



**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT**

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**Please note that your name and comments will be made publicly available in the Council or Council Committee agenda and minutes. Your e-mail address will not be included in the public record.**

**ENDORSEMENT STATEMENT ON TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION, ANTI-RACISM, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND BELONGING**

The purpose of The City of Calgary is to make life better every day. To fully realize our purpose, we are committed to addressing racism and other forms of discrimination within our programs, policies, and services and eliminating barriers that impact the lives of Indigenous, Racialized, and other marginalized people. It is expected that participants will behave respectfully and treat everyone with dignity and respect to allow for conversations free from bias and prejudice.

First name [required] Marina

Last name [required] Ortman

How do you wish to attend? In-person

You may bring a support person should you require language or translator services. Do you plan on bringing a support person?

What meeting do you wish to comment on? [required] (if you Council

Date of meeting [required] (if you are providing input on service plans and budget adjustments, please select “November 18”) Oct 8, 2024

**What agenda item do you wish to comment on? (Refer to the Council or Committee agenda published [here](#).) (if you are providing input on service plans and budget adjustments, please write “budget” below.)**

[required] - max 75 characters The accelerated date of the Inglewood Aquatic Center



### Public Submission

CC 968 (R2024-05)

Are you in favour or opposition of the issue? [required]

In opposition

ATTACHMENT\_01\_FILENAME

Councillor Correspondence re- Inglewood Aquatic Center.pdf

ATTACHMENT\_02\_FILENAME

Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

We as a group of concerned Citizens of Calgary are in a strong opposition of the Closure of the Inglewood Aquatic Center. Please read our letter. Thank you.

Her Worship Jyoti Gondek  
Mayor of Calgary  
The City of Calgary  
800 Macleod Trail SE  
Calgary, AB T2P 2M5

October 1, 2024

Dear Mayor Gondek and Councillors,

**RE: THE CLOSURE OF THE INGLEWOOD AQUATIC CENTER**

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We are writing to express our deep concern regarding the proposed closure of the Inglewood Aquatic Centre, a decision we believe would have significant and lasting negative impacts on our community. As a Calgary resident, I want to emphasize the importance of this facility to both Inglewood and the wider Calgary population.

Several times the City has contemplated closing the Inglewood Pool. in 1977, 1988, 2019, and now. Each time the community has risen up in protest for many reasons, one of them is dating back to the substantial Inglewood community effort that raised \$22,000 in 1963 to convert this facility into an indoor pool.

The last decision to close was based on the data from 2019. Due to the community pushback at that time, the City committed to:

- To monitor both usage and tax support per visit
- To adjust programs based on that data and to improve marketing of the pool
- And to keep it open at least until the MNP expansion was complete.

None of these commitments by the City have been fulfilled. In fact, the administration has denied us ease of access to the data that we know will show strong usage. Despite reduced operating hours in the summer of 2023 (by the administration), the Inglewood Aquatic Centre has been and remains busy, attracting residents from all parts of Calgary, largely due to the limited availability in other swimming facilities,

The MNP Centre has now also been delayed for 2-3 years, and it is not a substitute for our pool due to the following: accessibility, affordability and overcrowding. The 2021 (CPS2021 – 0748) resolution could not have foreseen the fact that Calgary has grown by 14.6 % over the past 5 years. Today, there is a shortage of supply in aquatic amenities, especially after losing access to two other affordable and accessible aquatic facilities in the core – the Beltline and Eau Claire YMCA, In that same timeframe, the City prepared an Aquatic Strategy that identified the need to extend and improve access to pools and defined a set of policies/principles that should be followed to make these services accessible across the City.

Despite all this, in May of this year the City administration decided that the Inglewood Pool would be closed in December of this year. Announced the decision, made a public notice on

the website, while the decision has not been confirmed by the Council. It is on October 8, 2024, city administration will seek Council's approval for the accelerated closure of the Inglewood Aquatic Centre, based on that 2021 resolution (CPS2021-0748).

I am part of a group of concerned citizens of Inglewood and the broader swimming community who are standing up for the Inglewood Pool. We have tried to engage our Ward 9 Alderman, but he believes that all pools are "holes in the ground that we pour money into", and has provided no support for our interests. What revenue do we get from bike paths, pump parks, city parks and such. Health, well-being, a sense of community and safety are not measured in dollars and cents.

We are aware of the plans to return the land to the Matco/Marchese Group. However, Matco has indicated they are in no rush to acquire the land, and there are no immediate development plans for that parcel within the overall project. To the contrary, we believe that keeping the pool aligns with the historical and heritage considerations of the site. We have reached out to the Matco group with these concerns over the effects of the closure on the community and the City.

We are building awareness and support in our communities - including both the Inglewood and Ramsay Community Associations the Alexander Center Society, and the broader Calgary swimming community to stand up against this poor decision. We are having rallies, letter writing campaigns, and petitions to show the support for this cause. We are also engaging in discussions with Matco and strong advocates in our community to build a strong coalition of support.

The Inglewood pool is more than just a recreational facility—it is a vital community hub, in one of our oldest yet fastest growing communities. It provides a space where residents of all ages can come together to enhance their health and well-being. It helps to foster the strong sense of community that Inglewood is known for. Its closure will have a ripple effect on local businesses and diminish the neighborhood's appeal to both residents and investors. Closing the Aquatic Centre would disproportionately affect vulnerable groups, particularly those without the means to travel to alternative locations. The Canadian Council of the Blind, who supports this letter, has already expressed disappointment at the relocation, noting that changes in swim schedules will prevent some members from participating.

We strongly urge you and all members of Council to vote against the accelerated date and the closure of the Inglewood Aquatic Centre. Instead of closing the Inglewood Aquatic Centre, we ask to explore alternative positive solutions that support both the physical health and social cohesion of our communities. Investing in this facility would not only preserve a valuable community resource, but would also ensure it continues to serve the evolving needs of the population.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your thoughts on this important matter.

Sincerely,

F [REDACTED] McKenzie - signed

Marina Ortman - signed

L [REDACTED] Starling - signed

B [REDACTED] Swan - signed

With the support of the Inglewood Community Association, Ramsay Community Association,  
The Canadian Council of the Blind

The Facebook page and Group with 385 followers

Online Petition with 391 signatures and growing support

341 live signatures

**OVERALL 1,117 people in support of KEEPING THE INGLEWOOD AQUATIC CENTER OPEN**