



5021 - 49 Avenue  
Vermilion, AB Canada T9X 1X1  
[www.vermilion.ca](http://www.vermilion.ca)

November 7, 2018

County of Vermilion River  
Box 69  
Kitscoty, AB T0B 2P0  
Attn: Reeve Dale Swyripa

Re: Ice Plant Funding

Dear Reeve Swyripa and County of Vermilion River Council,

In response to your letter dated October 29, 2018, the Town of Vermilion Council is very disappointed and shocked with CVR Council's decision to decline a contribution to the replacement of the Ice Plant. This plant serves our two ice skating surfaces and 5 sheet curling rink. In the past, our councils have always had a shared understanding of the challenges of maintaining aging infrastructure and its use by all residents, and as such have supported contributions to maintaining the infrastructure.

This facility has served our greater community for over 50 years and is coming to the end of its life. Last season was fraught with difficulty, as we experienced numerous breakdowns. We continue to overtax the system to meet the user demand; which was a factor in the deaths of the 3 workers in the facility in Fernie B.C. It has become imperative that we address this issue from a safety and functionality perspective.

The project was originally estimated at \$1.25 to 1.75 Million and we were waiting for our consultants who have now projected the cost near \$1.9M. The Town is willing to share all cost estimates, and technical data with your staff, to verify the projections.

Your letter refers to the funding you provide which is part of our cost sharing agreement (Agreement to Work Together between the Town and the County). Currently the County contributes 27% to the operating costs only, to provide services to County residents in accordance to the cost sharing formula within the "Agreement to Work Together between the Town and County". This agreement speaks only to supporting the operational costs and not the capital costs, which is what this request is. We would be happy to share this agreement with you as requested. The Agreement also outlines how the County Council could seek clarification for budget items requests from the Town if they are required. (C4)

The Town of Vermilion is at a loss to understand how the County can completely decline the funding of a piece of equipment that is so critical to the provision of ice services for your residents. Case in point, in the 2017-2018 Minor Hockey season, 57% of the registrations were rural residents, and for Figure Skating, the split was 50/50. In addition, over the past 5 years the Town has strategically invested capital dollars in the stadium, arena and curling rink complex in the way of a new roof, heating, lighting, a new Zamboni, pavement, and many other improvements to optimize the operation and enjoyment of the facilities. These improvements total more than \$1.8 Million of Town of Vermilion dollars, with no requests for support from the County. In addition, we have made improvements to our other recreation facilities including the Tennis Courts, Spray Park, Outdoor Rink, and the Skate Park to the tune of over \$600,000.00. These projects provide recreation services to your County residents; again with no requests for County funding support.

The contribution we requested was much lower than the percentage used to calculate the operating agreement and yet the request was totally denied. At our Council meeting of November 6, the Council for the Town of Vermilion agreed a contribution of \$475,000 is more in line with what would support your residents. We feel this recognized the intricate nature of the relationship between our two communities, wherein we are actually one community, as our boundaries are only recognized by political leaders, not residents.

We respectfully ask the County Council to re-consider your decision, recognizing that your contribution is not a gift to the Town, but an investment in your own residents.

Yours sincerely,

SEVERED

Caroline McAuley, Mayor  
Town of Vermilion  
On behalf of Vermilion Town Council

cc: Vermilion Town Council  
George Rogers, CAO  
Shawn Bell, Director of Community Services