

Dear Sarah Hamilton and the rest of city council,

Re: To help leagues manage and plan for large, expected expenses, we need resources to help us do so. That is why I am writing today. **I would like to speak to the EFCL Amenity Assessment project and our support of the project.**

My name is Emma Woolner and I am the president of the Rio Terrace community league (City of Edmonton sipiwiyiniwak Ward). The Rio Terrace hall was built in the 80's. The aging building requires care to keep it in working order and since joining the board 8 years ago, I can attest that we have performed extensive renovations, improvements, and repairs including entrance doors, solar panels, furnace/hot water tank, and a major repair that totaled over \$100,000. Some of the repairs are expected, and budgeted for, and many are unexpected. Whilst we cannot do anything to plan for the unexpected other than save, there is an opportunity in supporting leagues for the expected.

With board turnover it can be next to impossible for Leagues to keep tabs on what needs to be done next and plan for the additional expenses over the course of a few years. I'm sure that you can imagine the weight of asset management that can fall to volunteers. Our maintenance director position is a difficult position to fill as it requires a certain skill set in addition to requiring extensive time. We have, on several occasions, talked of turning the position into a paid position because it is SO MUCH work. However, we don't have the funds to do so.

Our \$100K major repair was unexpected and required extensive grant support so it didn't bankrupt us. In contrast, our front door replacement was a large, albeit expected, budgeted expense. We were able to plan it into our budget and handle the cost. While, I have been on the board long enough to know a little bit about what has been done recently, frankly, I have NO IDEA what our next budgeted expense should be. If we cannot plan for the large expenses, then they all have the potential to bankrupt us. I'm sure there are other boards that do not have the luxury of long-standing board members to support such a historical knowledge and are in an even more difficult position.

The Amenity Assessment Project tools would help relieve some of the challenges of running a Community Hall and budget for the costs associated with it. Furthermore, having a more thorough yearly assessment of the league amenities would ensure our organization is proactive with large maintenance projects and will end up saving us money in the long run.

All my best,
Emma Woolner
On behalf of the Rio Terrace Community League