**TO: Your local elected official (City of Toronto Councilor/Ontario MPP/Federal MP)**

The Toronto Parks & Forestry and Recreation Facilities Master Plan 2019-2038 recommends that “no new curling facilities be built”. The information in the report regarding curling still applies to 2017 and does not reflect a massive shift in the curling situation over the intervening two years.

The fundamental issue today is that the west end of Toronto is dramatically under serviced in meeting the demand for curling. The closure of curling at Weston Golf & Country Club and St. George’s Golf & Country Club leaves only one oversubscribed facility in all of west Toronto.. The reason for the closures is not a lack of demand for curling, but rather a shift in golf club direction to make St. Georges and Weston golf-centric.

Curlers are being turned away from the clubs that are open. The closure of Weston & St. Georges has displaced over one thousand dedicated curlers. The Toronto Sports and Social Club have lamented that they cannot find ice time for their 20,000 members who wish to curl on a regular basis. There are no City owned curling facilities west of Yonge Street. While there are three city owned facilities east of Yonge, they are also turning away dedicated curlers and even those wanting to learn.

The West End Curling Committee (WECC) is a group of concerned curlers who are committed to finding solutions to address the lack of curling facilities in west Toronto.

WECC envisions a new multi-use, multi-purpose sport facility that would be an important part of the community. WECC believes it is important to help build a healthy, vibrant, socially active community in order to achieve the many benefits that brings – both tangible (e.g. saving health care costs) and intangible (e.g. developing spirit and a sense of belonging).

Inclusion, accessibility and diversity are key elements in the WECC vision.  Curling will benefit community members of all ages (7-97+), all cultures, all ethnic backgrounds, all socio-economic groups, all skill levels, all abilities (there is a particular focus on Special Olympics curling, wheel-chair curling, and curling for those with vision loss), all scholastic levels, all religious and cultural affiliations, all professional/business affiliations, all family units and all genders including LGBTQ.  Curling is a sport for everyone and it is a sport for life.

Upon reading our submissions and hearing our depositions at the October 23 City of Toronto Executive Committee Meeting, Mayor Tory tabled a motion (which was passed) requesting the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Department work with WECC to do further study and issue a report on the status of curling, particularly in west Toronto.

Please lend your voice wherever and whenever you can to support the call for a new curling facility in west Toronto. Please encourage Parks Forestry and Recreation to fully consider the current state of curling in west Toronto and to work with WECC to create a new curling facility.

Curling is too important to our west Toronto community to let it wither and die.