to collect feedback on the diverse needs of the community. Focus groups and virtual engagement sessions are also planned.

Residents can visit [www.mountpearl.ca](http://www.mountpearl.ca) to learn more about the proposed plans and participate in the feedback process by visiting [www.mountpearl.ca/civic-centre-survey](http://www.mountpearl.ca/civic-centre-survey).

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