

May 4, 2020

Councillor George Chahal
Ward 5
The City of Calgary
Office of the Councillors
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Dear Councillor Chahal,

Thank you for meeting with me and my colleagues last week. The University of Calgary appreciates your ongoing interest and support.

UCalgary values the opportunity to be involved in FAPRAC and appreciates the City's dedication to working closely with us and other stakeholders over many years to ensure that this new facility will meet the community's needs. The university continues to be supportive of the fieldhouse project and its community focus and will work with FAPRAC and the City to identify opportunities for university usage of the fieldhouse as the project comes to fruition.

After careful consideration, UCalgary believes that as currently outlined, the design and program elements of the fieldhouse do not adequately support the needs of our varsity, academic, research and clinic operations. We fully appreciate that meeting the university's needs (additional seating, varsity administration space, locker-rooms, training room and clinic space) would place additional capital pressures on the project. UCalgary also understands that, rightfully so, community access is a priority for the City and the many other organizations that have long advocated for a multi-sport fieldhouse in Calgary. Unfortunately, the needs of varsity programming conflict with the City policy of prioritizing community access during peak operating times.

Given the current and anticipated budgetary constraints faced by the university, UCalgary does not have the capacity to pay market rent, nor the ability to make the capital contribution to the project that would be required to accommodate our various program needs.

Notwithstanding a reduced formal university program element within the fieldhouse concept, the university remains interested in identifying opportunities for usage of the fieldhouse in a manner that contributes to animating the space during non-peak times. One option for example, could be to develop an opt-in "UPASS-like program" to support non-program related student usage of the fieldhouse.

Thank you again for meeting with us last week. As always, feel free to reach out to me if you wish to discuss this or other issues.

Sincerely,



Edward McCauley, PhD, FRSC
President and Vice-Chancellor

cc: Naheed Nenshi, Mayor, City of Calgary
David Duckworth, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Calgary
Bart Becker, Vice-President (Facilities), University of Calgary