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PRESS RELEASE

CONSTRUCTION OF PCU CENTRE TO BEGIN AUGUST 2008.

On Tuesday, June 24, 2008 the council of the Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie and the council of the City of Portage la Prairie, by resolution, authorized Tower Engineering Ltd. to release tender documents for construction of Portage la Prairie's new recreation multiplex at an anticipated cost of \$35.7million.

At the May 15, 2008 Public Meeting the Class B cost estimate of \$41.7 million was received. Since that time the Portage la Prairie Multiplex Committee and City and RM councils have been working with Project Manager, Guenter Schaub, and Stantec Architecture to develop a modified plan that will meet budget targets while still serving the needs of the community.

The Multiplex Committee strived to prioritize and adjust the project from the original proposal to allow for the largest number of community members to benefit by the facility, while maintaining fiscally responsible practices. Dividing the project into two phases allows the project to be more affordable and to proceed this summer.

The tendered plans will include:

Phase One:

Main Ice Arena: 85'x200' NHL ice pad with 1700 folding seats, 300-person standing room concourse, 60 person raised box seat area, 2-lane walking track, raised media and sound rooms, multipurpose room, concessions, and washrooms

Dressing Rooms: 1 large club area (Terriers), 1 large visitors room, 6 standard size rooms, figure skating coach room, Canskate/public skating area, official's room

Aquatic Centre: Large leisure/wave pool to include 6-25m swim lanes, Lazy River, tots pool area, zero beach and ramp entry, large hot tub and waterslide

Fitness Area: 4,000ft² designed for flexible use including fitness training, rehabilitation and therapy

Change Area: universal (family), male and female change facilities

Grand Hall/Atrium: 3, 500 ft² space supported by smaller multipurpose rooms designed for multiple uses including community, fitness and events.

Support Space: ice resurfacers room (for 2 machines) , skate sharpening, ticket office, administration offices and storage areas, concessions, warming kitchen, janitorial, staff, elevator, recycling, mechanical (arena, pool, etc.) and electrical spaces.

Phase Two:

Second Arena: 85' x200' NHL ice pad, 300 bench type seats, 100-person standing room, sound system

Dressing Rooms: 4 standard size rooms

The City or Recreation Authority will continue to operate the west ice shed at the Portage Centennial Arena until completion of Phase Two.

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ encourages and accelerates global adoption of sustainable green building and development practices through the creation and implementation of universally understood and accepted tools and performance criteria. The entire facility will be built to LEED Canada Silver Certification standards which will result in significant operating cost savings.

Funding:

City of Portage la Prairie	\$16 million	
RM of Portage la Prairie	\$ 8 million.	
Province of Manitoba	\$ 5 million	
Federal Government	\$3.3 million	
Community Commitment to date	\$1.2 million	*naming rights, donations, fundraising
Additional Community fundraising	\$2.2 million	

City and RM officials have met on numerous occasions with federal and provincial government officials and are confident the funding we have identified from these levels of government will be secured in the near future and no later than the start of construction.

It is projected that this important community facility will be completed by January 2010. The facility is intended to be managed by an appointed joint committee comprising of elected officials from City and RM Councils and a team of staff responsible to this recreation authority.

Background Information:

- In 1974 planning began on a proposed Recreation Complex to be located at the northwest corner of the Industrial Exhibition grounds and south east of the Golf Course on the Island. The complex was proposed to include a 3,120 seat arena, swimming pool (25 m), 8 sheet curling rink with kitchen and lounge facilities and multipurpose area consisting of several small meeting rooms. The anticipated cost was \$4.2 million. The Rural Municipality of Portage had committed \$311,250 and the City of Portage la Prairie had promised a financial contribution of \$1,763, 750. The remaining funding was to be provided by the Province of Manitoba, service clubs and the Portage Curling Club. The Fair Board planned to make land available at no cost to the complex (13.1 acres for building and parking). The initiative was defeated by public referendum on October 22, 1975.
- The Portage Recreation Committee is a grass roots community committee. It was formed in the spring of 2006 to further the growth and development of recreation opportunities in Portage la Prairie and district. Their primary function is to raise \$4 Million dollars from the industrial, business and public sectors in support of the new facility.
- On January 24, 2007, the Recreation Needs Assessment final report was released during a public open house at the Glesby Centre. Information gathered from over 1,600 surveys as well as from meetings with various stakeholder groups clearly indicated that a new indoor aquatic facility was the most desired in all respects. An arena facility to replace the aging Centennial Arena was also evident as a significant priority. 90% of survey respondents wanted an increase in recreational facilities, listing indoor facilities specifically.
- On March 29, 2007 the City and RM of Portage la Prairie officially announced their partnership and formation of the Portage la Prairie Multiplex Committee and jointly announced their financial commitments to a new multi-sport recreational facility. The Portage Multiplex Committee consists of appointed elected officials from the Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie and City of Portage la Prairie, administration and representatives from the Portage Recreation Committee.
- On April 19, 2007, the City of Portage la Prairie established the Department of Recreation and Leisure Services to dedicate time and resources towards the development of the new recreation multiplex.
- On July 16, 2007 the City of Portage la Prairie passed resolutions that the 2007 Financial Plan be amended to include the withdrawal of \$2,200,000.00 from the General Reserve towards the design work of the multiplex and up to \$10,000,000.00 in debt for the construction of the multiplex; By-Law No. 07-8371 authorizing the City's request to borrow up to \$10,000,000.00 for the construction of the multiplex was given 1st Reading; and authorization was given to send By-Law No. 07-8371 to the Municipal Board for approval.
- August 14, 2007 the Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie held the borrowing by-law public hearing.
- September 20, 2007, the location of the new multiplex was announced. After careful consideration, the City and RM Councils, in partnership with the Portage Industrial Exhibition Association (PIEA) identified that the Fairboard property (owned by PIEA) on the Island was the most suitable site for the recreation multiplex. As this project is a community-based amenity, it was important to select a site that is centrally located to accommodate both pedestrian and vehicle traffic. The Island site complements existing amenities such as Splash Island, Island Park, the Fairgrounds, the Tennis Courts, the Portage Golf Course, the existing

Campgrounds, the new Rotary Park Playground and the new Crescent Lake Pathway. In addition, this site presented the opportunity to efficiently manage the operations of both Splash Island and the new Indoor Aquatic Centre. The location will enhance the enjoyment of visitors to the complex as it will be nestled in the beautiful setting adjacent to Crescent Lake.

- The Capital Fundraising Campaign “A Place for You...” was officially launched November 15, 2007 and is an exciting opportunity for residents, businesses and community groups to share in making this new recreation multiplex a reality. Tax deductible public donations are also being accepted at City Hall or the RM office.
- November 2007 – April 2008, a successful Naming Rights campaign led by the Portage Recreation Committee raises over \$1 million for the project.
- December 7, 2007 a public rally held at the Glesby Centre to raise awareness of and show support for the Multiplex project was co-hosted by MP Brian Pallister, and the City and RM of Portage la Prairie.
- January 31, 2008, Manitoba Premier Gary Doer met with members of the Portage Multiplex committee at the Centennial Arena, where Premier Doer officially announced a \$5-million provincial commitment to the project. The premier praised the community for the work that has been done towards this project, particularly the collaborations between the Rural Municipality and City of Portage la Prairie and the community with the private sector.
- May 15, 2008 Class B Cost Estimate is received. Estimated project costs, the construction timeline and funding arrangements were shared during a public meeting at the Glesby Centre.