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

The Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation Facilities Master Plan 2019-2038 recommended that “no new curling facilities be built”. The information in the report regarding curling applied 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.

The closure of Weston & St. Georges has displaced over one thousand dedicated curlers. Those curlers and potential new curlers have nowhere to curl in west Toronto. The Toronto Sports and Social Club cannot find ice time for their 20,000 members who wish to curl on a regular basis. While there are three city owned facilities east of Yonge, there are no city owned facilities west of Yonge.

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. maintaining mental health, 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 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.  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, 2019 City of Toronto Executive Committee Meeting, Mayor Tory tabled a motion (which was passed) requesting the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Department (PFR) to do further study and issue a report on the status of curling. PFR published two interim reports demonstrating there is unmet demand for curling and some possible options for meeting that demand. More work is needed to find specific sites, address funding and, of course, get final approval from City Council.

Please lend your voice to support the call for a new curling facility in west Toronto. Please use your position to encourage Toronto City Council to support the creation of a new curling facility, possibly in partnership with Provincial and Federal Governments.

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

Sincerely,