

CC 968 (R2024-05)

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

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

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First name [required] Fiona Last name [required] McKenzie 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 Council comment on? [required] (if you Date of meeting [required] (if you are providing input on service Oct 8, 2024

CITY OF CALGARY

RECEIVED
IN COUNCIL CHAMBER

OCT 0 8 2024

ITEM: 9.1 C 2024-1131

Distrib-Pob Sobs

CITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

What agenda item do you wish to comment on? (Refer to the Council or Committee agenda published <u>here</u>.) (if you are providing input on service plans and budget adjustments, please write "budget" below.)

[required] - max 75 characters

plans and budget adjustments please select 'November 18')

The closure of the Inglewood pool

ISC; Unrestricted 1/2



CC 968 (R2024-05)

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

In opposition

ATTACHMENT_01_FILENAME

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ATTACHMENT_02_FILENAME

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

I would like to speak on behalf of the many seniors, community members & people with disabilities to save the Inglewood pool. The city of Calgary is spending \$57 million dollars on the MNP expansion, a small percentage of that budget could keep the Inglewood pool open for years to come. Instead the city of Calgary spends their money on seasonal activities like Harvey Passage & pickleball. MNP is a 45 minute walk from the Inglewood pool, double the cost to get into & not appropriate for seniors, people with income barriers, disabilities or sensory issues. The city has broken their promise to keep our pool open, until MNP's expansion is complete. MNP has lost 75 parking spots due to construction & has limited drop in times to none peak hours. Our density is increasing & we have a deficit of recreational centres in our city, this is extremely shortsighted on the city's part. We are asking to keep this existing amenity for generations to come. We have been using it & you are still closing it!



Dear Mayor Gondek and City Council,

I am writing to you today on behalf of concerned residents who strongly oppose the planned closure of the Inglewood Aquatic Centre. As our elected representatives, you had made a commitment to keep the Inglewood pool open until the new MNP Community & Sport Centre expansion is completed. However, it seems this promise is being disregarded, and we urge you to reconsider this decision.

MNP is not a suitable replacement for the Inglewood Aquatic Centre. With the loss of 75 parking spots due to ongoing construction and restricted drop-in hours limited to non-peak times, MNP does not meet the community's needs. Additionally, MNP is a 45-minute walk from Inglewood and charges double the entrance fees, making it unaffordable and inaccessible for many, particularly families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities who rely on the Inglewood Pool for affordable, local, and essential services.

As MNP's CEO Jeff Brooke recently highlighted, Calgary faces a growing deficit of recreational facilities at a time when our city's population is rapidly expanding. We cannot afford to lose another crucial space. The Inglewood Aquatic Centre serves a unique and vital role in supporting the health and well-being of our community, providing not just a place for exercise but a gathering space for social connection and support.

Additionally, we request that you hold off on any land transfer to MATCO until this issue is thoroughly reconsidered. The boxing club on MATCO's land has just signed another five-year lease, and yet the pool is slated for demolition, only to sit as an empty parking lot for years. This is a waste of a valuable community resource at a time when our growing population is in desperate need of more recreational facilities, not fewer.

Preserving the Inglewood Aquatic Centre is not only a matter of keeping your promise, but it is also essential to ensuring that all Calgarians have equitable access to recreational services that meet their needs. A very small percentage of the budget that is going towards MNP's new expansion could help to keep the Inglewood pool open for years.

The city of Calgary seems to be ok with spending money on all kinds of projects from the big blue ring, re-branding our logo, to seasonal activities like pickleball and the Harvey Passage. The Inglewood pool is an amenity that can be used all year long and by seniors, small children, low income families & people with disabilities.

We kindly ask for your immediate attention to this matter and hope you will take the necessary steps to keep the Inglewood Aquatic Centre open for the well-being of our growing community and the long-term sustainability of the neighbourhood.

Sincerely,

Fiona McKenzie (on behalf of the many city of Calgary pool users)



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First name [required]	Marina
Last name [required]	Ortman
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Date of meeting [required] (if you are providing input on service plans and budget adjustments please select. November 18")	Oct 8, 2024
	ment on? (Refer to the Council or Committee agenda published here .) lans and budget adjustments, please write "budget" below.)
[required] - max 75 characters	Agenda Item 9.1 - re: the Permanent Closure of the Inglewood Agautic Center

ISC: Unrestricted 1/2



CC 968 (R2024-05)

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

In opposition

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Screenshot 2024-10-07 at 12.28.33 PM.png

ATTACHMENT_02_FILENAME

Comments - please refrain from

providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 Dear Mayor Gondek and Members of Council,

My name is Marina Ortman, I am writing and I hope to speak to the Council on Oct 8, 2024 on behalf of the Canadian Council of the Blind, a group that has regularly used the Inglewood Aquatic Centre for their weekly swimming sessions. In the Inglewood pool, the CCB have had a standing booking for 1.5 hours every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., a time and location that has worked well for the members, many of whom have mobility challenges and/or rely on Access public transportation.

However, the proposed closure of the Inglewood Pool is already having a direct and negative effect on this group. Beginning in November 2024, they will be relocated to the Shouldice Aquatic Centre, with a new timeslot at 3:30 p.m. Some of our members do work, some of our members rely on family members for transpiration. This change in both time and location is deeply problematic for our members. The distance to Shouldice is significantly farther for most, and the earlier timeslot conflicts with their daily schedules. As a result, we anticipate that half of our participants will no longer be able to attend. Attending public swim time is not a viable option for them either, as they are visually impaired and navigating through other pool users is a major challenge.

The Inglewood Pool has not even officially closed, yet its impending shutdown is already displacing long-standing community groups like CCB and disrupting the lives of those who depend on it. The Canadian Council of the Blind values the Inglewood Pool not only as a place for physical activity but also as an essential social and community hub. The change to Shouldice, both in terms of accessibility and timing, is simply not a viable option for many of our members.

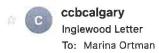
I ask that Council take into consideration the immediate effects this potential closure is having on vulnerable populations and reconsider the decision to close the Inglewood Pool. It is vital that community groups like ours are able to access facilities that meet their needs, and the Inglewood Aquatic Centre has long been one of those places.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Marina Ortman 403,399,9943

On Behalf of the Canadian Council of the Blind

ISC: Unrestricted



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Subject: Inglewood Letter

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN;

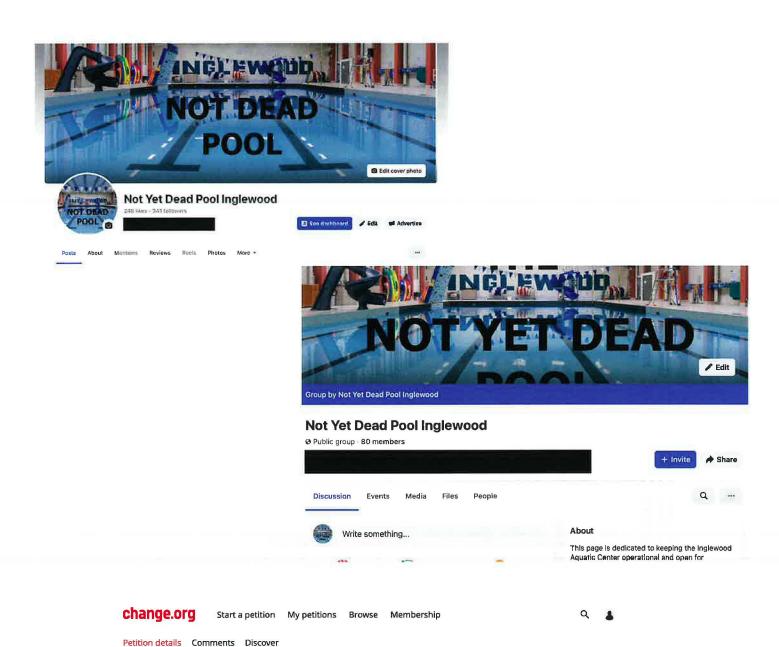
The Canadian Council of the Blind is a non-profit organization of blind adults. Our Calgary Chapter has about 50 members.

The main barrier to our members to attend public swimming is the public. Complete disorientation can happen in open water. An exclusive swim with only our members in the pool means everyone understands this. With the blind, familiarity improves function and we have learned to navigate the change rooms and the pool deck as well as the pool. A central location is important as we have members in all four quadrants of the city. Our exclusive swims in the small and centrally located Inglewood Pool have been ideal.

As a special needs group. we truly appreciate all the city staff's kindness and extraordinary efforts to meet those needs.

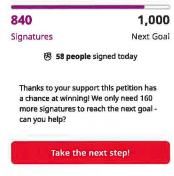
Respectfully, Joanne Chatterton, President Canadian Council of the Blind Calgary

Canadian Council of the Blind Calgary Chapter. 403-248-6003 Mobile: 587-893-9556 Suite 106, 10 - 11a Street NE, Calgary, Alberta. T2E 4Z3









Why this petition matters

City Clerk's Office Ground Floor Administration Building (Municipal Complex) 313 - 7th Avenue SE Calgary, Alberta

URGENT MATTER

RE: Oct 8, 2024 application of proper ByLaws to the Closure of the Inglewood Pool

I am writing to express serious concerns regarding the process being followed for the proposed closure of the Inglewood Aquatic Centre. It has come to our attention that this matter is being categorized as a "Non-Planning Item Going Directly to Council," which, I believe, is an incorrect interpretation of the applicable bylaws governing decisions of this nature.

This issue is not simply an administrative or operational matter. It is fundamentally tied to **land use**, as it directly affects a public facility and its intended long-term use. Therefore, it should be subject to the proper planning processes. Furthermore, public engagement is a crucial aspect of any decision that impacts the provision of essential community services, such as recreational facilities.

By bypassing the appropriate planning channels and treating this as a "Non-Planning Item," the City Council risks disregarding the due process outlined in the relevant bylaws. The public, whose interests are directly impacted by the closure, must be properly consulted before any vote on this matter can be considered valid or legally binding.

Additionally, we have already seen a similar attempt to bypass proper procedure on **May 28, 2024**, when the Administration tried to pass the closure of the Inglewood Aquatic Centre under a "Briefing" item. This too was an inappropriate use of the process, as no briefing should result in an operational closure of such a significant public facility without full Council deliberation and public input.

If the Council proceeds to vote in favor of this closure tomorrow, without following the proper procedures and public consultation requirements, I believe such a decision will be subject to legal challenge and ultimately overturned due to the improper process and governance being applied.

I strongly urge the Council to reconsider how this matter is being handled and ensure that it follows the correct bylaw procedures, allowing for the appropriate public engagement and review through the planning channels.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I look forward to hearing how the City intends to rectify this situation and ensure that due process is respected.

Sincerely,

SIGNED Marina Ortman

A member of community opposing the Closure of the Inglewood Aquatic Center.



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	ment on? (Refer to the Council or Committee agenda published here .) clans and budget adjustments, please write "budget" below.)
[required] - max 75 characters	9.1 Permanent Closure of Inglewood Aquatic Centre, C2024-1131

ISC: Unrestricted 1/2



CC 968 (R2024-05)

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

In opposition

ATTACHMENT_01_FILENAME

ATTACHMENT_02_FILENAME

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

As a member of the community of Ramsay I strongly urge council to defer the closure of the Inglewood Pool as long as possible. While I understand the budgetary constraints and limitations of the facility may not allow for long-term operation of this facility it is in the best interest of our community to have this amenity available for as long as possible. If we cannot invest in the repairs to keep the pool operational for the long term, at least continue to operate the facility until the electrical system fails - every month we get to keep and use the pool is immensely valuable to the community. With education and information I believe we as a community can live with the knowledge that one day this facility will have an electrical fault and stop working and the end may be abrupt but please do not rob us of it's use in the meantime. As long as it is safe to do so please keep our pool open.

I do not believe that community based infrastructure in the inner city has kept pace with the needs of the community, especially considering our increased population and ever increasing density. My family and I should not have only one choice for a facility in the entirety of the inner city or have to drive 15-20 minutes to find an alternative. MNP is a fine facility, but it is large, loud, chaotic, the parking situation is difficult and the renovations will not be complete for another 3 years.

If we can't keep the Inglewood Pool long term - at the bare minimum please keep it operational at least for public swimming and lane swimming until it can no longer be safely used, our community deserves this.



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The state of the s	nent on? (Refer to the Council or Committee agenda published here .) ans and budget adjustments, please write "budget" below.)
[required] - max 75 characters	Inglewood Pool Closure

ISC Unrestricted



CC 968 (R2024-05)

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

In opposition

ATTACHMENT_01_FILENAME

ATTACHMENT_02_FILENAME

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

Please do not close the Inglewood Pool. Closing inner city recreation facilities is in stark contrast to the city's plans of increasing inner city housing through re-zoning. Why would you encourage more people to move inner city while simultaneously taking away recreation facilities?

You are forcing us to have to go to the outskirts of the city for recreation. The city has also talked about creating 15min cities that are walkable but does that only apply to new communities on the outskirts because taking away inner city recreation facilities also takes away our walkable communities. Our city is growing and outpacing our ability to keep up so your answer is take away recreation facilities while more and more people move here? That doesn't make sense. Stop spending money on useless things like public art and pet projects and take care of the inner city citizens. Don't close Inglewood Pool!



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Last name [required]	Ortman
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[required] - max 75 characters	Item 9.1 - The Permanent Closure of the Ingelwood Pool

ISC Unrestricted 1/2

Oct 7, 2024



CC 968 (R2024-05)

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

In opposition

ATTACHMENT 01 FILENAME

Letter to Mr. Carra sent and received on Sept 19, 2024.pdf

ATTACHMENT_02_FILENAME

Dear Mayor Gondek and Members of Council,

Further to our request to speak to the 9.1 item, we note that we have taken the steps to reach out to our Alderman, attached please find a copy of the letter sent on Sep 19, 2024. We have received an acknowledgment of the receipt and that the letter has been forwarded to the administration for review. Given the fact that the closure almost finalized, we have not received any response or engagement on this matter.

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

The community has rallied together, gathering significant support in opposition to this closure, and we have taken every step to ensure that our voices are heard. However, the absence of communication from our Alderman has been disheartening, and we are left feeling unheard and unrepresented.

We ask that this issue be addressed, and that the Council and Mayor take our concerns seriously as we continue to fight for the preservation of this vital community asset.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely, Marina Ortman

ISC Unrestricted 2/2

Dear Councillor Carra.

We are a group of concerned Ward 9 residents and users of the Inglewood Aquatic Centre. We are writing to you because we are concerned about the scheduled closure of the Inglewood Aquatic Centre. It is an important part of our community, and a critical resource for the Calgary swimming community. Its importance will only increase as the population in the inner city continues to grow.

Our group, with the support of both the Inglewood and Ramsay Community Associations, does not believe that the City followed through on the actions that it committed to as recorded in the minutes on May 31, 2021. Specifically, those actions were:

- a) Approve one-time funding of \$400,000 in 2022 ... for the Inglewood Aquatic Centre ... to allow the community to demonstrate use in alignment with CPS2020-0236 targets (tax support per visit), keeping the facility open in the short term if targets are met, and closing the facility if targets are not met. b) Close the facility when Repsol specialized leisure aquatic amenities are ready for use..."
- To track the tax support per visit and assess on an annual basis to see if the operating target of \$10.50 has been met. (CPS2021-0748)
- To use that data and improved marketing to improve overall facility usage and service effectiveness (CPS2021 0748). Including:
 - o Provide more evening and weekend hours for community use.
 - o Re-balance swim club bookings and community access during prime-time hours.
 - o Develop and implement a facility-specific marketing plan.
 - o Increase senior-specific programming offerings, etc...

None of these commitments have been fulfilled. As a result, the decision to close the facility was based on outdated 5-year usage data. Furthermore, we can see no reference to discussion on this decision in Chamber records, only a briefing on the closure. (Confirmed Minutes 2024-05-28). Prior to this decision the Corporate Planning and Financial Services Report to Executive Committee on April 16, 2024 (EC2024-0342) referred the May 2021 resolution with "... Some of these service reductions, like the closure of the Inglewood Pool... were later mitigated with renewed investment because it became apparent that Calgarians valued these services...". We think both the decision to close and the process by which it was made were critically flawed.

As such, we are formally requesting the following:

- 1) We would like for you to meet with us to hear our concerns and explain to us why the City did not act on the previous commitments for measurement and marketing.
- 2) Following that, we would like you to take our concerns to the Council for a public meeting to discuss why the decision was made in May of this year without the City following up to its previous commitments to our citizens.
- 3) We request that the City also suspend all actions related to the demolishment of the facility and the release of the land to Matco until such time as this hearing is completed and a go forward plan is confirmed.

Please confirm receipt of this letter and advise when you are available to meet with us to bring this issue back before the Council for proper discussion. While we are committed to following the correct process, time is of the essence. In a phone conversation with Marina Ortman earlier this week, you dismissed our concerns. If we do not receive a response from you by September 26th, we will escalate this matter and/or share our concerns with the press.

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Sincerely,	
Not Yet Dead Pool Team. Fiona McKenzie, Marina Ortman, Lonnie Starling, Bob Swan	
With the Support of the Inglewood Community Association and the Ramsay Community Association	
CC: Mayor of Calgary, Calgary City Council members	