



August 25, 2022  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERING FUTURE OF LEGENDS CENTRE ARENA EXPANSION PROJECT  
AFTER PROVINCE DENIES ICIP FUNDING FOR FINAL TIME**

(Warman, Sask.) – Warman City Council will be tasked with an important decision in September regarding the future of the Legends Centre Arena Expansion Project after the Government of Saskatchewan didn't advance the application in the final intake of Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) funding.

The City of Warman applied annually for ICIP funding since the first intake in 2019 until the final intake in 2022 in hopes of minimizing the financial impact felt by residents. The project cost increased with each application; from \$7.8-million in 2019 to an estimated \$13.5-million in 2022. Had the City been approved for ICIP funding, the federal and provincial governments would have covered nearly three-quarters of the cost, with approximately \$3.5-million remaining for the City to pay for as of the 2022 estimate.

“Warman City Council is extremely disappointed by the provincial government’s decision. We have been the fastest-growing city in Saskatchewan since 2012 and have mirrored the Saskatchewan Party’s vision for growth. We feel this decision was shortsighted and doesn’t reward this growth; it takes it for granted,” said City of Warman Mayor Gary Philipchuk. “Now Council will have to determine whether to proceed with the expansion or not. If we do continue, this will certainly have a financial impact on our residents.”

If the existing proposal is approved by Council, preliminary estimations note a municipal arena levy of approximately \$194 would be applied to each residential property.

“This decision won’t be made lightly. Council understands and respects that some residents will be opposed regardless of the outcome of the vote,” said Mayor Philipchuk. “In the interest of transparency, we want to ensure the public is fully aware of a significant decision coming up for our city’s elected officials.”

City Council is anticipating a decision will be made at the September 26 Regular Meeting of Council.

**About the Legends Centre Arena Expansion Project:** Facility components within the proposed two-storey project include a single ice arena, seating for 205 spectators, six changes rooms and a second-floor lounge space with seating for 150 people. The intent of the expansion is to address Warman’s steady growth and increasing demands of recreational opportunities.

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