



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

Special Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda

July 4, 2024, 1:00 p.m.

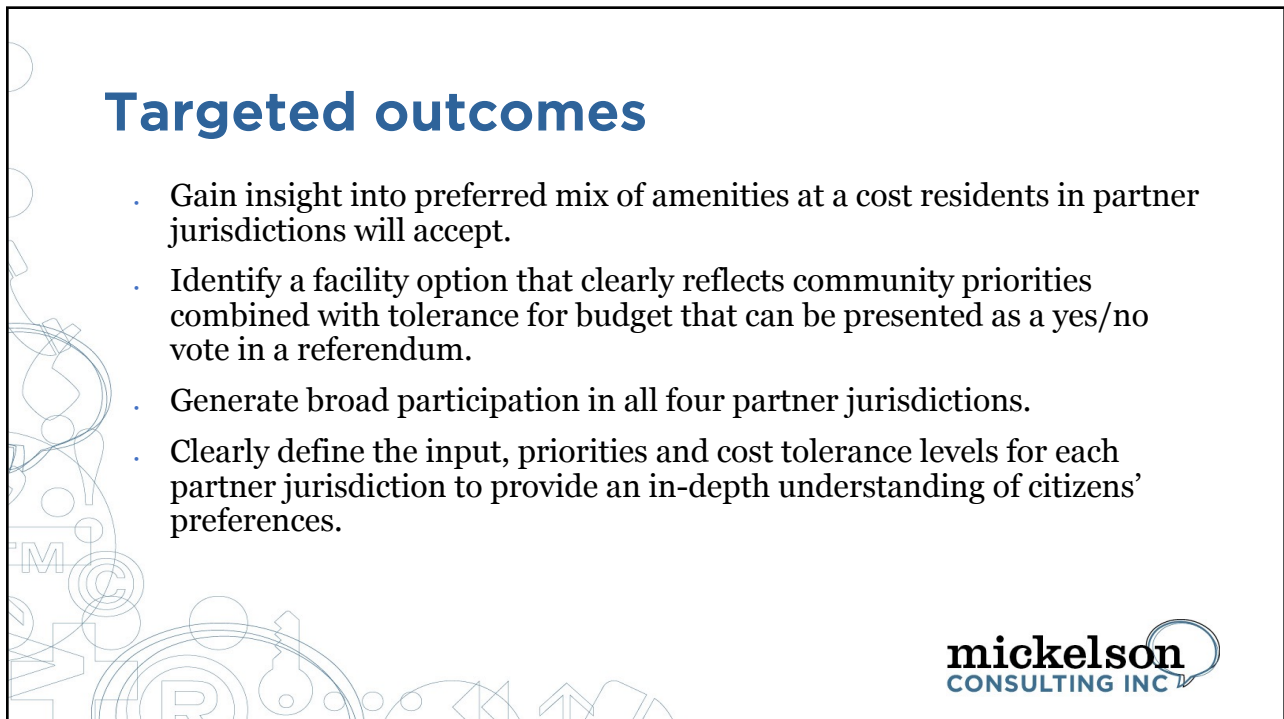
1981 Alaska Avenue, Dawson Creek, BC

Pages

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Gallery Comments or Questions
4. Delegations
 - 4.1 North Peace Leisure Facility Replacement Phase 3 Public Engagement Results 2
Therese Mickelson, Mickelson Consulting, and Pam Ryan, Lucent Quay Consulting Inc.
 - a. North Peace Leisure Facility Replacement Phase 3 Public Engagement Summary Report (June 28, 2024) 25
5. Media Questions
6. Adjournment



1



2

Summary of outcomes

Identify facility option and preferred amenities

- General agreement that the existing facility infrastructure is failing and a new facility required
- Preferred lap pool size is two, 25-metre lap pools.
- Supported facility options:
 - multi-use facility with a mix of three or four indoor recreation amenities
 - aquatics-only facility with two, 25-metre lap pools.
- Recreation amenity priorities:
 - one gymnasium
 - dynamic movement gym
 - fieldhouse with a full-size indoor soccer pitch
 - enhanced indoor social spaces.



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Summary of outcomes

Identify facility option and preferred amenities

- Support for facility programming focused primarily on more child/youth-related activities.
- Need more information about the current facility:
 - use and capacity at the existing pool and other recreation facilities
 - projected growth and demographic information being used to support the proposed facility size.
- Important to build for climate and ensuring a new facility is “built once, built right.”




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Summary of outcomes

Tolerance for cost/tax impact

- Significant concerns about project cost and property tax increases
- Moderate support for a monthly tax increase up to \$40
- Significantly less comfort as the monthly tax amount increased
- Significant concerns about additional increase in tax amount when land costs added and/or if construction goes over budget
- Suggestions to address costs: renovate or refurbish existing pool
- Broad support for pursuing alternative funding, including sponsorships and partnerships



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Summary of outcomes

Broad notification

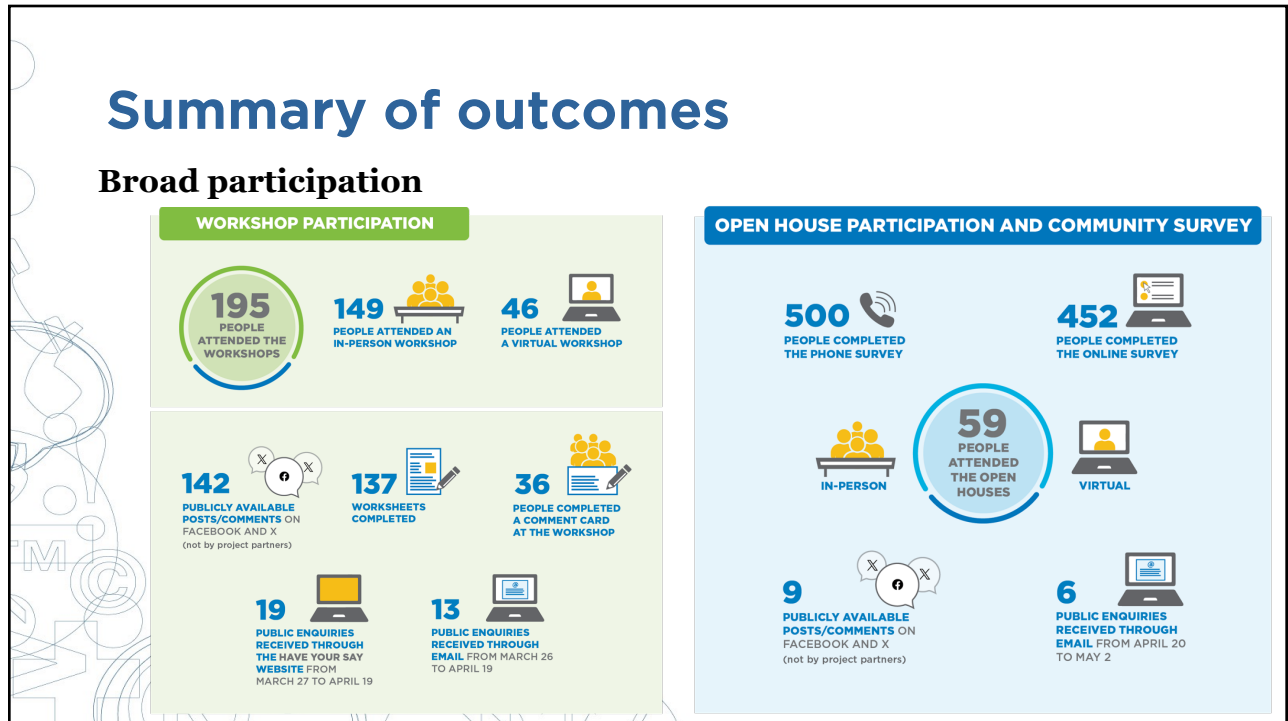
WORKSHOP NOTIFICATIONS

- 36,000+** DIGITAL ADS IMPRESSIONS FROM MARCH 26 TO APRIL 20, 2024
- 11,815** NEWSLETTERS DISTRIBUTED TO HOMES IN PARTNER JURISDICTIONS
- 2,000+** PRRD HAVE YOUR SAY PROJECT PAGE VIEWS FROM MARCH 26 TO APRIL 26, 2024
- 130** POSTERS DISTRIBUTED TO VENUES IN PRRD, FORT ST. JOHN AND TAYLOR
- 45** WORKSHOP INVITATIONS SENT TO FIRST NATIONS NEIGHBOURS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS
- 25** SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS BY PRRD, CITY OF FORT ST. JOHN, DISTRICT OF TAYLOR AND FORT ST. JOHN NORTH PEACE LEISURE POOL
- 11** EARNED MEDIA CONTENT
- 10** DISPLAY BOARDS POSTED AT NORTH PEACE LEISURE POOL AND TAYLOR GOLF CLUB
- 9** FACILITY SCREENS DISPLAYING DIGITAL GRAPHICS IN FORT ST. JOHN FACILITIES
- 5** ROADSIDE SIGNS AND OUTDOOR BILLBOARDS
- 2** PRRD, BC.CA NEWS POSTS
- 1** MEDIA RELEASE MARCH 26, 2024

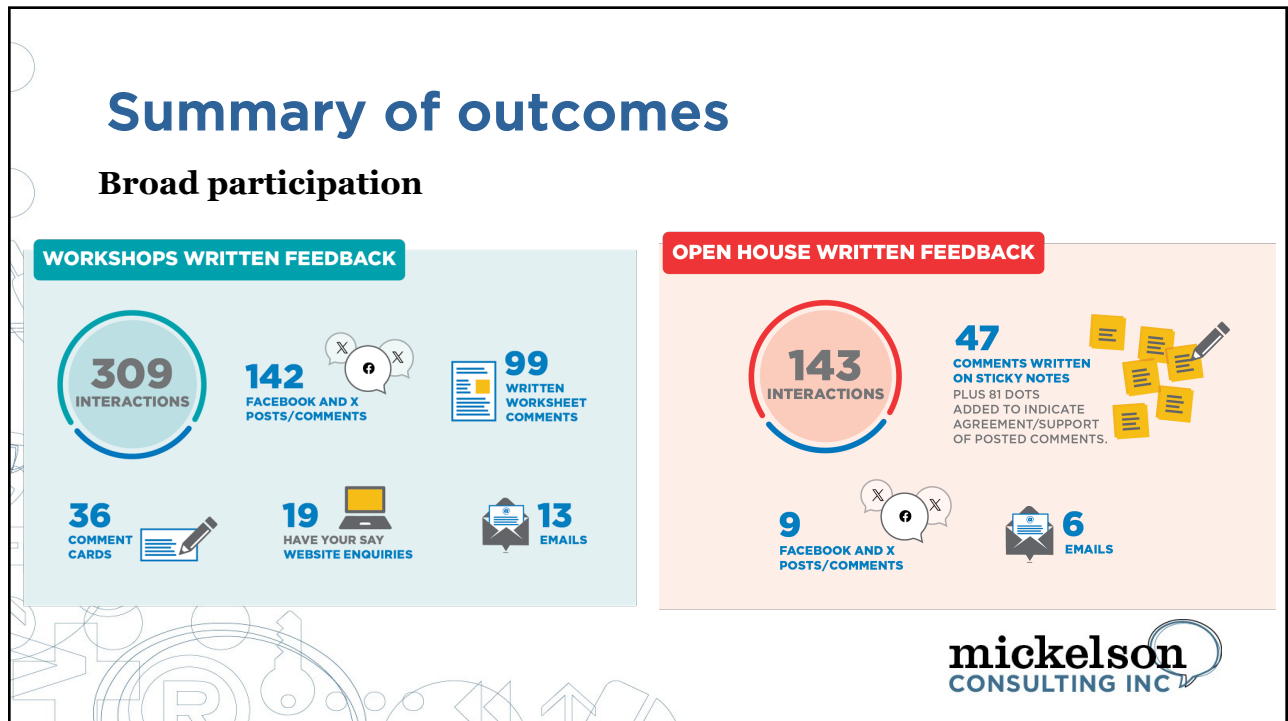
OPEN HOUSE AND COMMUNITY SURVEY NOTIFICATIONS

- 62,000+** DIGITAL ADS IMPRESSIONS FROM MAY 2-27, 2024
- 8,000+** OPEN HOUSE AND SURVEY NOTIFICATIONS SENT TO PRIORITIES THROUGH FORT ST. JOHN TAX INSERTS
- 1,300** PRRD HAVE YOUR SAY PROJECT PAGE VIEWS BETWEEN APRIL 27 TO MAY 27, 2024
- 550** FLYERS DISTRIBUTED TO VENUES IN PRRD, FORT ST. JOHN AND TAYLOR
- 130** POSTERS DISTRIBUTED TO VENUES IN PRRD, FORT ST. JOHN AND TAYLOR
- 92** OPEN HOUSE & SURVEY INVITATIONS SENT TO FIRST NATIONS NEIGHBOURS, COMMUNITY GROUPS AND WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS
- 24** DISPLAY BOARDS POSTED AT NORTH PEACE LEISURE POOL AND TAYLOR GOLF CLUB
- 15** SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS BY PRRD, CITY OF FORT ST. JOHN, DISTRICT OF TAYLOR, FORT ST. JOHN AND NORTH PEACE LEISURE POOL, FORT ST. JOHN RECREATION
Social media posts in May were limited due to wildfire evacuations communication.
- 9** EARNED MEDIA CONTENT
- 9** FACILITY SCREENS DISPLAYING DIGITAL GRAPHICS IN FORT ST. JOHN FACILITIES
- 4** ROADSIDE SIGNS AND OUTDOOR BILLBOARDS
- 2** PRRD, BC.CA NEWS POSTS
- 1** MEDIA RELEASE MAY 7, 2024

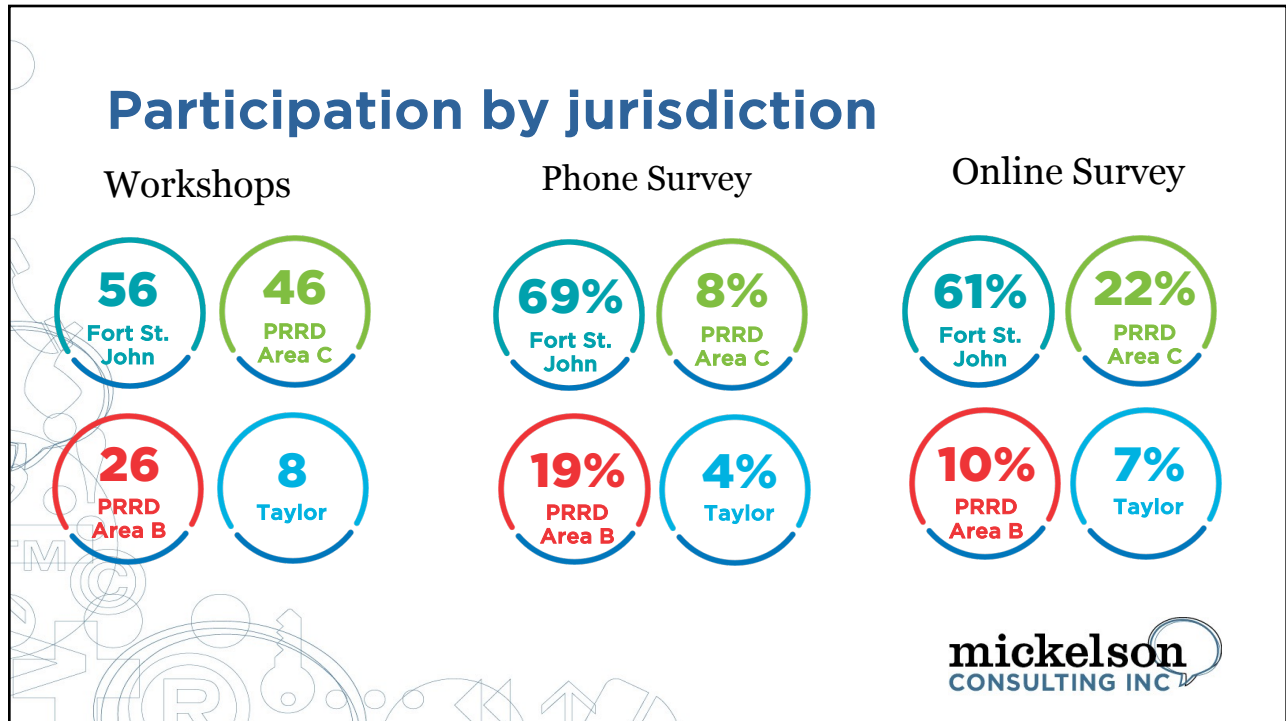
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Stage 2: Rent/own primary residence

	Phone survey	Online survey
Own	82%	88%
Rent	16%	7%
Prefer not to say	10%	6%



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Stage 1: Communication Update & Community Workshops Purpose

March 26 – April 26, 2024

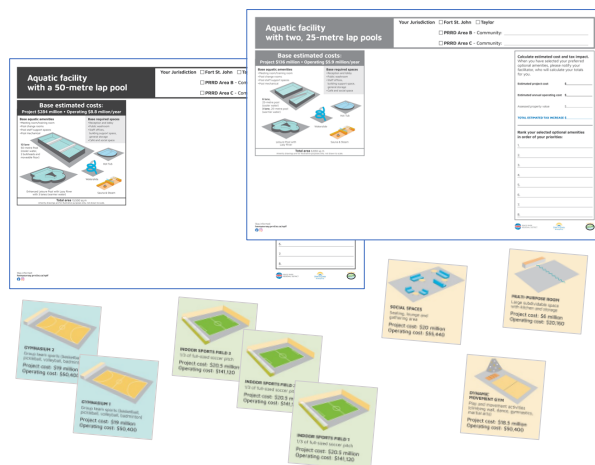
- Share highlights from previous community engagement.
- Present three facility options and cost estimates.
- Outline challenges that led to cost estimates.
- Gain insight into preferred facility option.
- Gain insight into priority amenities balanced with cost.



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Stage 1: Feedback opportunities

- Presentation
- Facilitated discussion
- Worksheet activity (137 completed)
- Have Your Say comments and questions
- Emails
- Social media



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Stage 1: Key themes

- Recognition that the existing pool needs to be replaced
- Moderate support to move forward
- Concerns about costs and ideas to mitigate tax impact
- Multi-use facility option with three to four amenities preferred
- No clear priorities for indoor recreation amenities, but questions raised about indoor play structure



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Stage 2: Open Houses & Surveys

April 27 – May 27, 2024

- Share what was learned from workshop participants
- Present facility options – including alternate option stemming from worksheet activity
- Share additional information based on questions and information requested at workshops
- Gain broader insight into preferred options and costs through open house feedback activities and community surveys, including statistically-valid phone survey

mickelson
CONSULTING INC.

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Stage 2: Feedback opportunities

- Five open houses: four in person and one virtual via Zoom
- Survey conducted by Research Co.
- Phone survey: 500 respondents
 - Representative sample of 500 adults in Fort St. John, Taylor and PRRD Areas B and C
 - Phone survey data is statistically weighted (totals may not add up to 100% in some cases due to rounding)
 - Conducted with live operators
- Online survey: 452 respondents



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Stage 2: Key themes

- General recognition that new facility is needed, but interest in keeping costs down
- There is significant concern about the cost of the project and overall impact on taxpayers
- The preferred tax increase range is \$30-40/month.
- Preferred facility options:
 - Multi-use facility with 3-4 recreation amenities and enhanced aquatic facility with 2, 25-metre lap pools
 - Enhanced aquatic facility only with 2, 25-metre lap pools
 - Multi-use facility with 8 recreation amenities and enhanced aquatic facility with 2, 25-metre lap pools



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Stage 2: Key themes


- Recreation amenity priorities:
 - dynamic movement gym
 - one indoor gymnasium
 - full-size soccer pitch (3 sports fields)
 - children’s indoor play structure
 - more social space to relax/hang out
- Concerns about referendum: need all cost details and frustration that renters vote but don’t pay



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Stage 2: Use of new facility

HOW LIKELY TO USE FUTURE FACILITY - PHONE SURVEY




16% 41% 28% 69% LIKELY
15% 31% NOT LIKELY

LEGEND

■ VERY LIKELY	■ NOT TOO LIKELY
■ MODERATELY LIKELY	■ NOT LIKELY AT ALL


HOW LIKELY TO USE FUTURE FACILITY - ONLINE SURVEY



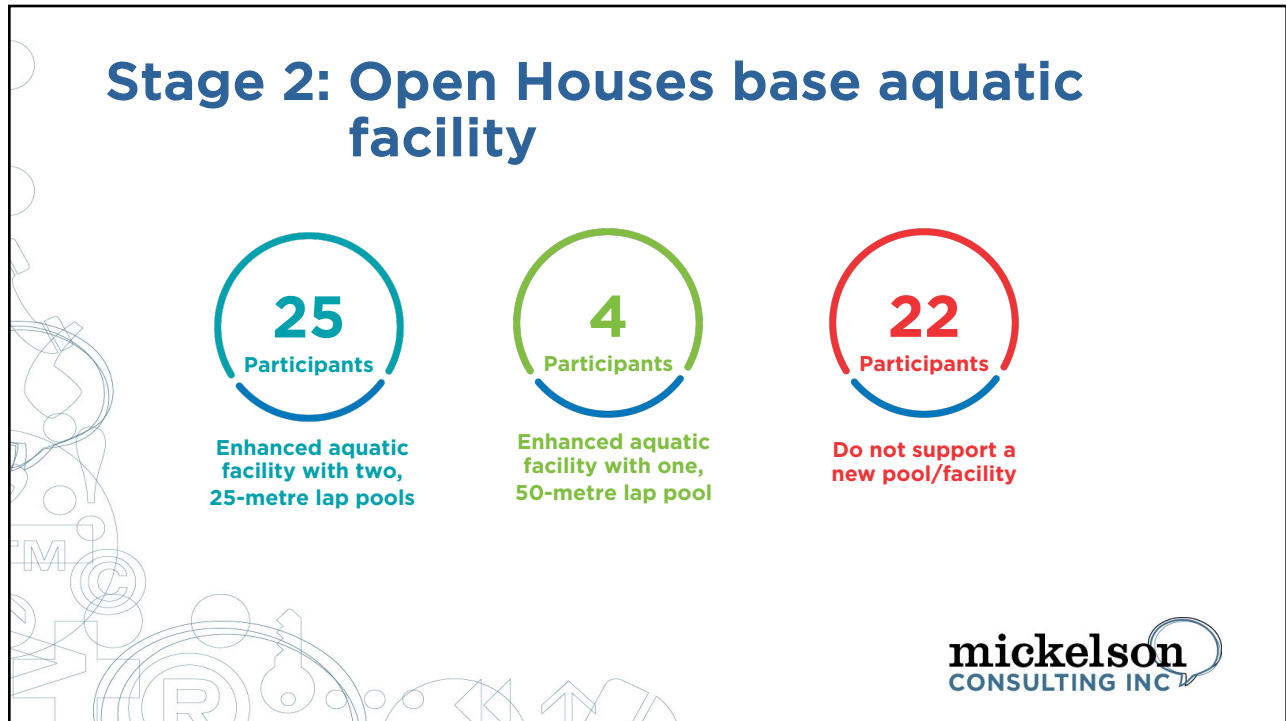
10% 58% 14% 72% LIKELY
18% 28% NOT LIKELY

LEGEND

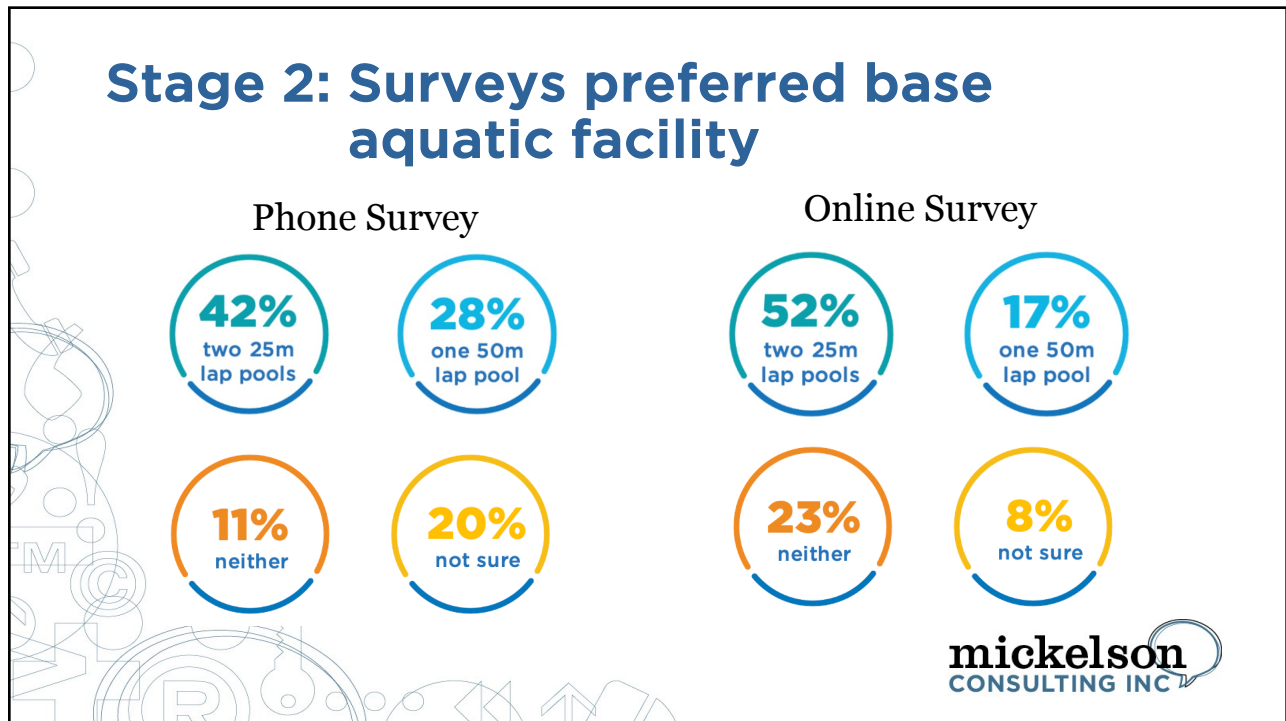
■ VERY LIKELY	■ NOT TOO LIKELY
■ MODERATELY LIKELY	■ NOT LIKELY AT ALL



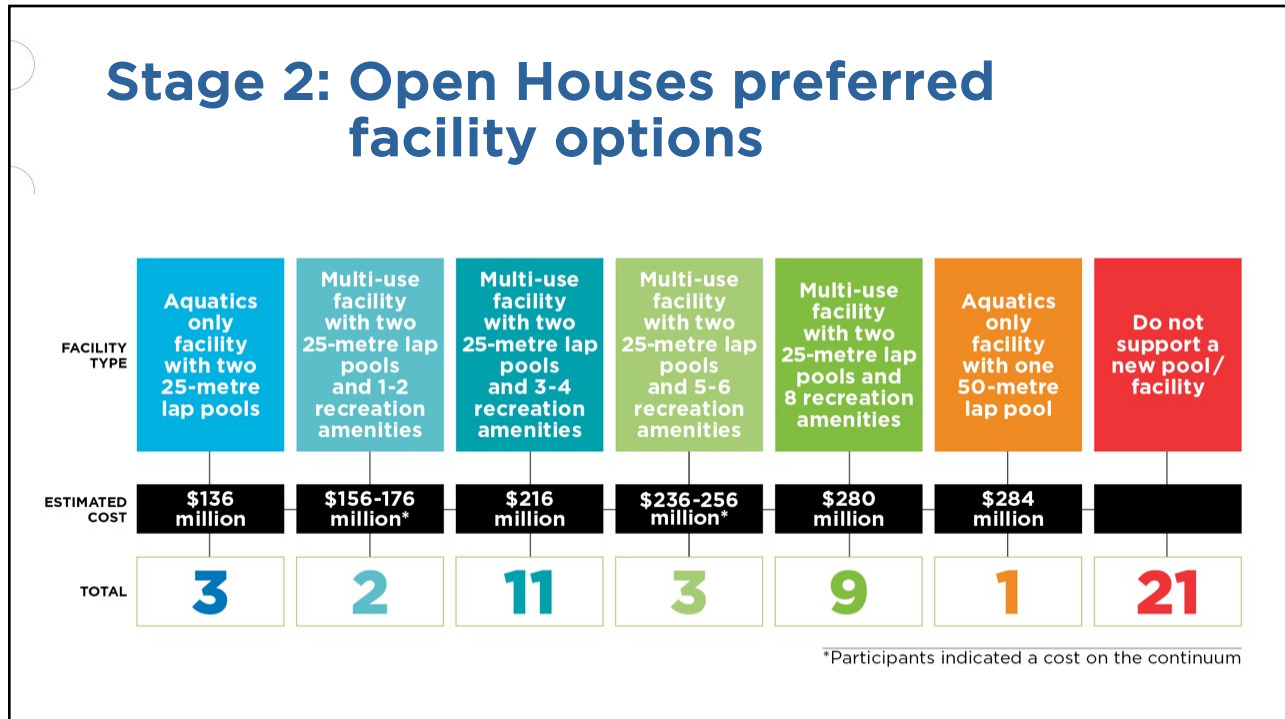
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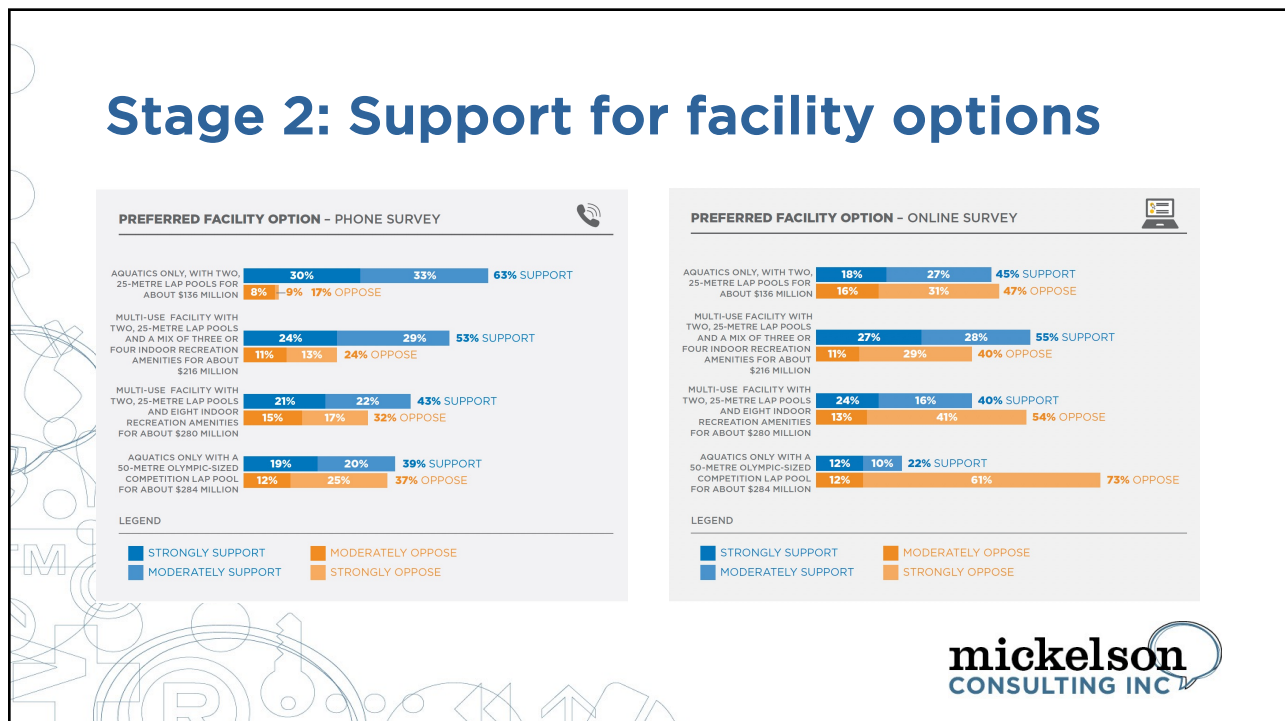
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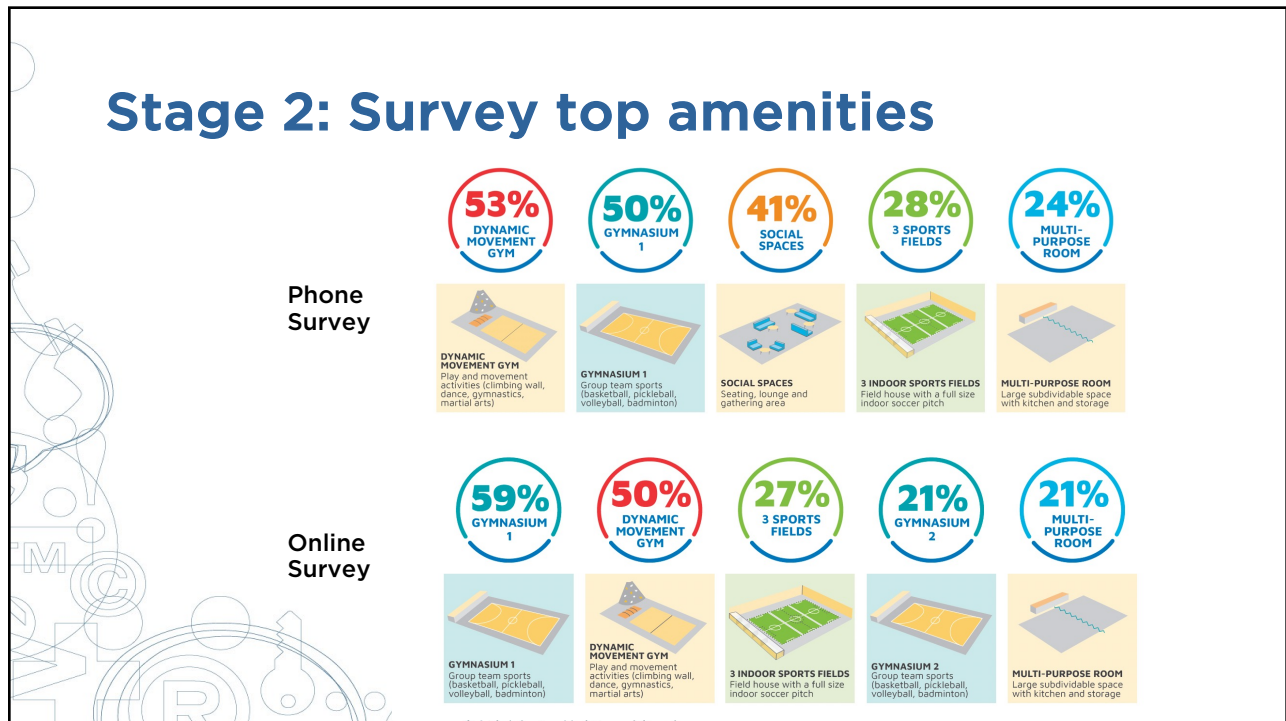
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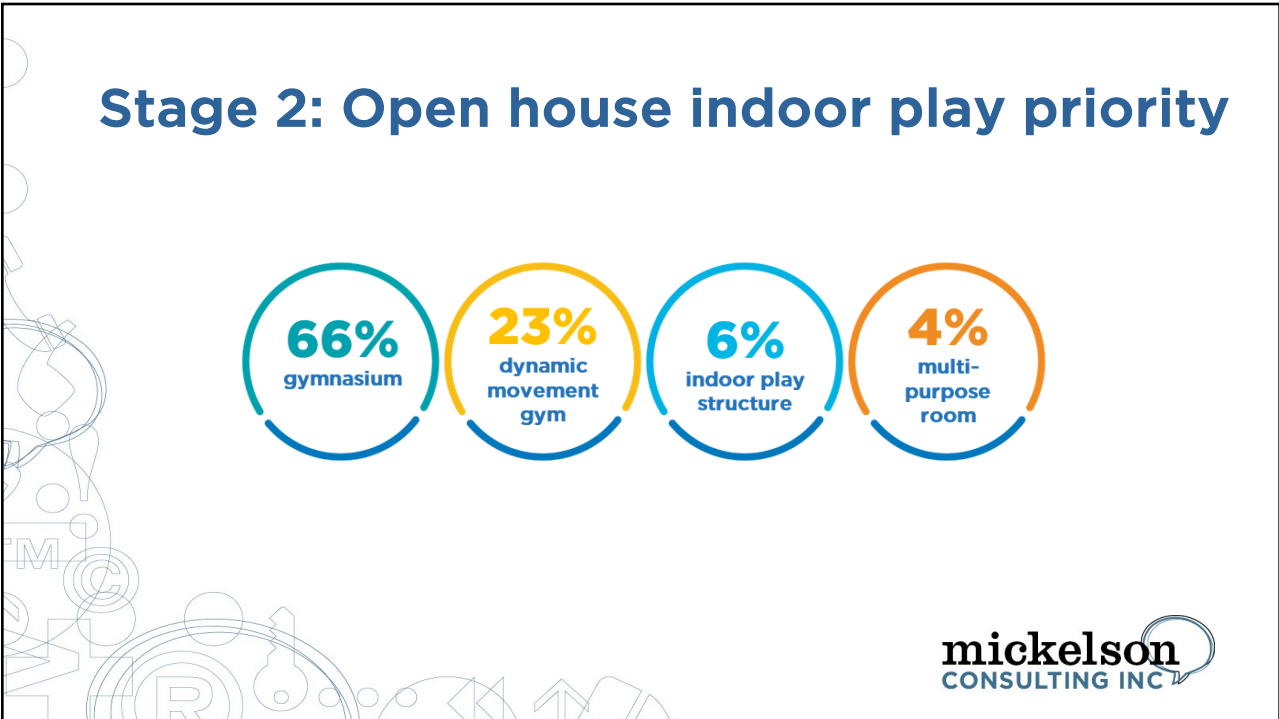
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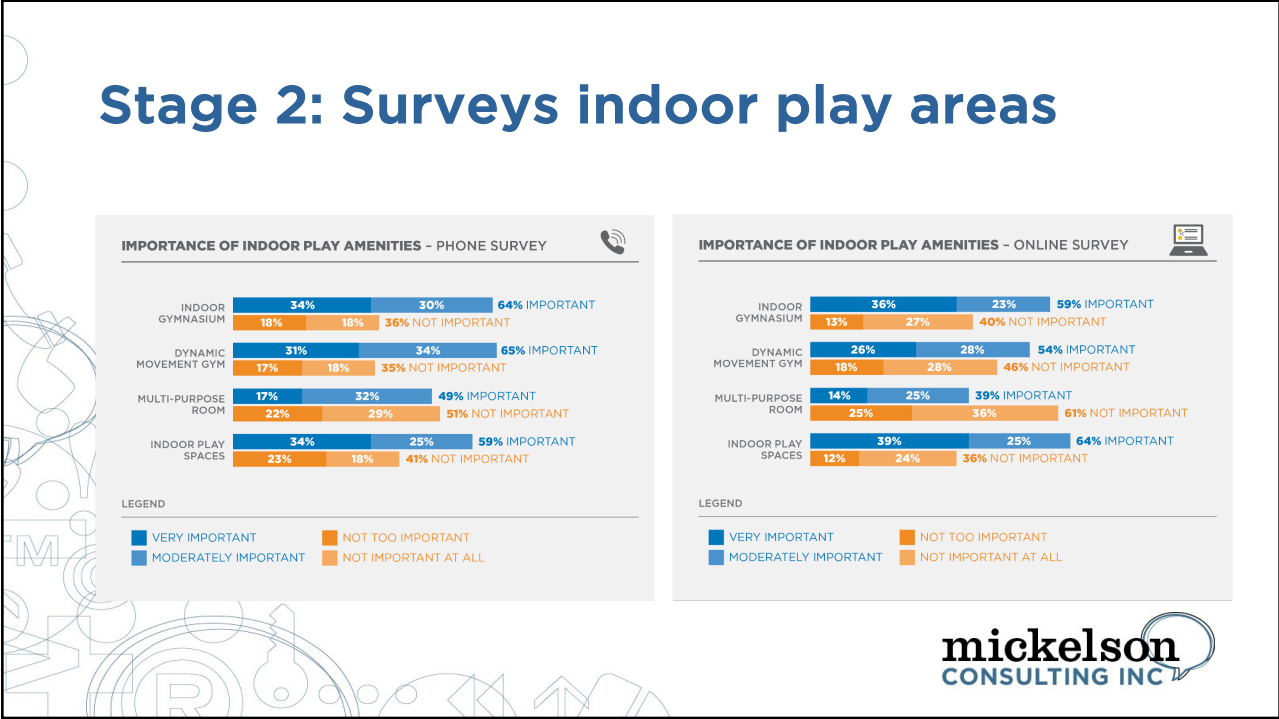
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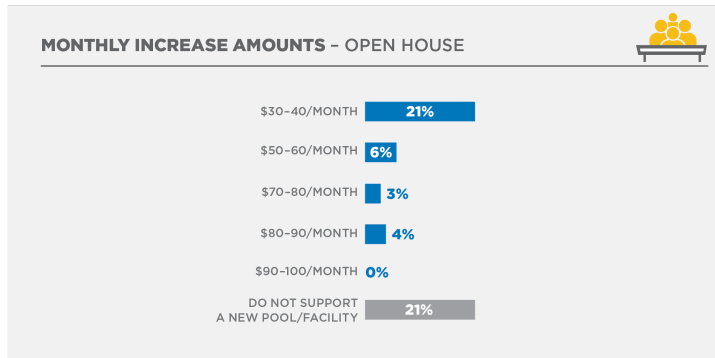


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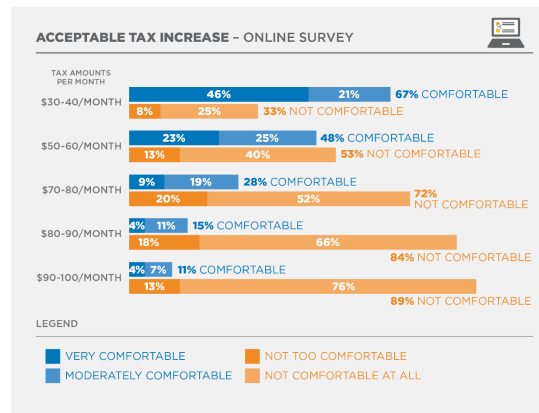
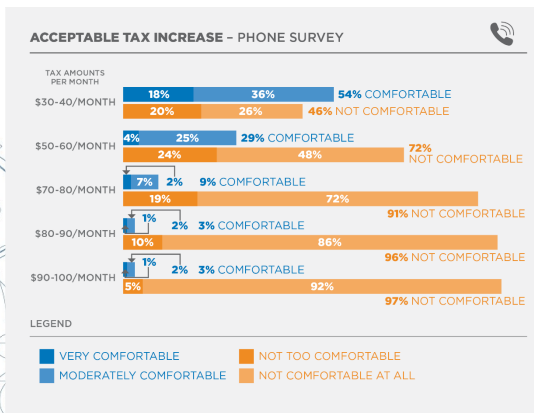
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Stage 2: Open houses monthly tax increase



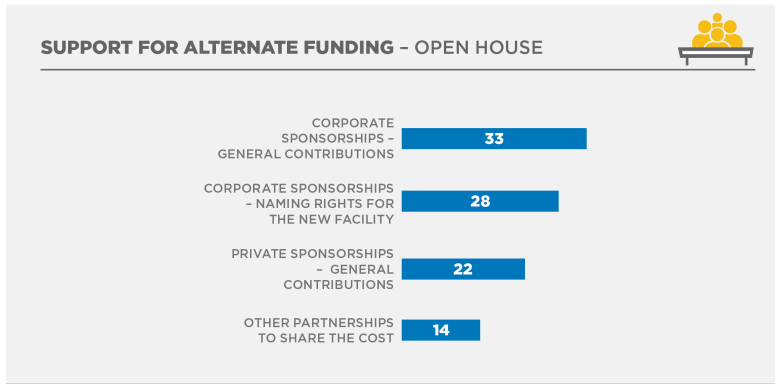
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Stage 2: Surveys monthly tax increase



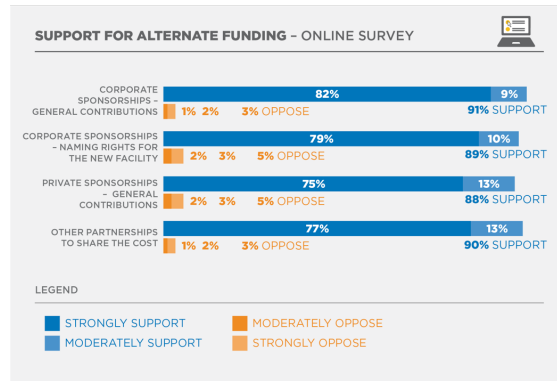
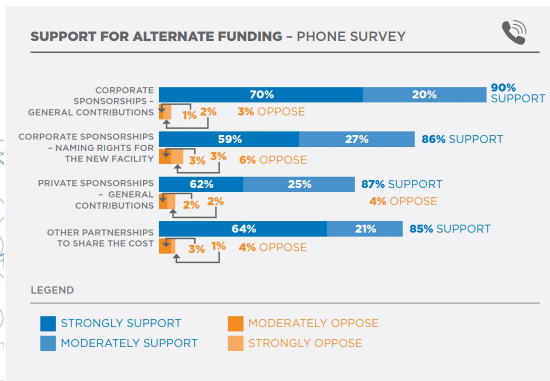
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Stage 2: Support for other funding



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Stage 2: Support for other funding



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Key outcomes PRRD Area B

○ Participation summary:

- Workshop Worksheets: 26
- Phone (500 respondents): 19%
- Online (452 respondents): 10%

○ Priority amenities:

- Dynamic movement gym
- One gymnasium
- Full-size soccer pitch
- Multi-purpose room or second gymnasium
- Enhanced social space

○ Facility options:

- Phone:
 - Aquatics only 45% support/25% oppose/21% not sure
 - Multi-use with 3-4 amenities 29% support/37% oppose/33% not sure
- Online:
 - Multi-use with 3-4 amenities 49% support/46% oppose/4% not sure
 - Aquatics only 35% support/57% oppose/7% not sure



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Key outcomes PRRD Area B

○ Primary concerns

- Taxpayer impact
- Timing
- Risk of going over budget

○ Monthly tax increase of \$30-\$40

- Phone: 26% comfortable/75% not comfortable
- Online: 47% comfortable/53% not comfortable

○ Likely to use facility:

- Phone: 46% likely/54% not likely
- Online: 53% likely/47% not likely



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Key outcomes PRRD Area C

○ Participation summary:

- Workshop Worksheets: 46
- Phone (500 respondents): 8%
- Online (452 respondents): 22%

○ Priority amenities:

- Full-size soccer pitch
- One gymnasium
- Dynamic movement gym
- Indoor play structure

Note: optional amenities were not rated as important in online survey compared to phone

○ Facility options:

- Phone:
 - Aquatics only: 52% support/18% oppose, 31% not sure
 - Multi-use with 3-4 amenities: 50% support/21% oppose/29% not sure
- Online:
 - Multi-use with 3-4 amenities: 49% support/48% oppose/3% not sure
 - Aquatics only: 41% support/50% oppose, 9% not sure



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Key outcomes PRRD Area C

○ Primary concerns

- Taxpayer impact
- Timing
- Risk of going over budget

○ Monthly tax increase of \$30-\$40

- Phone: 53% comfortable/46% not comfortable
- Online: 61% comfortable/39% not comfortable

○ Likely to use facility:

- Phone: 69% likely/31% not likely
- Online: 68% likely/32% not likely



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Key outcomes Taylor

○ Participation summary:

- Workshop Worksheets: 8
- Phone (500 respondents): 4%
- Online (452 respondents): 7%

○ Priority amenities:

- Two gymnasiums
- Dynamic movement gym
- Indoor play structure

○ Facility options:

- Phone:
 - Multi-use with 3-4 amenities: 64% support/18% oppose/18% not sure
 - Aquatics only: 63% support/18% oppose, 18% not sure
- Online:
 - Aquatics only: 48% support/42% oppose, 9% not sure
 - Multi-use with 3-4 amenities: 30% support/57% oppose/12% not sure



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Key outcomes Taylor

○ Primary concerns

- Taxpayer impact
- Timing
- User fees (*online only*)
- Risk of going over budget

○ Monthly tax increase of \$30-\$40

- Phone: 45% comfortable/54% not comfortable
- Online: 39% comfortable/61% not comfortable

○ Likely to use facility:

- Phone: 45% likely/54% not likely
- Online: 42% likely/57% not likely



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Key outcomes Fort St. John

○ Participation summary:

- Workshop Worksheets: 56
- Phone (500 respondents): 69%
- Online (452 respondents): 61%

○ Priority amenities:

- Dynamic movement gym
- One gymnasium
- Multi-purpose room
- Full-size soccer pitch
- Enhanced social space
- Indoor play structure

○ Facility options:

- Phone:
 - Aquatics only: 66% support/16% oppose/18% not sure
 - Multi-use with 3-4 amenities: 57% support/24% oppose/19% not sure
- Online:
 - Multi-use with 3-4 amenities: 61% support/34% oppose/5% not sure
 - Aquatics only: 48% support/45% oppose/8% not sure



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Key outcomes Fort St. John

○ Primary concerns

- Taxpayer impact
- Timing
- User fees
- Risk of going over budget

○ Monthly tax increase of \$30-\$40

- Phone: 58% comfortable/42% not comfortable
- Online: 75% comfortable/25% not comfortable

Note: 55% comfortable with \$50-60/month in online survey

○ Likely to use facility:

- Phone: 73% likely/27% not likely
- Online: 80% likely/20% not likely



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Recap: Outcomes and Considerations

- The majority of participants in the Phase 3 community engagement support a new facility, but it is a slim majority.
- There is general agreement that a new facility is needed, but cost is a significant concern.
- The preferred lap pool size is two, 25-metre lap pools.
- There is support for a multi-use facility; however, based on the \$40/month increase a small majority of participants are comfortable with, the number of amenities may be limited
- Concerns around fairness of referendum given that the provincial referendum rules allow all eligible voters, not just property owners



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Recap: Outcomes and Considerations

- There are significant concerns related to costs:
 - Need to know land cost, benefitting service area and tax model before a referendum.
 - Taxation model needs to be fair to all jurisdictions.
 - Need assurance that the project will not go over budget.
 - Not a good time to do this due to current economy.
 - Consider more options to reduce cost.



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Recap: Outcomes and Considerations

- Residents suggested options to mitigate tax impacts:
 - Use a phased approach: build base aquatic facility but select location that can accommodate recreation amenities in future.
 - Renovate the existing pool or refurbish the building for recreation amenities.
 - Seek out alternative funding to offset costs: e.g., grants, sponsorship.
 - Expand partnership to share costs more broadly.



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Facility Option Scenarios

The facility option scenarios presented are calculated based on:

- Project cost estimates (construction, contingency and soft costs) with construction starting in 2026
- 2024 average property assessments for improvements only (buildings)
- Benefitting service area boundaries based on the outside boundaries used for the existing North Peace Leisure Pool as well as the District of Taylor. *(Note: this is a change from the Phase 3 community engagement, which included all properties in all four jurisdictions.)*
- Tax amount includes include operating costs starting in 2028, annual debt repayment costs for the construction project and a 3% capital replacement cost.
- Land cost not included

Note: The estimated tax increases for Fort St. John and PRRD Area B and C are net increases (the total amount of the increase for the new facility minus the amount they are currently paying for existing pool).



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Sample facility option scenarios

Enhanced aquatics facility with two, 25-metre lap pools

Estimated project cost: \$136 million (tax rate/1000: \$1.2079)

	Average improvements only property value	Est. tax increase	Est. tax increase per month
Fort St. John	262,500	233	19.38
PRRD Area B	172,500	153	12.73
PRRD Area C	308,250	273	22.75
Taylor	178,500	216	17.97

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Sample facility option scenarios

Multi-use facility with one gymnasium, dynamic movement gym and full-size soccer pitch (3 sports fields)

Estimated project cost: \$235 million (tax rate/1000: \$1.8472)

	Average improvements only property value	Est. tax increase	Est. tax increase per month
Fort St. John	262,500	400	33.36
PRRD Area B	172,500	263	21.92
PRRD Area C	308,250	470	39.17
Taylor	178,500	330	27.48

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Sample facility option scenarios

Multi-use facility with all eight recreation amenities

Estimated project cost: \$280 million (tax rate/1000: \$2.1263)

	Average improvements only property value	Est. tax increase	Est. tax increase per month
Fort St. John	262,500	474	39.46
PRRD Area B	172,500	311	25.93
PRRD Area C	308,250	556	46.34
Taylor	178,500	380	31.63

Peace River Regional District North Peace Leisure Facility

Phase 3 Engagement Summary Report

June 28, 2024

This report was prepared by Mickelson Consulting Inc., on behalf of the Peace River Regional District. Mickelson Consulting is a Vancouver-based communications and engagement firm retained by the Regional District to support the engagement process and provide independent analysis of the engagement input.

Note that the input received reflects the interests and opinions of people who chose to participate in this engagement process and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Peace River Regional District.

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1 Background

Over the past decade, the North Peace Leisure Pool has been challenged by a variety of maintenance issues. Continual, repeated shutdowns of various pool features and the entire facility have negatively impacted community use, and related capital and operating costs continue to increase - approximately \$5 million per year.

The region served by the pool is also growing, and the existing facility no longer meets community needs. Although the current pool is only about 30 years old, its infrastructure is failing and there are several core issues, including the hot tub being permanently closed, rotting piping, building temperature regulation, the water slide is only usable during warmer temperatures and other building systems and facility assets are growing more expensive to maintain or repair. The pool amenities are also not meeting current needs in the community. There is limited deck space, current lane widths are significantly smaller than regulation and the pool facility overall has been at capacity for years, resulting in continual wait lists for swimming lessons. The community is expected to continue to grow, and the current aquatic facility is not well designed to meet the needs of the current or future population.

Many of the issues with the current building are linked to budget cuts required when the pool was in the planning and referendum stage. An initial referendum on the loan amount to construct the pool failed. Following several additional referenda attempts, the final referendum for a smaller loan amount was successful. This resulted in significant scope changes, including reducing the size of the building and other changes to design and construction materials, which have impacted operations and resulted in a more rapid deterioration of the infrastructure, including degrading pipes that are encased in concrete and not easily accessed for repairs.

While the existing pool is owned by the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) and operated by the City of Fort St. John, a new partnership that includes the District of Taylor was formed to consider the aquatic and recreational needs for the North Peace region. Planning for a new facility started in 2018 and has involved feasibility assessments, and the outcomes of these initial assessments included recommendations on how to 'right-size' a facility to meet both the current aspirations and the future community needs associated with anticipated community growth and demographic shifts over time.

Initial planning for a new facility also included two rounds of community engagement that were conducted in 2018 and 2022 to collect input on the preferred amenities, as well as other priorities related to non-tangible benefits in the community. After the completion of the second round of engagement, there was also a request for a 50-metre lap pool to support training and swim competitions. Across all communities, it was learned that residents support a new multi-purpose facility that includes both aquatic amenities and indoor recreation spaces.

Using the feasibility assessment and community engagement priorities, the project partners developed several facility options, along with project cost estimates. The estimates were higher than anticipated due to the current inflation rate and increasing costs in the construction market. Before deciding on the preferred facility option and a related referendum question, a third phase of community engagement was initiated in March 2024 to gain insight into amenity priorities when balanced with cost.

1.1 About the project partners

The PRRD, City of Fort St. John and District of Taylor have partnered to determine the future of the North Peace Leisure Pool and how best to address regional aquatic and other recreational service needs going forward. The North Peace Leisure Pool Steering Committee is made up of elected officials representing the partner jurisdictions. The project will primarily be financed through property taxes in the partner jurisdiction benefitting areas. The Steering Committee will be making the final recommendation to the PRRD Board regarding the boundaries of the final benefitting service areas for this project; however, all properties in the four partner jurisdictions were used as the base for assessing tax impacts for the purpose of the phase three community engagement.



PEACE RIVER
REGIONAL DISTRICT

PRRD Electoral Areas B and C

The PRRD jurisdictions included in the partnership include Electoral Areas B and C. Area B has a large geographic area with 18 small communities, and Electoral Area C has six small communities.

The population in Area B is 5,379 residents (Census 2021 data). There are also mining, hydro, oil and gas, forestry and agricultural industries active in the region, including a significant number of work camps to house employees that do not live permanently in the surrounding communities. The population in Area C is 5,947 residents (Census 2021 data). Area C also has active industries that include work camps for employees. (Data is based on the *Housing Needs Reports* for each jurisdiction).



With a population of 21,465 residents (Census 2021 data), the City of Fort St. John is the largest city in northeastern B.C. It is also the largest city in British Columbia situated along the Alaska Highway.

The North Peace Leisure Pool is located in the centre of Fort St. John and is part of a recreation/civic campus along with other public indoor recreational facilities such as the curling club, kids' arena (indoor field house) and the Pomeroy Sport Centre (Festival Plaza, ice-skating oval, ice rinks and indoor running track).



The District of Taylor is the fastest-growing community in the North Peace region and is situated approximately 18 kilometres south of Fort St. John. Taylor has a small, close-knit community with a population of 1,317 residents (Census 2021 data). Its strategic location along the Peace River and the Alaska Highway makes it a significant regional hub. Taylor residents do not currently pay taxes on the North Peace Leisure Pool.

2 Executive summary

A two-stage engagement process was developed for Phase 3 Community Engagement to support the development of alternate, meaningful facility models to effectively demonstrate the trade-offs between amenities and costs for the public.

The following targeted outcomes were identified in the Phase 3 Community Engagement Plan approved by the project Steering Committee and the PRRD Board:

- The PRRD and its partners will have a better understanding of the best option for a new North Peace Leisure Facility that reflects the ideal mix of amenities at a cost that property owners in the partner communities will accept.
- The input will result in an option for a new facility that clearly reflects community priorities for amenities combined with their tolerance for budget that can be presented as a yes/no vote in a referendum as required for financing the project.
- There will be sufficient representation from all of the affected partner communities and key user groups to provide the Steering Committee with confidence that there is broad participation from their area.
- The input, priorities and cost tolerance levels for each partner community will be clearly defined to provide Steering Committee members with an in-depth understanding of their citizens' preferences.

Stage 1: Communication Update and Workshops (March 26 - April 26, 2024)

The general public, sport and community user groups and First Nations communities were provided with an information update about the project, including highlights of what was learned from previous community engagement and how input was used to develop facility options and related cost estimates. Community members from the partner jurisdictions were invited to participate in one of seven workshops. The workshops included activities, discussions and opportunities to collect input and ideas related to the aquatic facility options and optional recreational amenities. Participants chose what amenities were important to them and what they felt they could afford by participating in workshop activities that helped demonstrate the cost and amenity trade-offs.

Seven workshop sessions were held for members of the public across the four partner jurisdictions. Four workshops were held in-person, one within each partner jurisdiction, and three were held online via Zoom. The initial plan involved two virtual workshops; however, a third was added to accommodate community interest in participating.

Registration was required for the workshops to ensure the ratio between facilitators and participants would yield productive discussions and completion of the worksheet activities and tax rate calculations. Participants who had not registered were also accommodated as walk-ins to provide broad participation at all of the workshops.

Stage 2: Open Houses and Community Survey (May 6 to 27, 2024)

The input on preferred facility options, amenity priorities balanced with cost/tax increase tolerance, frequently asked questions and other ideas and concerns shared by workshop participants were presented at open houses to gain broader insight into preferred facility options, priority amenities and a budget/tax increase level that would be acceptable to residents in each partner jurisdiction. This included an additional multi-use facility option with three or four amenities, which was the most preferred option developed by workshop participants through the worksheet activity.

Five open houses were held for members of the public across the four partner jurisdictions. Four open houses were held in person, one within each partner jurisdiction, and one virtual open house was held via Zoom. The public had the opportunity to attend whichever open house was most convenient to them. Participants were

provided with coloured stickers based on their jurisdiction to help better understand the priorities and concerns of each jurisdiction in addition to overall input.

An online survey was available from May 6 to May 27, 2024. The link was posted on the PRRD's Have Your Say engagement platform and available directly through both social media and digital advertising. The online survey was anonymous, and participants were asked to provide basic demographic information. In addition, a statistically valid telephone survey of a representative sample of 500 adults in Fort St. John, the District of Taylor, Electoral Area B and Electoral Area C was conducted from May 8 to May 17, 2024. The telephone survey questionnaire was consistent with the online survey, asking respondents about their use of the existing pool facility, their base aquatic facility preference, their amenity option preferences, their top priorities of the amenities, their concerns related to the project, their level of support for grant funding of the project and what they considered an acceptable monthly tax increase for the project.

2.1 Summary of key themes

The following is a summary of key themes learned from across all sources in both Stage 1 and Stage 2 and aligned with targeted outcomes related to preferred facility, amenities and cost.

Preferred facility option and amenities

- There is general agreement that the existing facility infrastructure is failing, and a new facility is required.
- The preferred lap pool size for the new base aquatic facility is two 25-metre lap pools.
- There is about the same level of support for both a multi-use facility with a mix of three or four indoor recreation amenities and two 25-metre lap pools and for an aquatics-only facility with two 25-metre lap pools.
- The top indoor recreation amenity priorities are one gymnasium, a dynamic movement gym, a fieldhouse with a full-size indoor soccer pitch (three sports fields) and enhanced indoor social spaces. There is also support for an indoor play structure.
- There is a desire for more information about the current facility, including use and capacity at the existing pool and current use of other recreation facilities, as well as the projected growth and demographic information being used to support the proposed facility size.
- Input on design decisions emphasized the importance of considering the challenges of cold climate and for ensuring a new facility is “built once, built right.”

Tolerance for cost and related tax increase

- There are significant concerns about project cost, property tax increases.
- There is moderate support for a monthly tax increase up to \$40, although PRRD Area B and Taylor had less support even at this tax impact range. Respondents across all jurisdictions were significantly less comfortable as the monthly tax amount increased.
- There are significant concerns related to additional increases in the tax amount when land costs and construction timelines are factored in, and risks of the project going over budget.
- Suggestions to address costs included options to renovate or refurbish the existing North Peace Leisure Pool.
- There is broad support for pursuing all funding opportunities to reduce overall project costs, including grants, sponsorships and partnerships.

2.2 Workshops summary (April 2024)

2.2.1 Targeted outcomes and feedback opportunities

The targeted outcomes for this stage of engagement were to support an informed community by sharing an update about the project, including what was learned from the previous community engagement, and how that information was used to develop several facility options based on community priorities and the related cost estimates for each option. The workshop discussions and activities were designed to gain insight into the preferred base aquatic facility (two 25-metre lap pools or one 50-metre lap pool), indoor recreation amenity priorities and cost tolerance levels in each partner jurisdiction.

To inform the community about the status of the project, the preferred options and related project cost estimates, a newsletter with highlights from the previous rounds of engagement was mailed to residents in the four partner jurisdictions as part of notifying residents about the upcoming opportunity to participate in the workshops. At the workshops, participants received a workbook with additional information about amenities, costs and tax impacts and there was a presentation to provide context for the workshop discussions.

Four specific feedback opportunities were integrated into the workshops:

1. Determine the community's level of support for the proposed facility options developed based on feasibility study and the first two phases of community engagement.
 - Option 1 – Enhanced aquatic facility with two 25-metre lap pools
 - Option 2 – Enhanced aquatic facility with one 50-metre lap pool
 - Option 3 – Multi-use facility with two 25-metre lap pools and eight indoor recreation amenities (enhanced indoor social spaces, dynamic movement gym, multi-purpose room, two gymnasiums and a field house with three indoor sports fields that together form a full-sized soccer pitch)

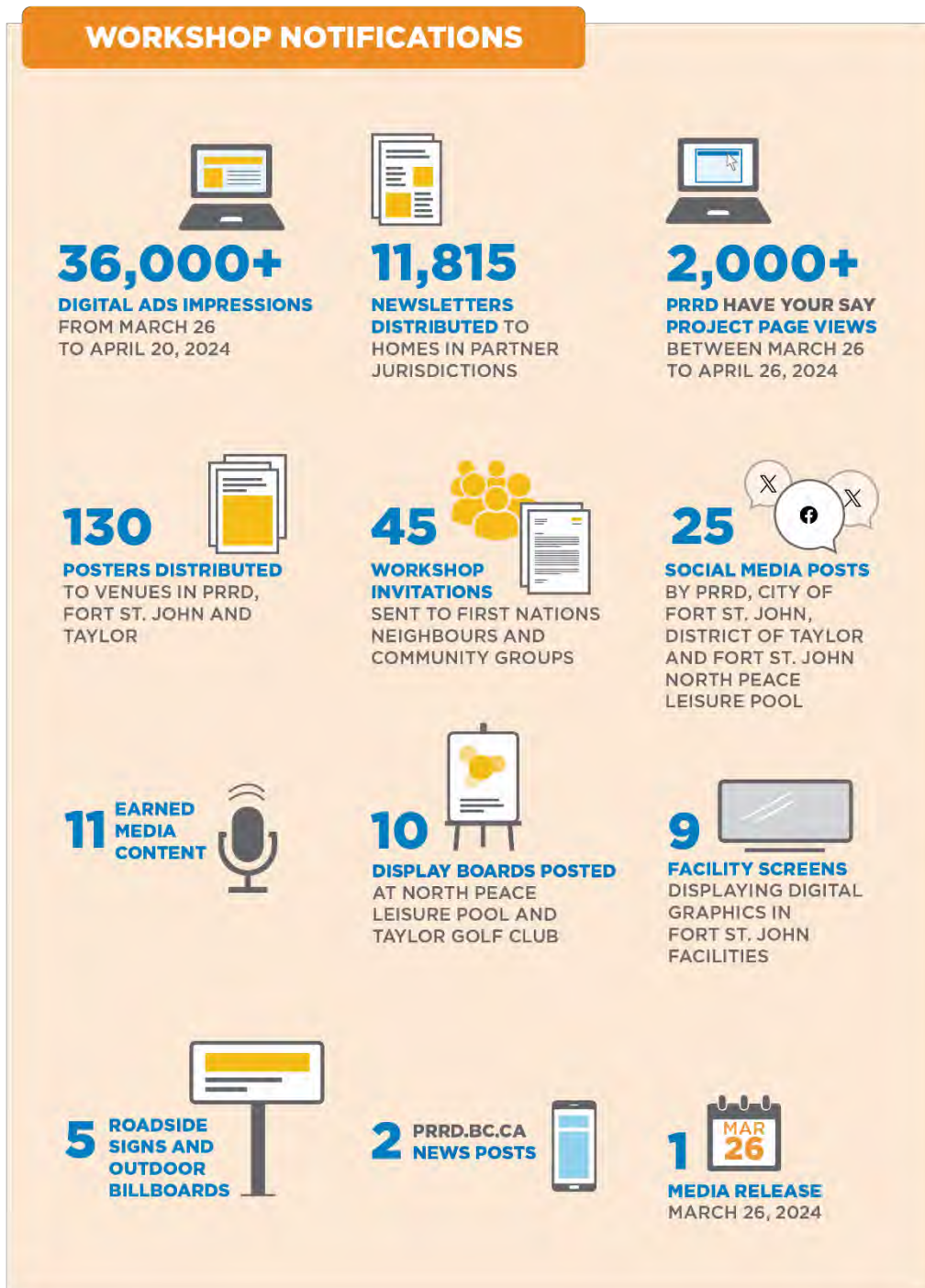
Participants also had the option to indicate that they did not support any of the facility options.

2. Identify the public's preferred base aquatic facility option (two 25-metre lap pools or one 50-metre lap pool).
3. Identify the public's preferred mix of indoor recreation amenities and priorities that could be included with their selected aquatics facility option based on their tolerance for cost/tax increase.
4. Document the public's preferred facility options, amenity priority rankings and cost tolerances to assist with creating an alternative recommended facility option for consideration at the open houses and through the community survey.

Additional feedback opportunities included comments on haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca, emails to the PRRD and social media comments on partner jurisdiction Facebook pages.

2.2.2 Notification

A broad mix of communication methods were used to reach target audiences in the partner jurisdictions.



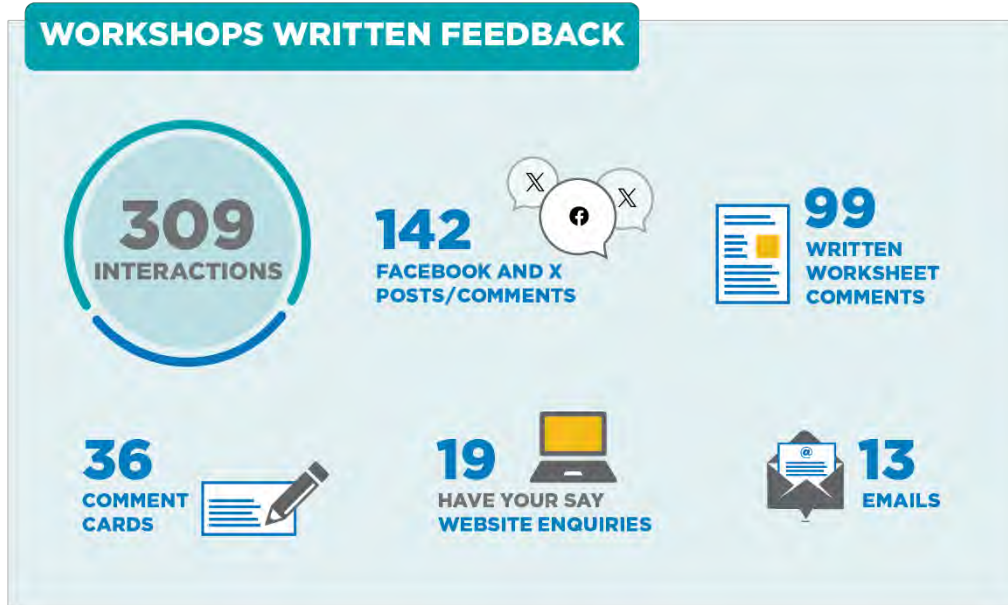
2.2.3 Participation



Participation by jurisdiction was determined based on information provided by participants on completed worksheets.

- Fort St. John: 56
- PRRD Area C: 46
- PRRD Area B: 26
- Taylor: 8
- Other: 1

2.2.4 Summary of written feedback



2.2.5 Workshop outcomes

Below is a summary of key themes learned across all workshops:

- Recognition that the existing pool needs to be replaced
- A mix of support for the project moving forward, with different preferred facility options and amenities depending on cost tolerance, and some who do not support a new facility
- Multi-use facility option preferences primarily involved three to four amenities, with no clear “winner” in terms of the amenity mix
- Indoor recreation priorities noted most frequently were one indoor gymnasium, a dynamic movement gym and one indoor sports field (1/3 of a full-sized soccer pitch, used for small scale games of five players per side)
- Concerns about escalating costs, particularly related to land costs and construction costs exceeding estimates
- Concerns about cost and impact to taxpayers at a time when there are other factors putting financial pressure on cost and quality of living
- Concerns about the indoor recreation amenities, noting that families were expecting an indoor play structure
- Strong support to pursue any and all funding options to reduce project costs, e.g., grants, sponsorship, retail opportunities
- Requests for more information needed on how residential, commercial, industrial and farm properties are taxed
- Ideas to reduce cost by modifying or removing base aquatic amenity options e.g., waterslide design, hot tub size, diving boards, etc.

- Support for more research and cost estimates to renovate the existing pool or refurbish the building to use it for other purposes in the future
- Concerns related to accuracy of estimated user demand and population growth projections, and what are the demographics of the projected population growth and do they warrant a large-scale facility
- Desire for more information about current facility user groups (what types of users are currently using the facility)

Support for facility options

The following outcomes are based on input from the worksheet activity.



Preferred facility options in order:

1. Multi-use facility with an average of four amenities: 53 participants
2. Aquatic facility only with two 25-metre lap pools: 19 participants
3. Multi-use facility with 50-metre lap pool and average of three to four amenities: 18 participants
4. Aquatic facility only with 50-metre lap pool: 3 participants

Jurisdiction comparison

- Most of the support for moving forward was from Fort St. John residents (48 of the 56 Fort St. John participants).
- The majority of PRRD Areas B and C participants support a new facility, but proportionally not as many as in Fort St. John (Area B 15 participants and Area C 25 participants).
- Taylor was split 50/50, with four participants supporting a new facility and four indicating they do not support a new facility (8 participants total).
- The preferred base aquatics facility is two 25-metre lap pools across all jurisdictions for those who support a new facility; however, there was more support for the 50-metre lap pool option among Fort St. John residents compared to other jurisdictions.
- Area B was fairly evenly split between the multi-use facility with an average of four amenities and the aquatic facility only with two 25-metre lap pools, but the other three jurisdictions had the most support for the multi-use with an average of four amenities.

2.3 Open houses and community survey (May 2024)

2.3.1 Targeted outcomes and feedback opportunities

The public was invited to participate in the open houses to learn about the input received during the workshops in April and to advance discussions on the proposed facility amenity options in relation to their impact on taxpayers. The goal of the open houses was to gain more insight into whether the public supported one or more of the proposed facility options, including a new multi-use facility option with three to four amenities based on input from the workshops. The open houses also were also designed to obtain broader community input on their priorities for the facility amenities, including clarification around what they want for indoor play amenities, and what their top three indoor recreation priorities would be when balanced with cost.

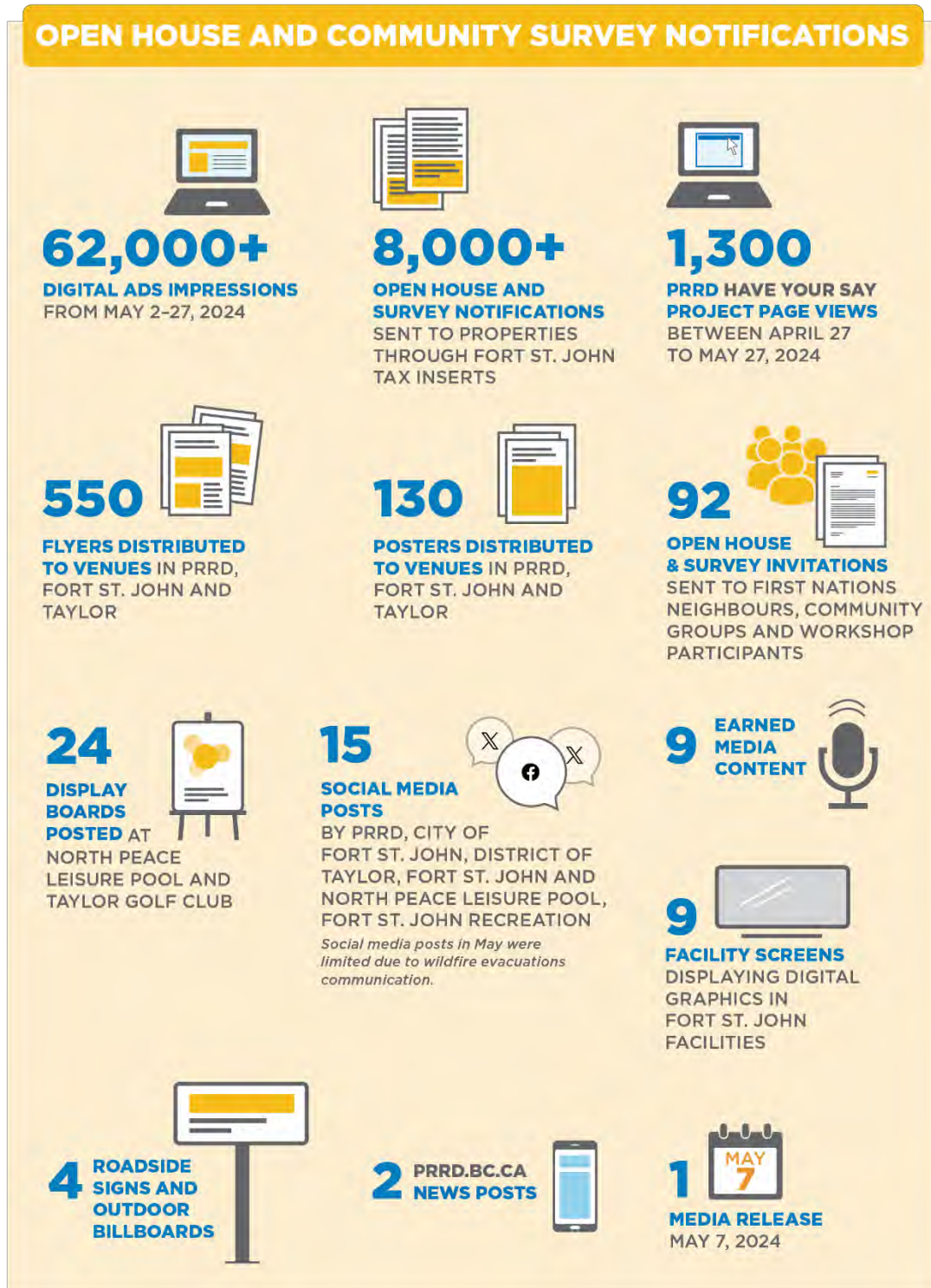
A total of 33 display boards were set up around the open house venues on easels and tables. At a centre table, staff had laptops to complete calculations for any attendees that wanted to receive their projected tax increase based on their amenity selection, mirroring the worksheet activity and calculations completed during the workshops.

There were nine specific feedback opportunities integrated into the open house. Banner sized display boards were used as a “dotmocracy” to visualize attendee input. Participants were given sticker dots to place on banners to demonstrate their preferences. Each jurisdiction had its own sticker colour: Fort St. John (blue); Area B (orange); Area C (red); and Taylor (green). The banners requested input about the following:

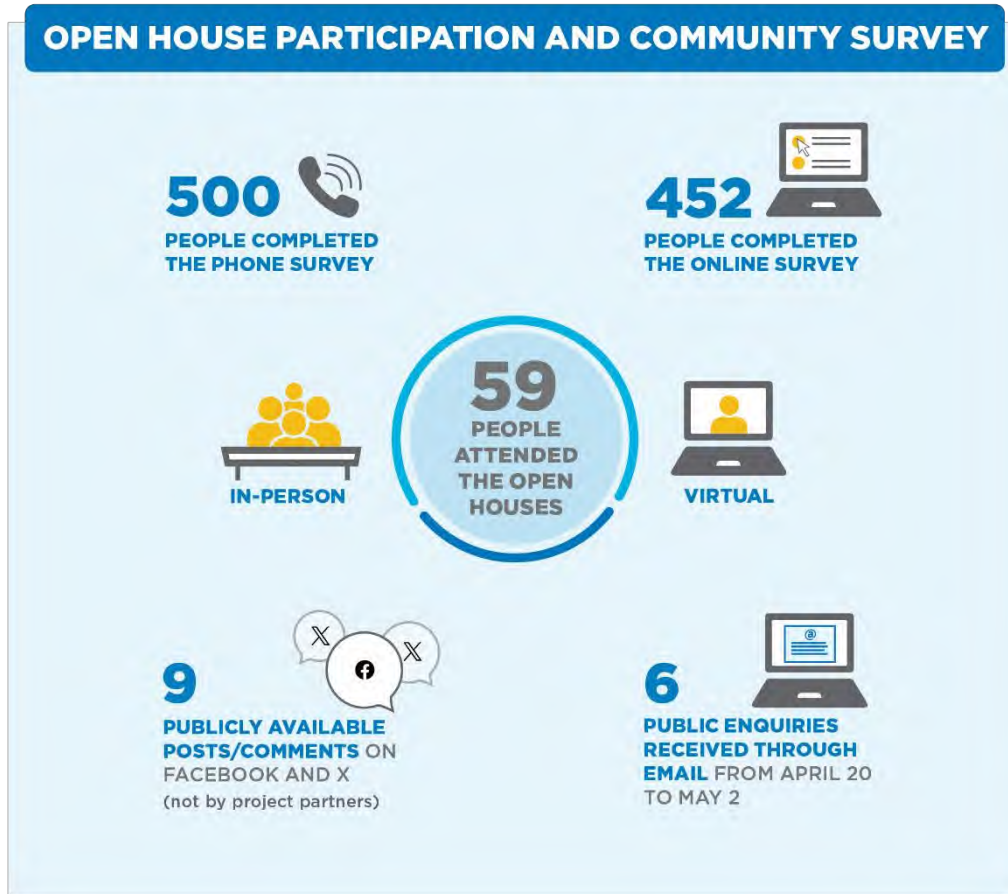
- Indicate base aquatic facility preference
- Identify the top three amenity priorities
- Identify how the public defines ‘indoor play’ within the amenities
- Identify the preferred number of amenities in relation to cost they could support
- Identify an acceptable monthly tax increase range
- Identify which funding options the public supported for the PPRD to pursue
- Submit questions or comments related to the facility options and amenities
- Submit questions or comments related to costs or tax impacts
- Submit questions or comments related to the referendum/who decides the project

The community surveys were designed to seek input on the same topics as the open houses. The survey questionnaire included 12 questions with a mix of multiple choice and open ended questions to collect feedback on facility options, amenity priorities and cost tolerance, as well as six demographic questions. The same questionnaire was used for the online, self-select survey and the statistically-valid phone survey with live operators. There were 452 online survey submissions and 500 completed phone surveys.

2.3.2 Notification



2.3.3 Participation



Summary of participation by jurisdiction

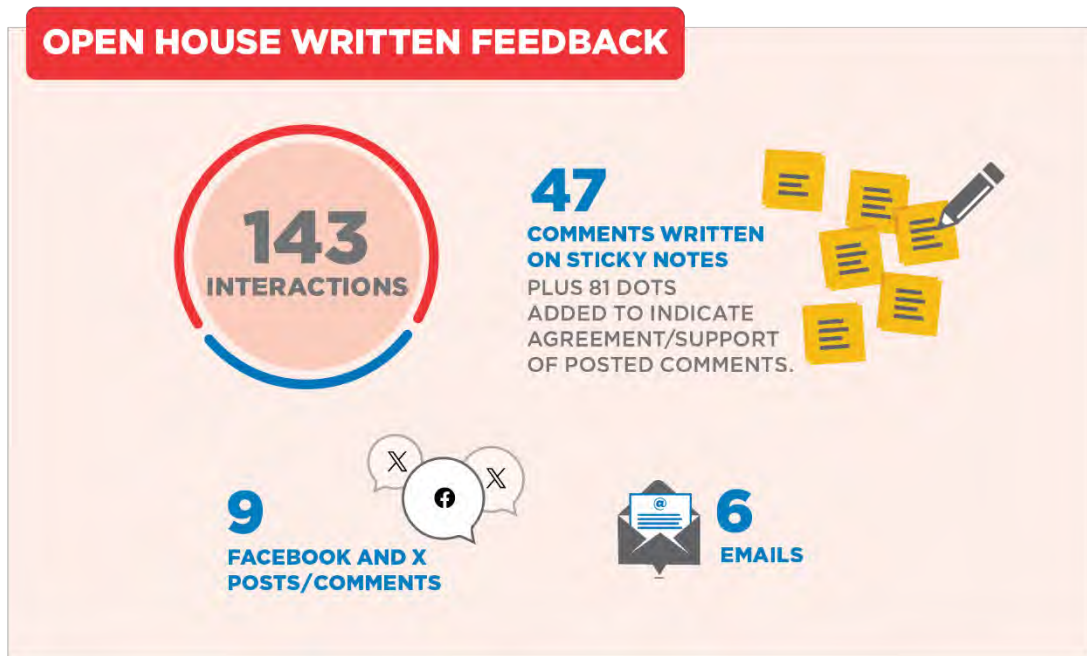
Respondents: area of residence

Jurisdiction	Population	Phone survey	Online survey
Fort St. John	21,465	69%	61%
PRRD Area C	5,947	8%	22%
PRRD Area B	5,379	19%	10%
Taylor	1,317	4%	7%

Respondents: rent/own primary residence

	Phone survey	Online survey
Own	82%	88%
Rent	16%	7%
Prefer not to say	2%	6%

2.3.4 Summary of written feedback



2.3.5 Open house and community survey outcomes

Below is a summary of key themes learned from the open houses and surveys:

- There is general recognition that a new facility is needed, and strong interest in considering options to keep costs down.
- The preferred base aquatic facility is the two 25-metre lap pool option.
- Preferred facility options:
 - Multi-use facility with three to four recreation amenities and enhanced aquatic facility with two 25-metre lap pools
 - Enhanced aquatic facility only with two 25-metre lap pools
 - Multi-use facility with eight recreation amenities and enhanced aquatic facility with two 25-metre lap pools
- Recreation amenity priorities:
 - Dynamic movement gym
 - One indoor gymnasium
 - Full-size soccer pitch (3 sports fields)
 - Children’s indoor play structure
 - More social space to relax/hang out
- The most important amenities for “indoor play” are children’s indoor play structures, gymnasium and dynamic movement gym.

- There is significant concern about the cost of the project and overall impact on taxpayers due to the timing of the project and current cost of living.
- There is broad support for the PRRD to pursue alternative funding options to offset costs and lessen the financial burden on taxpayers.
- Property owners expressed concerns about the referendum in terms of needing all of the cost details first and frustration that renters have a say in the referendum but do not have to pay the tax.
- The preferred tax increase range is \$30-40/month, but the comfort level with this amount was only moderate.

Facility use – existing pool

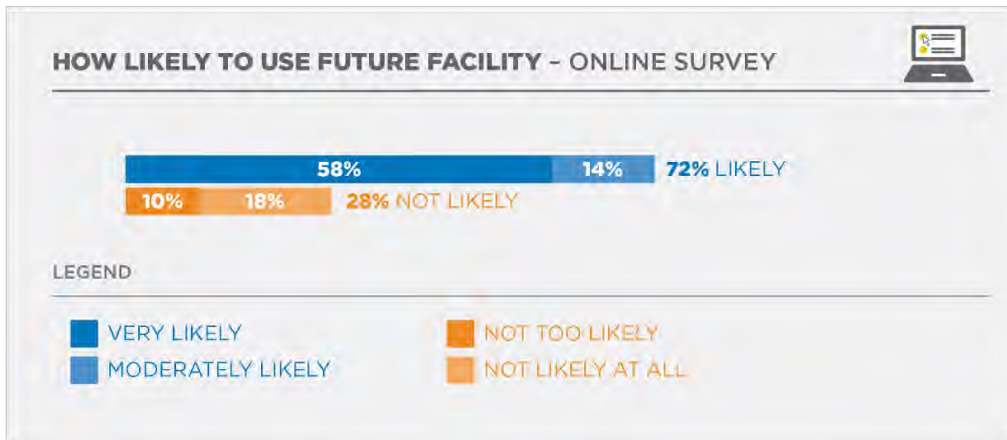
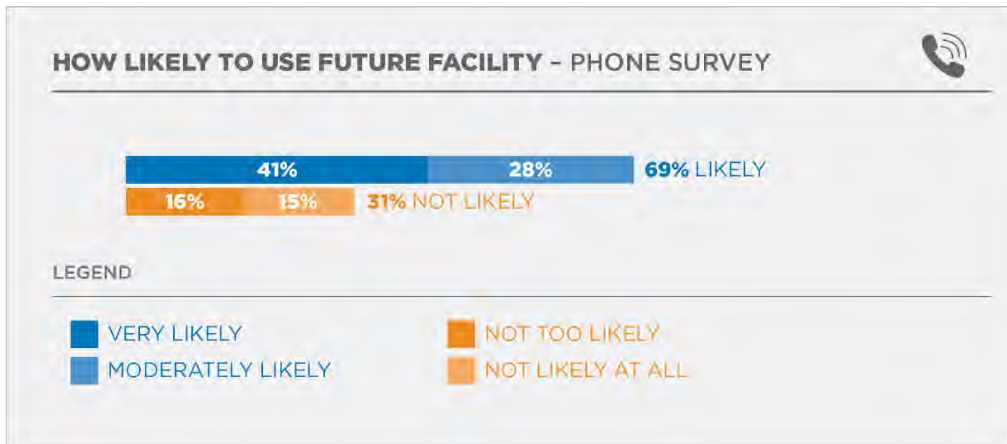
Phone survey:



Online survey:



Facility use – future facility



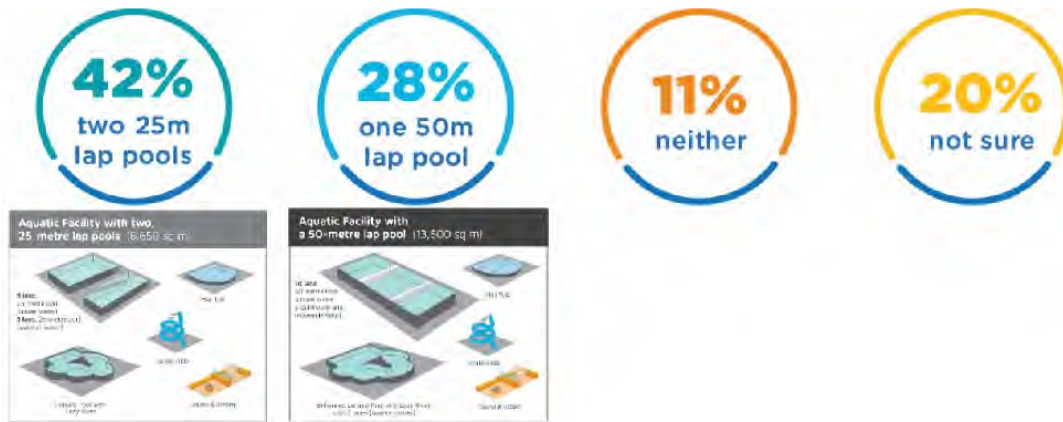
Preferred base aquatics facility

The enhanced aquatic facility with two 25-metre lap pools is the preferred base aquatics facility.

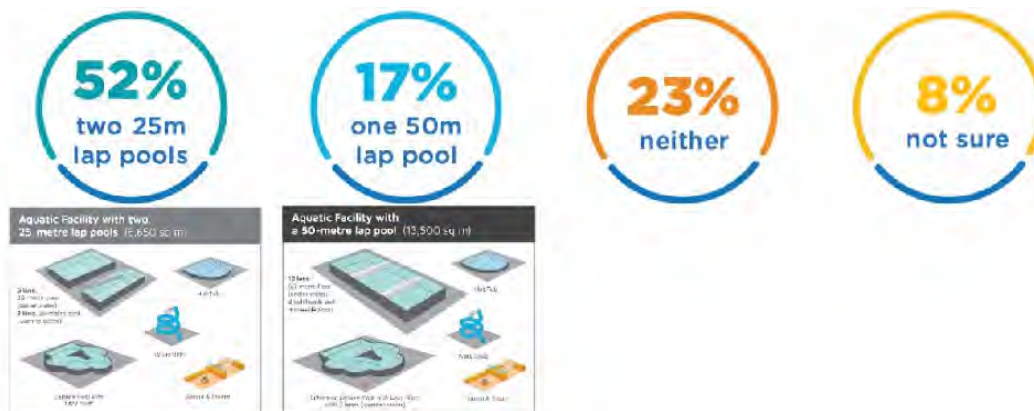
Open houses



Phone survey

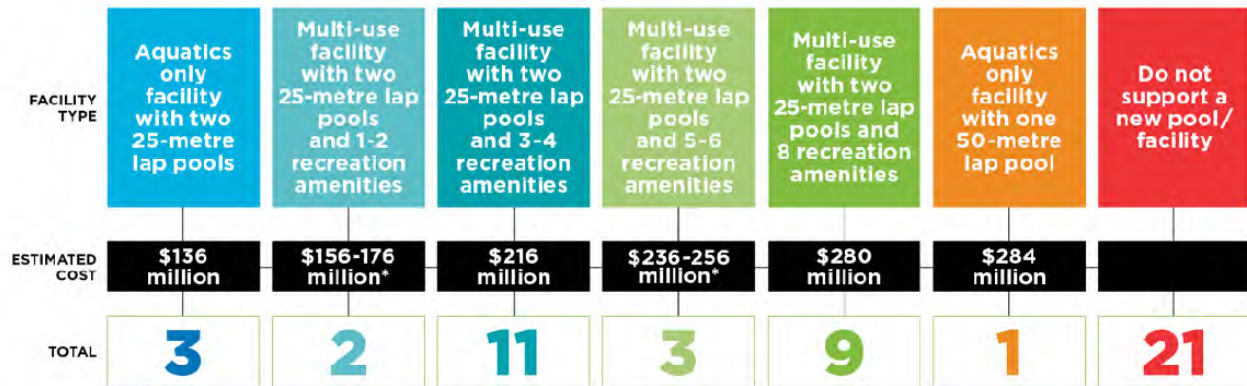


Online survey

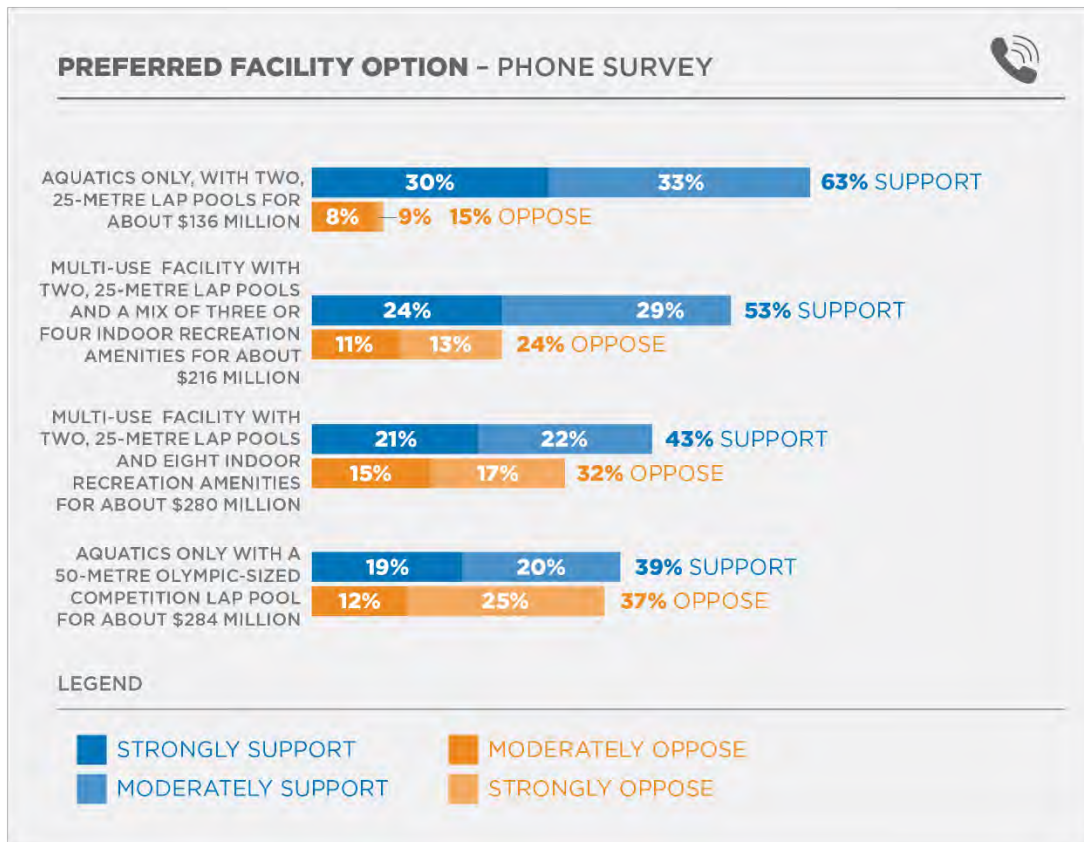


Preferred facility options

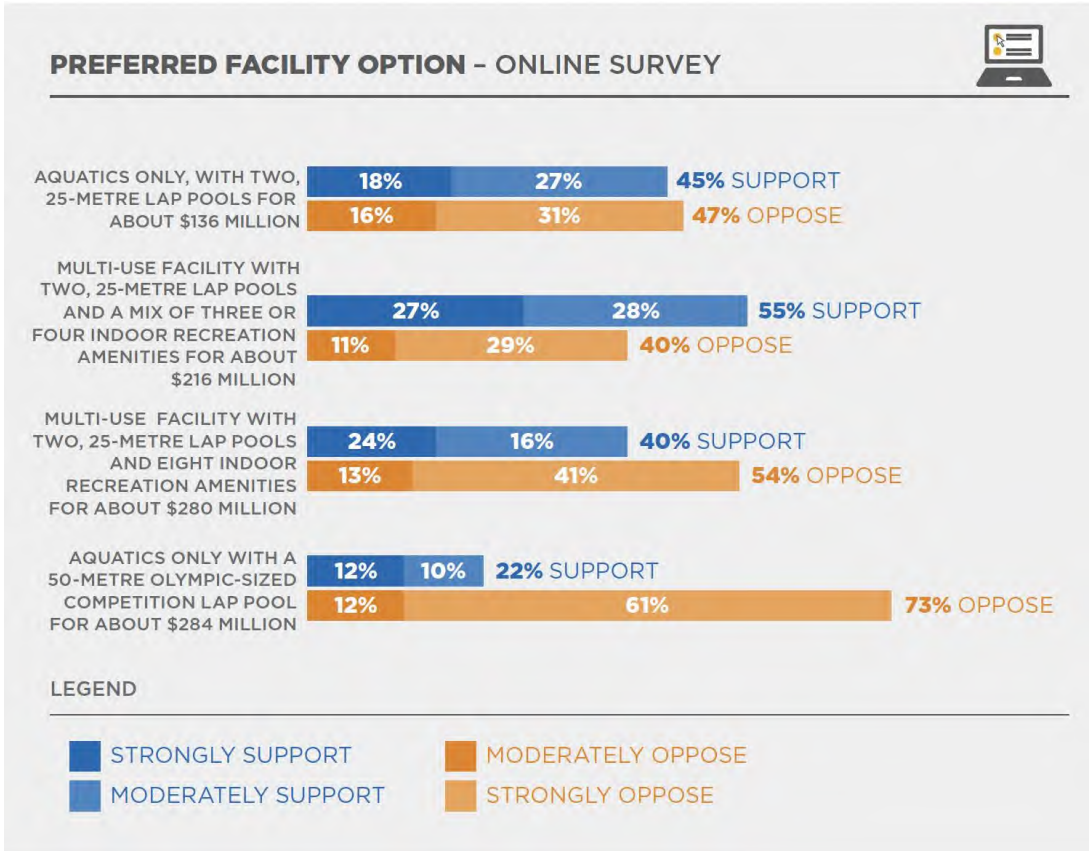
Open houses



*Participants indicated a cost on the continuum



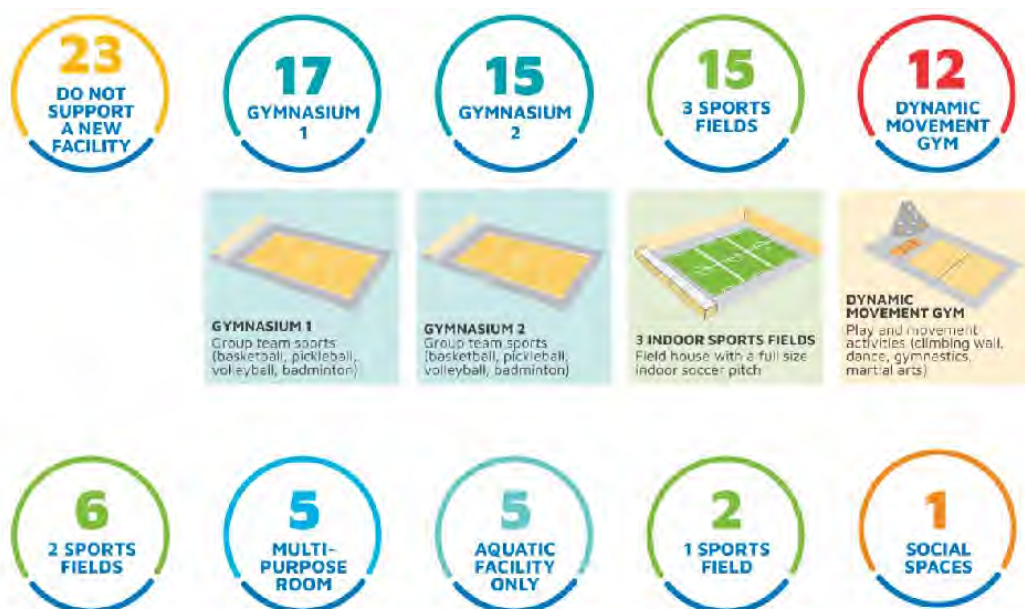
Note: the above graphic does not include the “Not sure” responses.



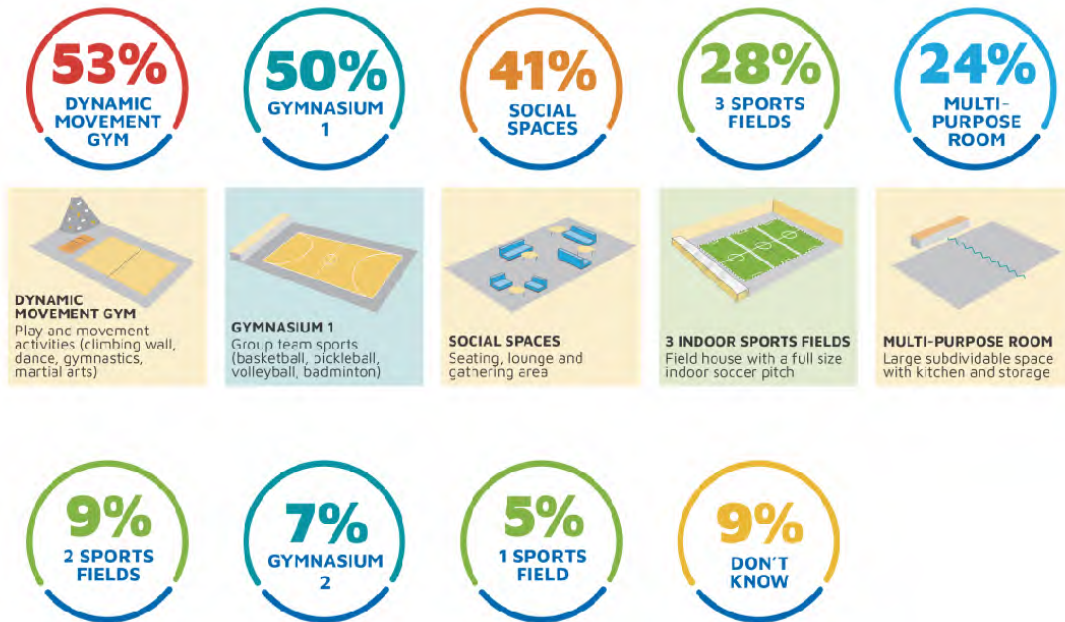
Note: the above graphic does not include the “Not sure” responses.

Top amenities

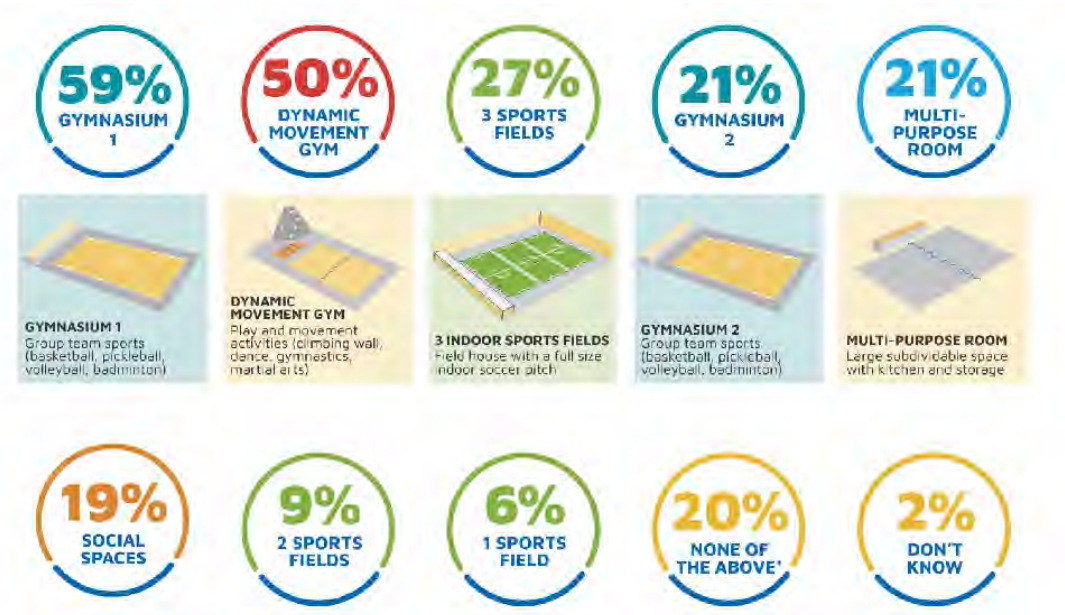
Open houses



Phone survey

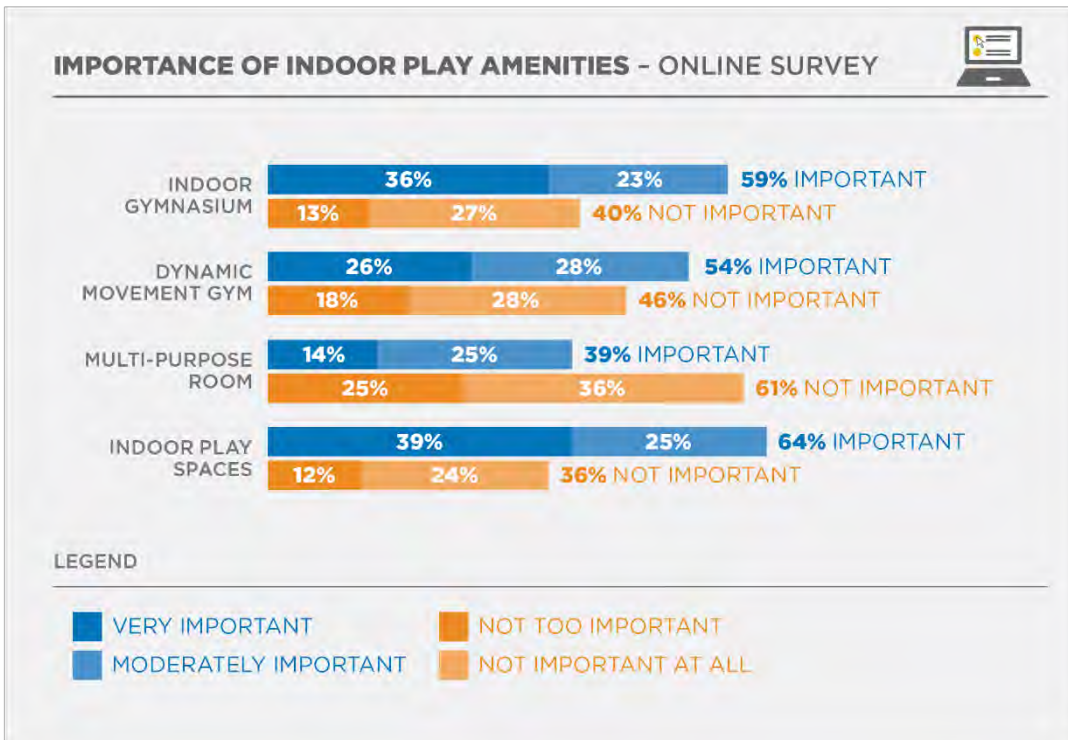
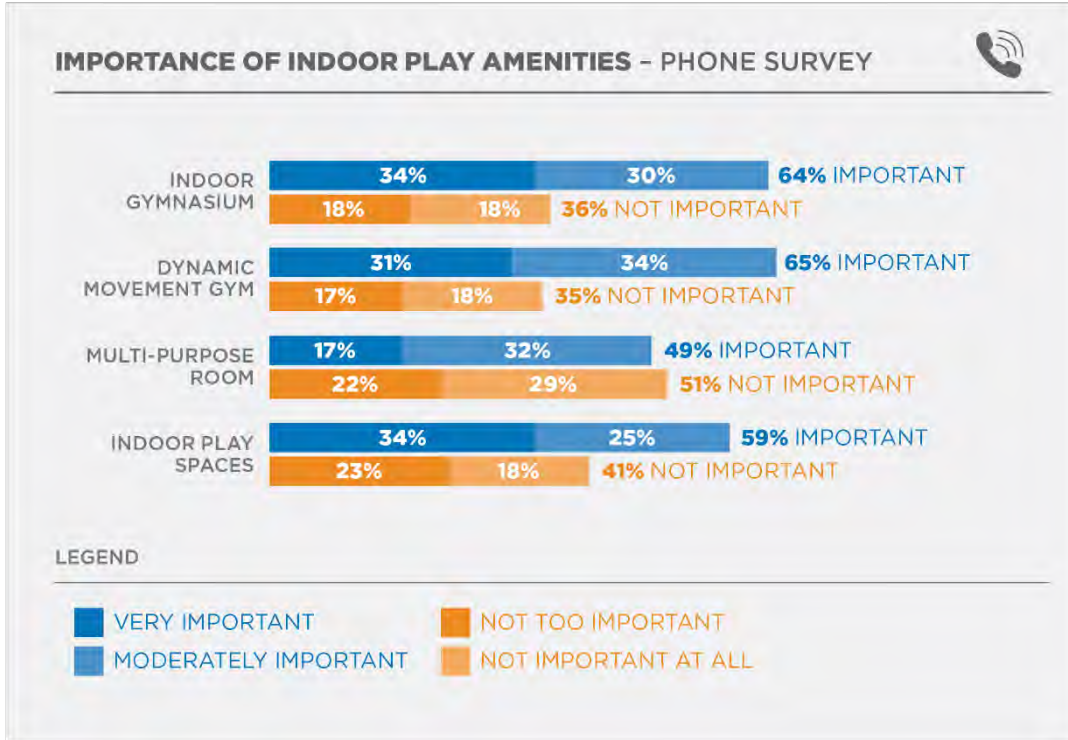


Online survey



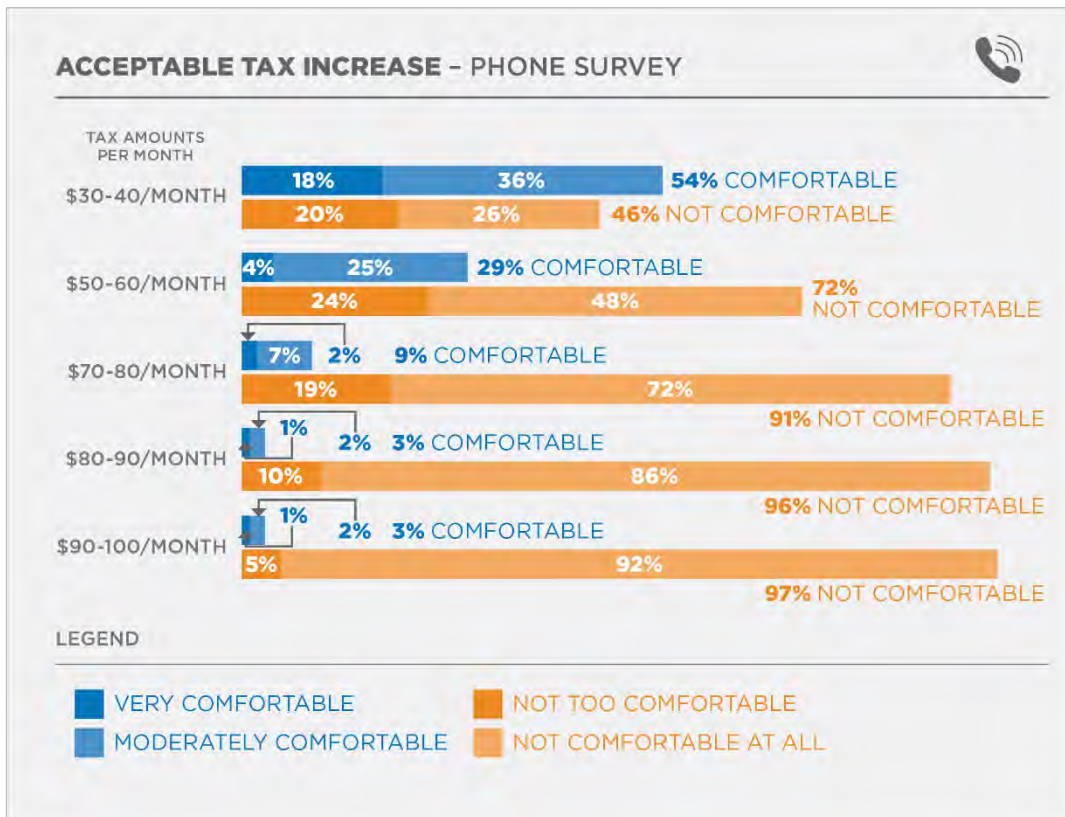
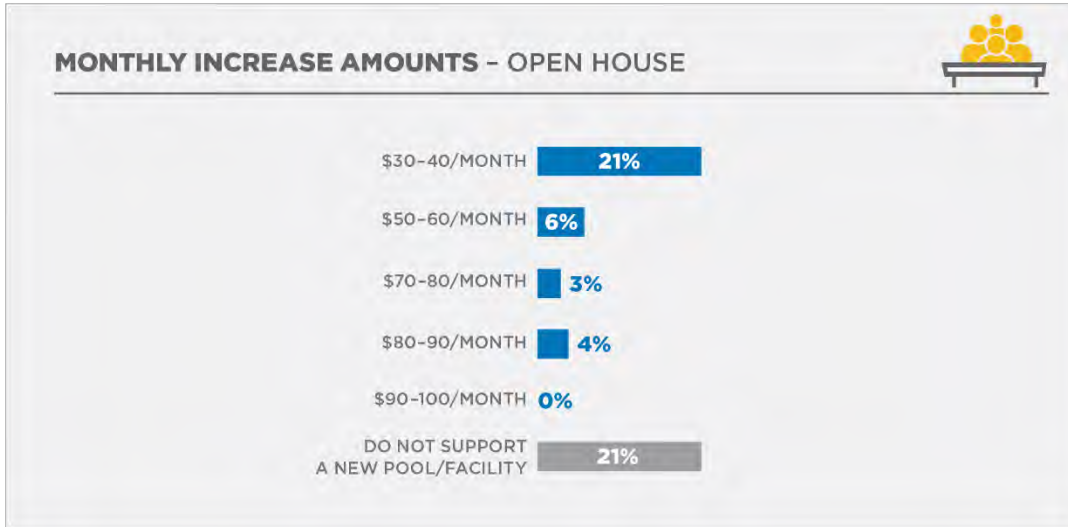
Indoor Play Amenity Priorities

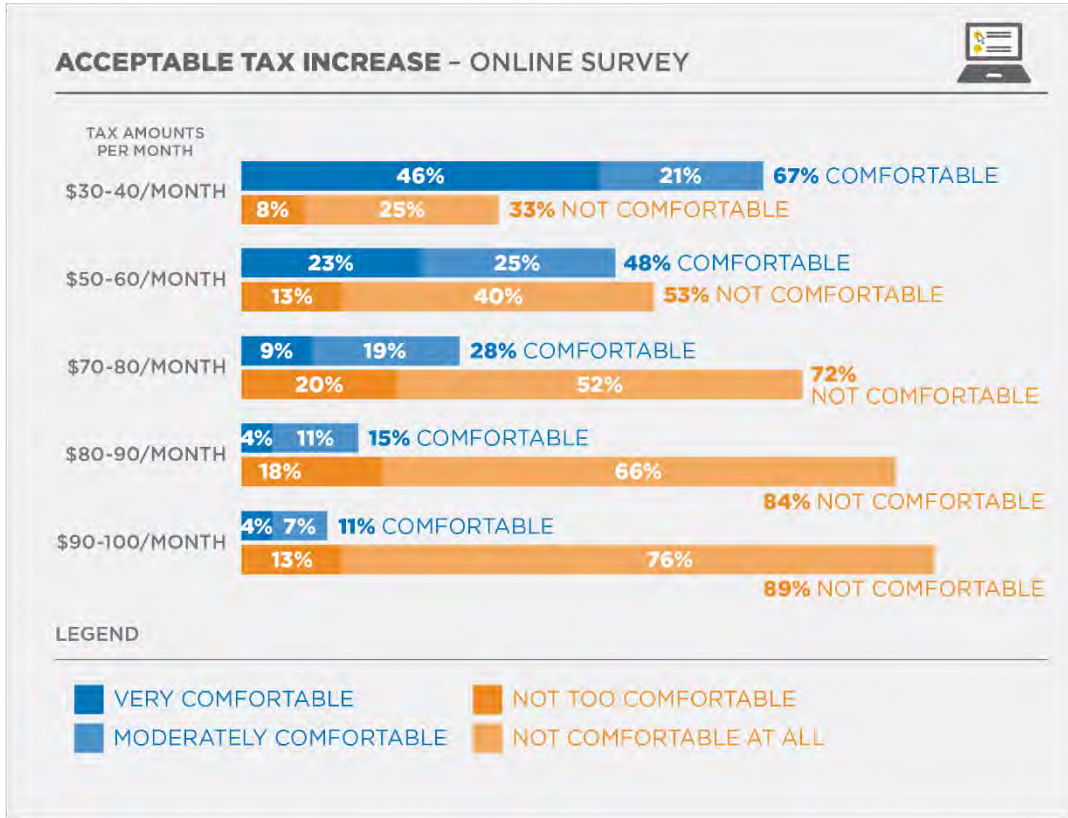
Indoor play structures were a lower priority for open house participants (6%) compared to a gymnasium (66%) and dynamic movement gym (23%); however, indoor play structures had more support from survey respondents.



Monthly Tax Increase Tolerance Levels

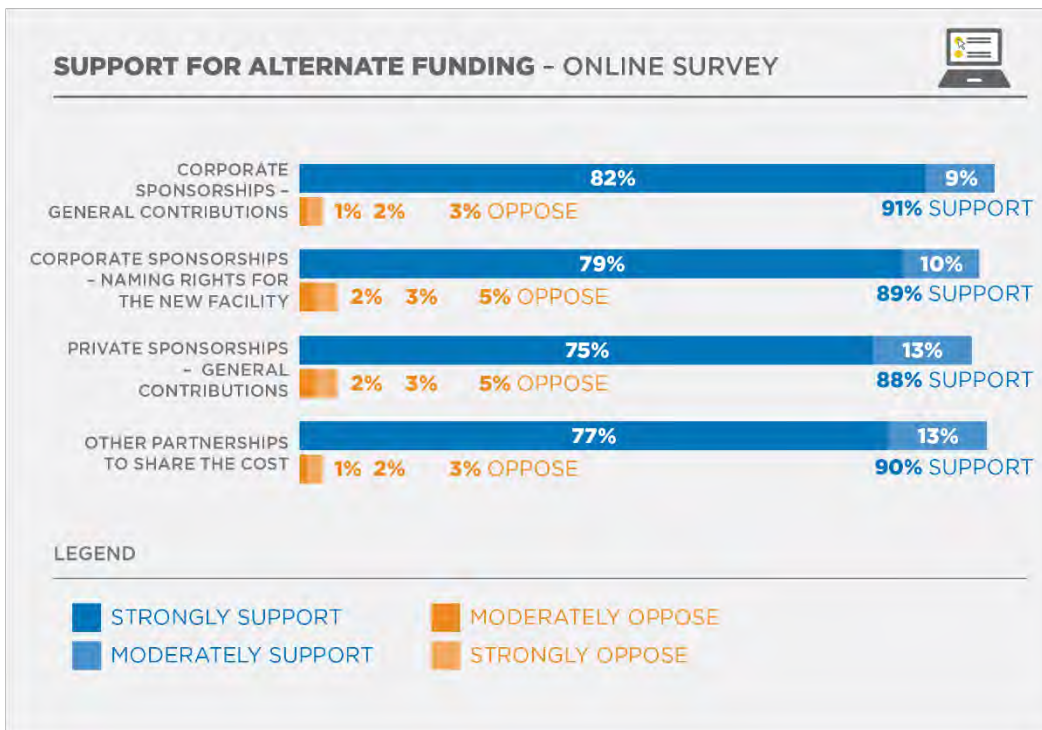
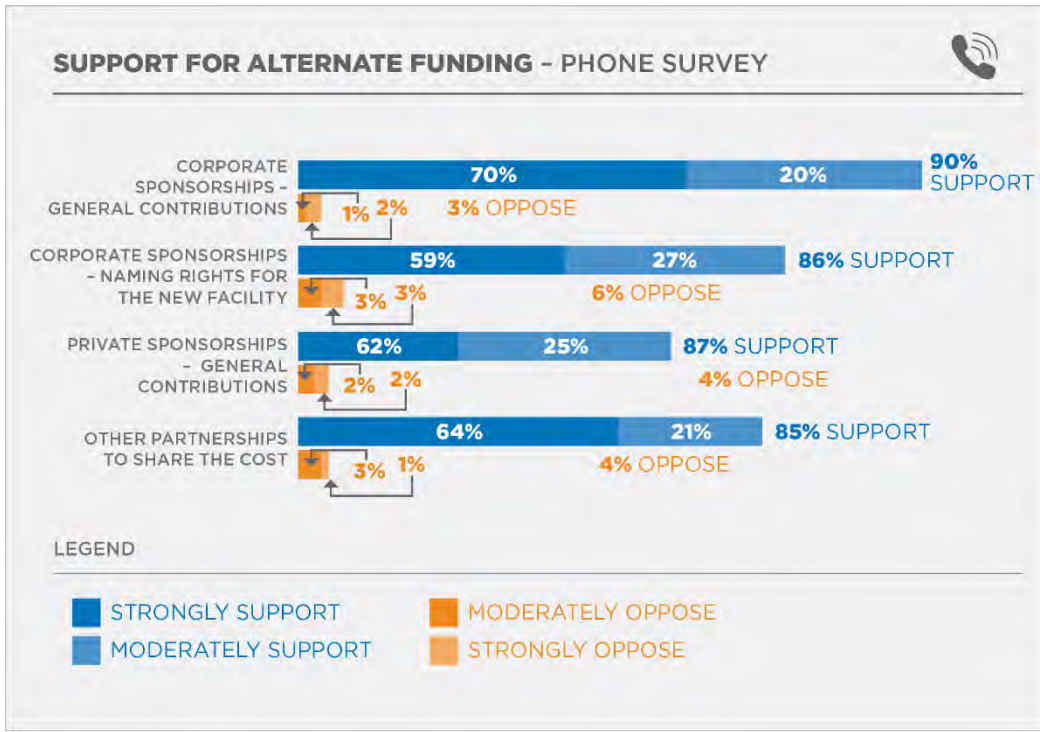
At the open houses, the majority of participants who support a new facility indicated that \$30-\$40 per month would be an acceptable monthly tax increase. The survey results were consistent, with moderate support for \$30-40 per month, and significantly less support for higher amounts.





Support for funding alternatives

There is broad support for seeking alternative funding through grants and sponsorships, with slightly more support for corporate sponsorships compared to private sponsorships.



3 Public engagement detailed results

3.1 Workshops written feedback themes

Written feedback was summarized by themes and in order of mentions in the following table.

Theme	Summary of comments
Costs – costs and tax increases <i>(88 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed tax increases are too high • Cost and proposed tax increases are too uncertain to comfortably decide on a facility at this time • Concern that tax increases will be unaffordable for those on fixed income • Taxation model is optimistic; actual costs are likely to be significantly higher than what is being shared
Facility design – aquatic facility and optional amenities suggestions <i>(70 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestions for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Racquetball and squash courts – Diving boards – Trampoline park – Multiple small waterslides rather than one large one • Hot tub and waterslide are priorities • Include a large indoor play structure for children • Play areas for children are a higher priority than more gymnasium space • 50-metre pool is needed to support swimming competitions • 25-metre pool is all that is needed
Facility – use existing assets <i>(38 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the current leisure pool building to house some of the proposed amenities • What will be done with the existing pool when the new facility is built? • Improve use of existing gymnasiums in the community • Use the Canadian Tire building for the new facility
Facility – new facility is needed <i>(35 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current pool is not effectively serving the community • New pool is needed but lower cost options need to be provided

Theme	Summary of comments
Funding opportunities <i>(34 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue additional funding opportunities to reduce tax increase • Consider corporate sponsorships • Increase user fees to reduce impact on taxpayers • Apply for government grants • How will industry/businesses be taxed to help pay for the new facility? • Industry and businesses should pay a greater share of the cost
Facility – do not support a new facility <i>(33 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not want a new facility or feel that one is needed
Engagement process <i>(32 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This engagement should not have taken place until more accurate cost estimates became available • How will residents provide feedback going forward? • Engagement process is taking too long • Workshops should not require registration
Costs – land costs and location <i>(27 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where will the facility be located? • Is the cost of land acquisition included/why isn't it included in the estimated project cost? • Not comfortable selecting a preferred option until land costs have been determined
Facility – comparison <i>(19 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like to see costs and associated amenities for other similar facilities in B.C. • Facilities suggested for comparison: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Eastlink Centre (Grande Prairie, Alberta) – H2O (Kelowna) – Kenn Borek Aquatic Centre (Dawson Creek) – Canfor Leisure Pool (Prince George)
Access/accessibility <i>(16 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing facilities are difficult to book and are always in use • Current pool is too small • Recreation interest is growing beyond what we have space for • Swim club currently monopolizes too much of the pool space • Build the pool with accessibility features for elderly community members and those with physical disabilities

Theme	Summary of comments
Facility – renovate current facility <i>(16 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest money into the current pool rather than building a new one • What would it cost to upgrade the current pool?
Base facility only <i>(15 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Base aquatic facility is all that is needed • Anything beyond the base aquatic facility is too expensive
Wrong timing <i>(15 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New pool is needed but people are already struggling to pay taxes due to rising cost of living – any additional tax is unaffordable at this time • Reconsider this project when the economy is stronger • This project should come after local infrastructure repairs (water, sewer, roads, etc.)
Facility – speed up the process <i>(14 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New facility is needed as soon as possible • Project has been delayed too long • What needs to be done to build the facility faster? • How will the final decision be made?
Facility – phased approach <i>(12 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build the pool first and add additional amenities later
Do not like base facility options <i>(11 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed aquatic facility amenities are excessive • One 25-metre lap pool with more lanes is enough • Proposed hot tub is too large • Lazy river and leisure pool are not needed • Suggestions to adjust the base aquatic amenities
Recreation opportunities <i>(9 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not enough venues/facilities for people to recreate in the community • Community needs a space for people of all ages to stay active • Ensure gyms and active spaces are appropriate for a wide variety of physical activities
Prioritize quality <i>(7 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not cut corners to save money • Ensure that the new facility is built to last
Build for the environment <i>(6 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New facility must be built with the PRRD’s unique climate in mind • Do not repeat what happened with the current pool
Referendum <i>(4 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referendum structure is not fair because property owners are the only residents being taxed when all residents have a vote on referendum • All eligible voters on the referendum should be taxed for the facility

Theme	Summary of comments
Staffing <i>(2 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the plan for recruiting and staffing lifeguards?
Other/not relevant <i>(6 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments that were out of scope or unrelated to the project

3.1.1 Summary of workshops discussion

The top five themes that emerged from workshop discussions were:

- While there is recognition that the pool needs to be replaced, there is a mix of support for a new facility, with a slight majority in support of building a new facility.
- There are significant concerns about cost, including overall cost, tax increase amount, risk of going over budget and lack of information about land cost and taxation model.
- The preferred base aquatic facility has two 25-metre lap pools.
- An alternate facility option was identified: multi-use facility with fewer recreation amenities (*subsequently carried through to stage 2 of engagement*).
- There were no clearly defined priorities for recreation amenities and additional clarification around what constitutes indoor play is required.
- Facility design input (technical) included the need to ensure the facility will be ‘built once and built right for the climate/area’ and fully accessible, along with interest in the site location and base amenity components.
- The engagement process was flagged as important with the request that the PRRD continue to engage residents, noting that there were communication gaps between the 2018/2022/2024 public engagement.
- There is a desire for more information, such as land cost and location, what is being done to source alternate funding (e.g., grants), options to renovate or refurbish the existing pool and how the referendum works.

Workshop discussion was summarized by themes and is in alphabetical order in the following table.

Theme	Summary of comments
Access/accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for facility options to be fully accessible for all-ages and abilities Support for warm water amenities that are fully accessible and provide physical therapy/hydrotherapy
Build for the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for design decisions that understand the challenges of cold climate Support for facility energy savings where excess energy from one area can be used to heat others
Community priorities over clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern that the facility alone will not be enough to attract notable sporting events/competitions

Theme	Summary of comments
Construction/procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions about estimated construction timelines • Comments that the 150% increase on construction costs for Northern B.C. seems high; doesn't make sense with residential pricing • Questions about the procurement process and support for the use of local contractors to support the economy and potentially reduce costs • Concern with capital projects consistently going over budget; desire for more information about the procurement process and consideration for an IPD (Integrated Project Delivery) to bring contractors on board early and help reduce construction costs
Costs – costs and tax increases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about project cost, property tax increases and overall cost of living • Desire to keep future tax amounts as low as possible • Concerns that tax property impacts will lead to property owner financial breakpoints • Questions about the tax calculation model; more clarity needed on what assumptions have been made to determine the facility amenity estimates • Concerns about increasing cost of housing in addition to increasing tax implications on future generations • Concerns related to rising estimated tax increases as a result of construction costs and timeline extensions • Question on tax rate for commercial and industrial properties • Question if the hydro dam/Site C will be included in the taxes • Negative comments regarding the 3% capital cost replacement; unfair to make current property owners pay for a future facility • Concerns related to cost estimate accuracy and cost overages as the project design progresses. • Comments that property taxes will be onerous for people who own more than one property or manage multiple properties • Comments that the property taxes will disproportionately affect property owners and not renters • Suggestion to conduct a landowner-specific survey/poll to receive more input on affordable tax increases • Concern on relying on industrial tax base from Area B to offset residential taxes as there is no guarantee industry will continue at the same level in future based on government's recent anti-oil industry decisions/policies • Comments that Area C has senior property owners who own land, but live on pensions and have limited funds to pay for drastic tax increases

Theme	Summary of comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments that Taylor should not be included in the service area/tax model; Taylor already has a pool (outdoors) • Comments that tax rates are already too high; this would be a new tax rate for Taylor • Suggestion to consider a lower tax rate for people located further from the facility as they will use it less • Questions about when tax increases would go into effect and how long it would take to repay a loan • Questions about the new facility life span, amortization rate and if taxes will decrease after 30 years • Concerns on the potential loan value to what the lending rates will be by the time the project proceeds
Costs – land costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desire for more information about potential facility locations and land costs; support for sites that will keep overall project costs lower • Concerns about escalating costs, particularly once land costs are factored in
Costs – operating costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question of what percentage of user fees cover operating costs of the current facility • Questions about operating costs and if a more detailed breakdown of operating costs will be shared in future stages • Desire for more information on how operating costs were determined • Question if the current facility has an outstanding debt and where the majority of operating costs are designated • Concerns on revenue generation vs. operating costs
Decision making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for sound decision-making – build it once, build it right • Suggestion to widen the service area to other jurisdictions (e.g., Hudson’s Hope) to offset costs • Question if the current facility had any reserve funds allocated towards building a future facility • Question if insurance claims were considered for current facility infrastructure failures • Negative comments on design planning and leadership decisions related to historical infrastructure projects in the area (e.g., the existing pool, the new hospital)

Theme	Summary of comments
Engagement process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations for more research/engagement with existing facilities to learn about their community amenities offered, funding models and decision-making processes (e.g., Tumbler Ridge, Dawson Creek, Grand Prairie, Spruce Grove, Leduc) • Support for more engagement with facility staff on the current facility challenges and what the future needs are • Request for more research/engagement with sports clubs on their current enrollments and future forecasts • Question about Indigenous participation in the engagement process • Comments regarding 2018 pre-COVID-19 engagement opinions compared to 2022 and 2024 post-COVID-19 engagement opinions; drastic economic changes • Concern about previous open engagements where input focused on the need for providing indoor recreation services for youth, adults, seniors and the ability to attract businesses, residents, professionals, etc. instead of on cost • Question on previous engagement outcomes and when results/data will be shared with the community • Comments regarding online/social media opinions not accurately reflecting the broader community
Facility – aquatic facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestions to use the existing facility for recreation activities and build a standalone pool facility • Suggestion for an option to build a lap pool separate from all other amenities • Question on the rationale for the two separate 25-metre lap pools and the need for pools to be different temperatures • Comments that the 25-metre pools are sufficient in size; a 50-metre lap pool is not required for training • Suggestion for an 8-lane 50-metre lap pool (vs. 10-lane 50-metre lap pool) • Question why the 50-metre lap pool option was developed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Comment that swim competitions occur rarely and not enough to warrant a 50-metre lap pool – Questions if the swim clubs will contribute financially towards that option • Comment that a 50-metre lap pool will attract swim competitions and support other businesses by attracting people • Comment that the Dawson Creek Encana Centre, which currently hosts regional competitions, is not ideal long-term for swim club growth

Theme	Summary of comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for modification of base options or removal of base options to reduce costs (e.g., remove sauna) • Comment that a 40 to 75 person hot pool is too big; upsizing from the current 12-person hot tub is too much • Comment on waterslide design and if costs could be reduced by exploring simpler options • Support for modification of base option amenities (e.g., simple drop slide, not a spiral slide)
Facility – capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for more information about current facility user breakdown (e.g., swim clubs vs. the public, more demographic information) • Request for more research about user group types and usage rates at nearby other facilities • Concerns related to user demand and population growth projections; how to ensure user demand warrants a large-scale facility • Questions about soccer and gymnastic club enrollments and future forecasts • Comments that population forecasts seem unrealistic; desire for more current statistics
Facility – design (technical)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question about the anticipated life span of the new facility • Question about where water will be sourced for both pools • Concern for pool water quality and the cleaning requirements of the larger scale pools • Support for the facility location to be near the Pomeroy Centre so people can multi-task activities • Question on what can be done to ensure issues with the current pool won't happen again at the future facility • Question on what measures will be in place for infrastructure safety (e.g., pool chlorine leaks; what maintenance and repairs are taking place on the current facility) • Support for universal change rooms as well as accessible stalls and those that offer privacy • Question if the facility will include office/administration space for PRRD staff • Comment that the Grand Prairie Pool was overbuilt in comparison to community size; PRRD needs to find just the right size

Theme	Summary of comments
Facility – do not support a new facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasons expressed for not supporting a new pool/facility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Unaffordable tax increases; project cost is prohibitive – Unable to support the project without first knowing land costs – Don't support it because they don't use the current facility and won't use the future facility • Wrong timing; defer the project and continue to save money to allocate towards a future facility
Facility – new facility is needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General agreement that the current facility has many problems • Comments that providing recreation facilities are essential to community health and growth • Support for a facility that will attract community growth and outside sporting events • Support for a facility that meets the needs of the older demographics and families with young kids • Support for drop-in activities and activities for non-athletes
Facility – optional amenities suggestions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestions for racquetball/squash courts • Suggestion for retractable walls in larger areas that could be raised or lowered to create racquetball and squash courts • Suggestion for a trampoline park • Suggestion for a climbing wall • Question if archery could be programmed in the fieldhouse or gym space • Suggestion to develop options with more play areas/structures for children, less open space • Suggestion for more play areas/structures for children – indoor playground rather than the dynamic movement gym • Support for more child/youth-related programming • Support for the facility to include daycare • Support for more indoor space for teenagers to hang out and learn life skills, with games and drop-in activities • Suggestion for a dive tank that could be used as flex space • Question about pool diving boards and what kind are included in the proposed options • Consider ways to get more use from the pool spectator area, such as retractable bleachers with glass doors that could be used to close off the area and use it as a multi-purpose space

Theme	Summary of comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestion for a fitness centre with cardio/weights; not just an open gymnasium • Question raised about whether indoor sports field could be used for ultimate frisbee; need to check the sport's field size requirements • Discussion on the types of program options that could occur in the social spaces/multipurpose room • Concerns regarding dynamic movement gym becoming a designated space for gymnastics clubs and that gymnastics generally don't work well for multi-use purposes • Support for additional fieldhouse options as the current soccer pitch will be revoked by the Curling Club and soccer is a rapidly growing sport in the area
Facility – phased approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for a facility site location that can expand to include other recreation amenities under the same roof; apply a phased construction approach • Support for the project to be phased to manage drastic tax increases • Comment that project governance and changes to possible payment structure are good reasons to consider a phased approach to add recreational amenities in the future • Question if there are plans/discussions to build an outdoor pool that could be used during construction, requiring no break in the current facility service
Facility – renovate current facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestions to refurbish/renovate the existing facility • Question if there is a cost estimate to complete existing facility repairs/upgrades

Theme	Summary of comments
Funding opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions about what work has already been done to explore funding options (e.g., sports clubs, rental options to businesses, considering energy efficiency measures to reduce operating costs and qualify for grant funding) • Desire for more information on how revenues, user fees, grants or sponsorships could reduce current cost estimates • Support for pursuing funding from the provincial government; question of what stage this will occur • Support to lobby the hydro industry to receive funding support • Support for cost recovery through rental space of the facility • Support to make facility sponsorship with a Canadian company a priority • Suggestion to pursue technology or innovation grants; include something innovative/energy efficient in the design that would make obtaining a technology grant more attractive; secure cost-savings grants
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for sufficient parking and proper circulation • Questions if parking was factored into project cost estimates • Suggestion to alleviate parking congestion by using the current pool for recreation • Suggestion to include a multi-level parking lot to keep land acquisition costs lower
Referendum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desire for more information about the referendum requirements and timeline • Concern about the referendum process: how to select the “right” option that will ensure participation of all four jurisdictions • Support to expedite the referendum/decision-making timeline • Frustration with provincial requirements that renters have a vote in the referendum, but property owners are more directly affected financially • Request for more information on what the percentage of the population in the affected communities is renters compared to the percentage of property owners • Question if commercial industry receives a vote in the referendum • Concerns and questions about what will happen if a jurisdiction chooses not to participate

Theme	Summary of comments
Staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for more information on staffing capacity/requirements for the future facilities and how to ensure they will be sufficiently staffed Request for more information on pre-COVID-19 and post-COVID-19 staffing challenges; ensuring a large-scale facility would be sufficiently staffed Concern for the cleaning requirements of the larger scale pools; adequate cleaning staff
User fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Question on what stage user fee discussions begin Question on user drop-in prices and fees; concern that costs will be too much for residents and families to use the facility Support for kickbacks to property owners or user fees in the future Suggestions for user benefit offerings (e.g., providing five facility passes per household for the year)

3.1.2 Summary of worksheets



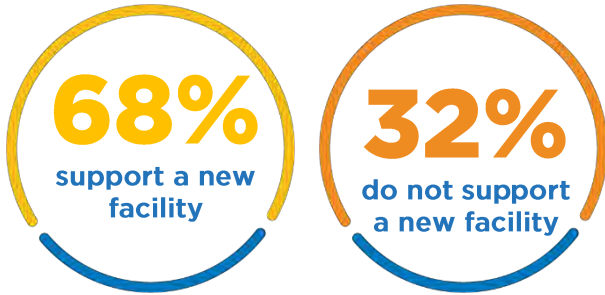
As part of the worksheet activity, participants were asked to select a preferred base aquatic facility and assess whether they wanted to include additional indoor recreation amenities. Participants who did not support a new facility of any kind were asked to note this on their worksheet to ensure their input was reflected in the shared outcomes from this activity.

1. Worksheets completion by jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Counts	%
Fort St. John	56	41%
Area C	46	34%
Area B	26	19%
Taylor	8	6%
Other	1	1%

2. Facility support

Overall



Percentages were verified and have been updated after the Open Houses.

By jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Total participants	Support a new facility		Do not support a new facility	
		Count	%	Count	%
Fort St. John	56	48	86%	8	14%
Area B	26	15	62%	11	38%
Area C	46	25	57%	21	43%
Taylor	8	4	50%	4	50%
Other (outside of partner jurisdictions)	1	1	100%	0	0%
Summary across all jurisdictions	137	93	68%	44	32%

Percentages were verified and have been updated after the Open Houses.

Those who did not support a new facility provided the following reasons:

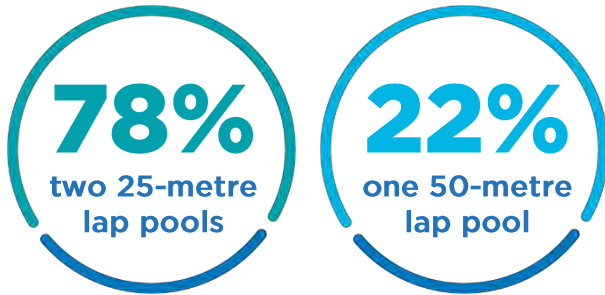
- A tax increase of this scale is unaffordable for many residents within the affected areas
- This is the wrong time to be considering this project – many residents are already having trouble paying their taxes due to the rising cost of living
- Land costs need to be determined before a decision is made
- The option with the fewest amenities exceeds what this community needs
- Cannot support the project unless alternative funding methods are found

The following data from the worksheets are from participants that support a new facility.

3. Aquatic base

Participants who were in favour of a new facility selected their preferred aquatic base.

Overall



- Two 25-metre lap pools include 3 lanes with warmer water and 6 lanes with cooler water
- One 50-metre lap pool includes 10 lanes with cooler water

By jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Aquatic facility with two 25-metre lap pools (no additional amenities)	Aquatic facility with one 50-metre lap pool (no additional amenities)	Multi-use facility with two 25-metre lap pools (average four amenities)	Multi-use facility with one 50-metre lap pool (average three to four amenities)
Fort St. John	6	2	28	12
Area B	6	1	7	1
Area C	7	0	15	3
Taylor	0	0	3	1
Other (outside of partner jurisdictions)	0	0	0	1
Summary across all jurisdictions	19	3	53	18

- Three participants support a multi-use facility with two 25-metre lap pools with all eight indoor recreation amenities as described in Facility Option 3.
- A multi-use facility with an average of four indoor recreation amenities had the most support overall.

4. Optional amenities

Workshop participants who were in favour of a new facility were asked to select optional amenities, balanced with costs.

Summary

Amenities	Count	%
Sports field 1	55	59%
Gymnasium 1	54	58%
Dynamic movement gym	44	47%
Sports field 2	40	43%
Multi-purpose room	33	35%
Gymnasium 2	27	29%
Sports field 3	22	24%
Social spaces	16	12%
No additional amenities, base facility only	24	18%

- The top three optional amenities selected were Sports field 1, Gymnasium 1 and Dynamic movement gym

By jurisdiction

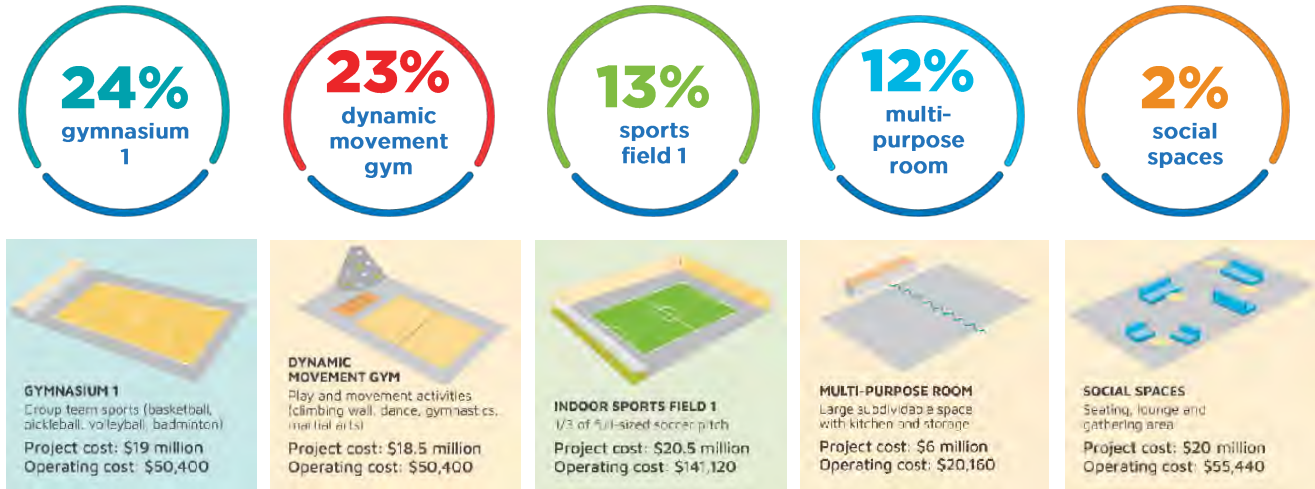
Amenities	Fort St. John	Area B	Area C	Taylor	Other
Sports field 1	29	5	16	4	1
Gymnasium 1	31	7	12	4	0
Dynamic movement gym	25	4	11	3	1
Sports field 2	21	5	10	4	0
Multi-purpose room	22	1	8	2	0
Gymnasium 2	15	5	5	2	0
Sports field 3	13	3	4	2	0
Social spaces	9	0	6	1	0
No additional amenities, base facility only	8	7	7	0	0

5. Optional amenities ranking

Participants were asked to rank their preferred optional amenities and results are presented showing the amenity most often listed as number one in ranking, as well as the top three preferred amenities overall.

#1 priority

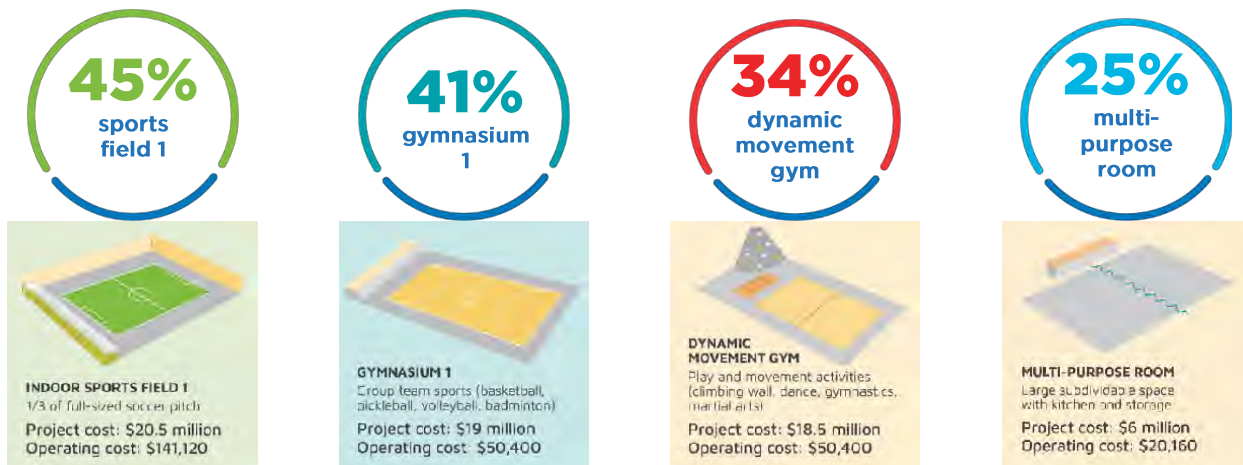
Below is a summary of which amenity was selected as their #1 priority.



Percentages were verified and have been updated after the Open Houses.

Top 3 amenities

Below is a summary of which amenities were most commonly ranked in the top three priorities:





Top 3 amenities by jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Sports field 1	Gym 1	Gym 2	Sports field 2	Dynamic movement gym
Fort St. John 56 respondents	26%	22%		23%	
Area C 46 respondents	30%	17%			20%
Area B 26 respondents	11%	21%	9%		
Taylor 8 respondents	38%	50%	38%		
Other 1 respondent	100%	100%			

6. Calculated project cost and tax increase

Workshop facilitators calculated total estimated project costs and estimated tax increase. For each jurisdiction, average “improvements only” (buildings) assessed values were used. Facilitators also used personal buildings assessed values if requested by the participant.

Jurisdiction	Average improvements only assessed value
Fort St. John	\$264,750
Area B	\$166,500
Area C	\$294,750
Taylor	\$192,750

By jurisdiction

Jurisdiction*	Average project cost	Average tax increase
Fort St. John	\$248,619,048	\$596
Area B	\$194,500,000	\$291
Area C	\$207,916,694	\$798
Taylor	\$273,125,000	\$556

*One participant was from Area D and their average project cost and tax increase is not noted in the table above.

There were nine instances where the total estimated tax increase was noted down incorrectly on participant worksheets. On three of the worksheets, estimated tax increase was noted down lower than the correct amount. The reason for the discrepancy may be that the participant was balancing their preferred amenity mix and were not able to finalize their worksheet. The above amounts are based on the final amenity mix noted on worksheets.

3.2 Open houses and community survey

3.2.1 Open house written feedback

Theme	Summary of comments
Costs – costs and tax increases <i>(8 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern about government projects going over budget • Facility and amenities are too expensive • Invest tax dollars into community infrastructure rather than a pool • Facility is unaffordable in the current financial crisis • Location and cost of land needs to be determined before a decision can be made • How much would it cost to renovate the existing pool?
Facility – do not support a new facility <i>(2 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not want a new facility
Referendum <i>(1 mention)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final decision should be made by landowners and taxpayers not renters
Facility – new facility is needed <i>(1 mention)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is demand for a new aquatic facility in the area
Facility – optional amenities suggestions <i>(1 mention)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hot and cold exposure therapy

3.2.2 Summary of open houses discussion

The top themes that emerged from open house discussions were:

- Concerns about cost, including tax impacts, unaffordable in the current economy and risks of the project going over budget, lack of information about land cost and questions about how the loan works (e.g., amortization period, how the Municipal Finance Authority provides funding)
- Support for sourcing other funding opportunities, including direction to pursue grants, lobby industry sponsorships/investment
- Concerns about construction and procurement process, including sourcing local contractors, construction timelines, process to stay on budget and building for the climate
- Concerns about the relative merits of a 50-metre pool and ability to attract swim competitions, belief that there is limited opportunity
- General recognition that a new aquatics facility is needed and preference to keep it within the recreational campus, including options to repurpose the existing pool for indoor recreation in the future

Open house discussion was summarized by themes and in alphabetical order in the following table.

Theme	Summary of comments
Build for the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestion to build properly for the soil conditions in the north; ensure there is a proper concrete foundation
Community priorities over clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments that a new facility is not enough to attract outside sporting events; sports teams don't want to travel up north
Construction/procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns that costs will double by the time work gets underway • Concerns about cost overruns and extended construction timelines based on other infrastructure projects in the area (e.g., the RCMP detachment) • Desire for more information about the procurement process and construction contract model
Costs – costs and tax increases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about project cost, property tax increases and overall cost of living • Desire to keep tax amounts as low as possible • Comments that a balance of no amount or low amount is the only acceptable form of acceptable tax increase • Concerns for tax affordability, specifically for seniors with fixed incomes • Concerns about affordability for senior and younger generations not being able to afford future tax increases • Concerns related to rising estimated tax increases from construction costs and timeline extensions • Concern for relying on industrial tax contributions; northern industry is boom/bust

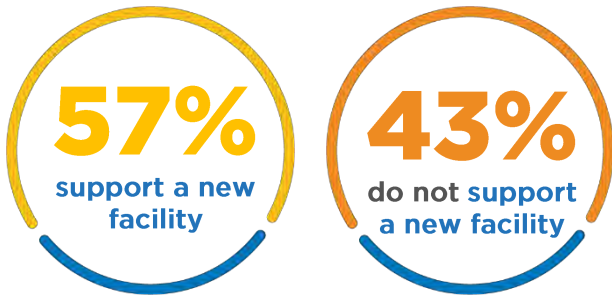
Theme	Summary of comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question and comments about the building improvements taxation model • Concerns that the project estimate values are inaccurate • Desire for more clarity on why the recreation facility additions add so much to the cost; they are not expensive to build compared to the pool, so why does the estimate jump from \$136 million to \$280 million
Costs – land costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question how the base building amenities were estimated; comments on the likelihood of project costs rising once land costs are factored in • Concerns about land costs and cost overruns; projects built in the north often go over budget
Costs – operating costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question if the current facility has an outstanding debt and where the majority of operating costs are designated
Decision making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments that PRRD should save first, then build • Suggestion to build only what can be afforded – not everything all at once
Engagement process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the various public engagement activities and sharing information with the public through several methods • Comment that the preferred tax increase rate banner should have been displayed amounts on an annual basis instead of monthly
Facility – aquatic facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment that swim competitions occur rarely and not enough to warrant a 50-metre pool • Comments on current pool temperature (too cold) • Comments on current pool cleanliness and maintenance
Facility – capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for a full-size regulation soccer field and the ability to hold three times the current soccer capacity • Comments on population growth in the region; the area is dependent on industry boom/bust growth
Facility – design (technical)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question on site location; concerns for water and sewage line access; site location limitations as some areas do not currently have connected sewage lines

Theme	Summary of comments
Facility – do not support a new facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasons expressed for not supporting a new pool/facility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Unaffordable tax increases; project cost is prohibitive – Unable to support the project without first knowing land costs – Don't support it because they don't use the current facility and won't use the future facility – Wrong timing; defer the project and continue to save money to allocate towards a future facility • Comments about deferring the project until economic conditions within the region improve
Facility – new facility is needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the location of a new facility to be within the current facility area; keep it central and part of the overall recreational campus • Facility replacement is long overdue, it should have been done before COVID-19 • Support for building the new pool and repurposing the old pool for recreational activities
Facility – optional amenities suggestions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question if gym equipment could be included in the gymnasium option
Facility – phased approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for a facility site that can expand to add future recreation amenities; apply a phased construction approach
Facility – programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions on types of activities that could be held in the multi-purpose room amenity
Facility – renovate current facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General agreement that the option to repair/refurbish the existing facility should be explored further • Suggestions to repair the existing facility no matter what, as it would still cost less than building a new facility
Funding opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for hydro industry to help fund the pool • Support for finding as many grants and corporate sponsorships as possible • Questions about who the Municipal Financial Authority is and requests for more clarity on the loan agreement process • Question if Fort St. John can share some of its reserves to help pay for the pool
Referendum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for one referendum for all four jurisdictions, not one referendum within each jurisdiction • Comments about provincial referendum process; the inability for landed immigrants to vote (noting there are many who live in Area B)

Theme	Summary of comments
User fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments that young people who will use the facility should be the ones to pay, not older people who cannot afford it and won't be around to use it • People who use the facility should be the ones to pay; supplement with sponsorships, not taxes

3.2.3 Summary of feedback at each input station

There were nine feedback stations integrated into the open house. Banners were used as a “dotmocracy” to visualize attendee input. Participants were given sticker dots to place on banners to demonstrate their preferences. The banners allowed all open house attendees to see preferences from all the jurisdictions, as well as other comments, suggestions or questions that were had about the project. A copy of the banners is shown in Appendix B, section 2.



1. What base aquatic facility do you prefer?

Summary



Enhanced aquatic facility with two, 25-metre lap pools



Enhanced aquatic facility with one, 50-metre lap pool



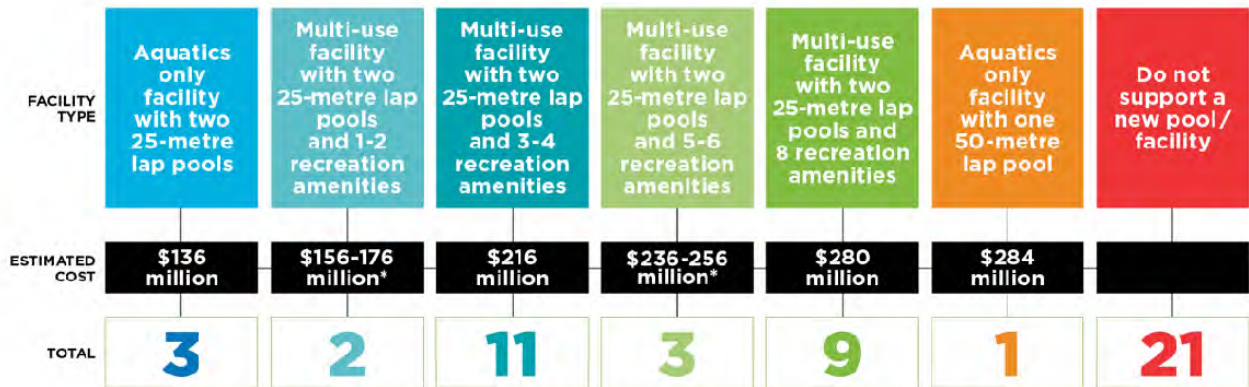
Do not support a new pool/facility

By jurisdiction

	Fort St. John	Area B	Area C	Taylor
Enhanced aquatics facility with two 25-metre lap pools	12	2	6	5
Enhanced aquatics facility with one 50-metre lap pool	2	0	1	1
Do not support a new pool/facility	3	5	12	2

2. What mix of amenities and cost do you support?

Summary



*Participants indicated a cost on the continuum

By jurisdiction

Facility type	Estimated cost	Fort St. John	Area B	Area C	Taylor
Aquatics only facility with two 25-metre lap pools	\$136 million		1	1	1
Multi-use facility with two 25-metre lap pools and 1-2 recreation amenities	\$156-176 million*		1		1
Multi-use facility with two 25-metre lap pools and 3-4 recreation amenities	\$216 million	6		4	1

Facility type	Estimated cost	Fort St. John	Area B	Area C	Taylor
Multi-use facility with two 25-metre lap pools and 5-6 recreation amenities	\$236-\$256 million*			1	2
Multi-use facility with two 25-metre lap pools and 8 recreation amenities	\$280 million	7		2	
Aquatics only facility with one 50-metre lap pool	\$284 million				1
Do not support a new pool/facility		3	5	11	2

*Participants indicated a cost on the continuum

3. What are your top three priorities for indoor recreation amenities at a new facility?

Summary



By jurisdiction

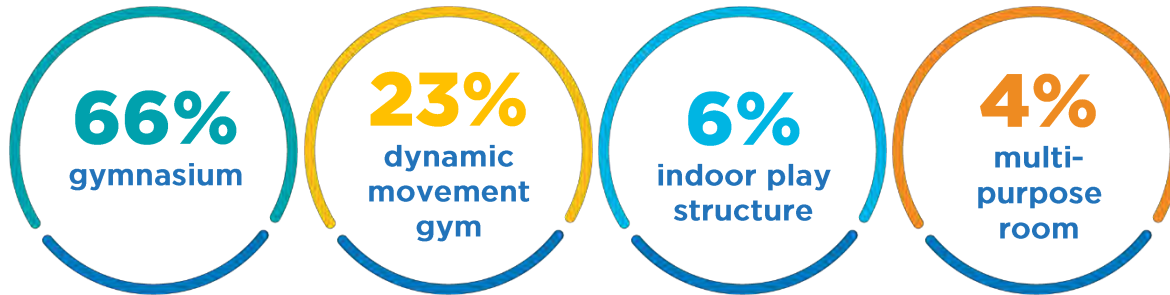
Amenity	Fort St. John	Area B	Area C	Taylor
Multi-purpose room	4	0	0	1
More social space	1	0	0	0
Gymnasium 1	9	0	7	1
Gymnasium 2	10	0	2	3
Dynamic movement gym	4	1	4	3
One sports field	2	0	0	0
Two sports fields	2	0	3	1
Three sports fields	4	1	5	5
I just want an aquatic facility– no additional indoor recreation amenities	1	1	2	1
I do not support a new pool/facility	3	5	13	2

4. Do you have any other questions or comments about the facility options and amenities?

Theme	Summary of comments
No new facility (9 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't need a new structure
Funding (6 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • User fees should cover more of the total cost • Is there an opportunity to profit from swimming competitions with a new facility?
Facility – current facility (6 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovate current facility • Use existing buildings and facilities when possible
Facility – cost (4 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amenities are too expensive
Prioritize quality (3 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the facility is built for northern environment • Don't cut corners to save costs • Make a functional design
Additional amenity suggestion (3 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add more diving board space • Add a workout facility • Prefer fieldhouse options to a new pool
Facility – location (2 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build in an accessible location

5. What does indoor play mean to you?

Summary



By jurisdiction

Amenity	Fort St. John	Area B	Area C	Taylor
Indoor play structure	1	1	1	0
Multi-purpose room with kitchen	1	0	0	1
Dynamic movement gym	4	2	4	1
Gymnasium	15	1	11	4

Other ideas included:

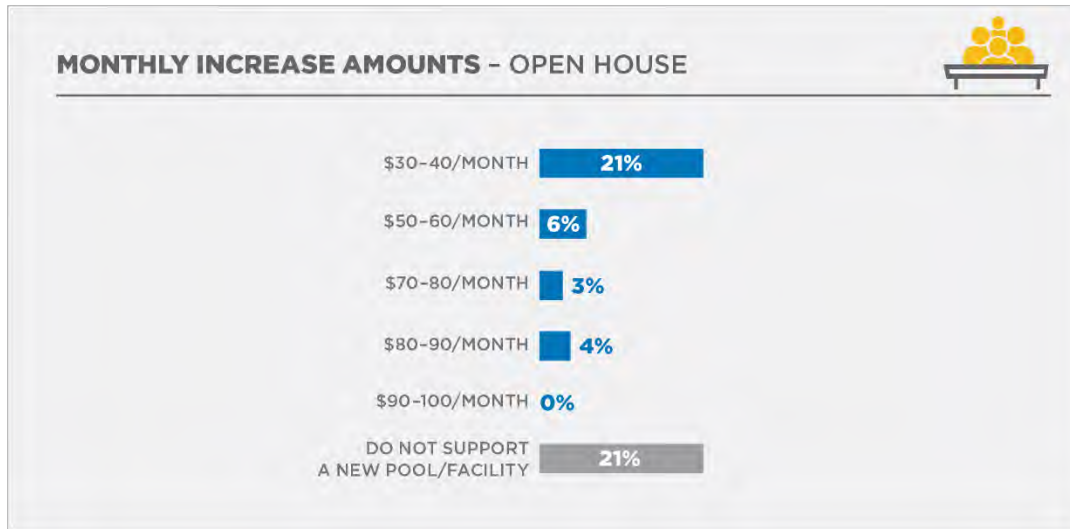
- Squash/racquetball/volleyball courts (11 mentions)
- Consult people that work at gymnasiums and local sports teams to determine what is needed (2 mentions)
- Use old facility for indoor recreation (2 mentions)
- Tennis
- Office space for club sports
- Meeting rooms open to use by the public
- No meeting rooms; there are enough around Fort St. John

6. What is an acceptable tax increase?

Workshop facilitators were available to calculate estimated tax increase based on preferred facility type and amenities. For each jurisdiction, average 2024 “improvements only” (buildings) assessed values were used. Facilitators also used personal buildings assessed values if requested by the participant.

Jurisdiction	Average improvements only assessed value
Fort St. John	262,500
Area B	172,500
Area C	308,250
Taylor	178,500

Summary

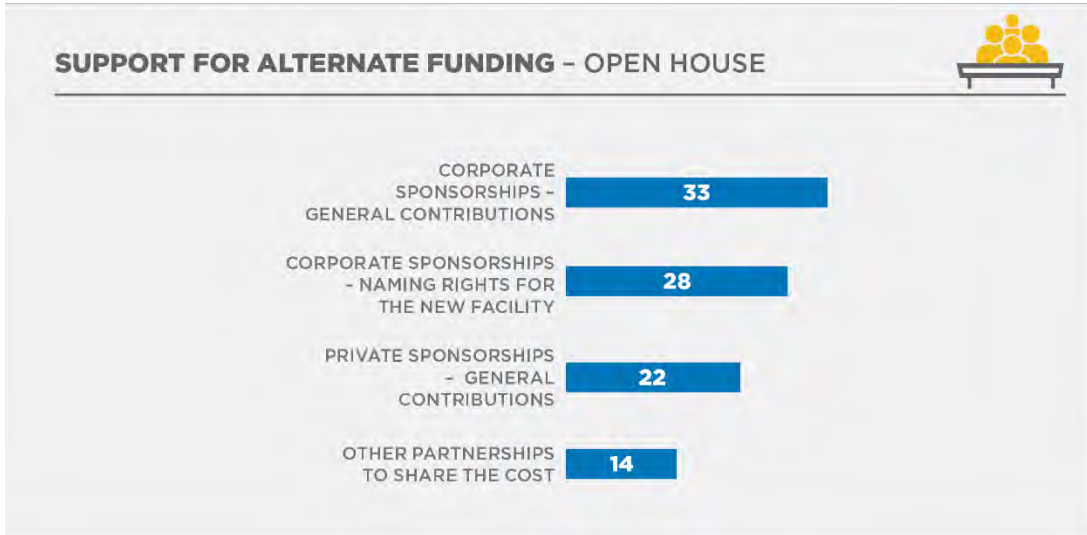


By jurisdiction

	Fort St. John	Area B	Area C	Taylor
\$30-40/ month	3	5	11	2
\$50-60/ month	4	0	1	1
\$70-80/ month	2	0	0	1
\$80-90/ month	2	0	2	0
\$90-100/ month	0	0	0	0
Do not support a new pool/facility	3	4	12	2

7. PRRD is exploring grant funding and is also interested in pursuing other funding to offset costs to lessen the financial burden on taxpayers for this project – what ideas do you support?

Summary



By jurisdiction

Amenity	Fort St. John	Area B	Area C	Taylor
Corporate sponsorships – general contributions	13	2	12	6
Corporate sponsorships – naming right for the new facility	12	2	10	4
Private sponsorships – general contributions	7	2	9	4
Other partnerships to share the cost	7	2	5	0

Other ideas included:

- Site C Hydro money (10 mentions)
- Would like to see higher user pay fees, less tax burden (5 mentions)
- Partners that contribute financially should include local Indigenous band as a percentage of their revenue from oil and gas industry activities (3 mentions)
- Start taxing now for a down payment (3 mentions)
- Non-resident employee tax (2 mentions)

8. Do you have any other questions or comments about costs and tax impacts?

Key theme	Summary of comments
Costs – costs and tax increases (26 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project is not financially feasible at this time (13 mentions) Taxes are already too high; residents cannot handle another drastic tax increase (11 mentions) Will all property structures be included in the tax evaluations (e.g., out buildings)? (1 mention) Seniors should have a tax exemption for this project (1 mention)
Costs – land costs and purchase (13 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councillors should not be able to collect a real estate commission from the purchase or sale of land (7 mentions) The land purchase needs to be confirmed to accurately estimate cost and taxes (6 mentions)
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep kids safe, no mixed change rooms (6 mentions)
User fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More of the cost burden should be covered by user fees (5 mentions)
Funding opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Municipal reserve funds should be used to support project funding (1 mention)

3.2.4 Phone survey

An 18-question telephone survey was conducted by Research Co. from May 8 to May 17, 2024, among a representative sample of 500 adults in Fort St. John, the District of Taylor, PRRD Electoral Area B and Electoral Area C. The telephone survey was conducted with live operators who interacted with respondents on each one of the questions asked. The data has been statistically weighted¹ according to Canadian census figures for age, gender and region and totals may not add up to 100% in some cases due to rounding.

The following is a high-level summary of the survey results:

- Just over half of respondents have used the North Peace Leisure Pool within the past year.
- The majority of respondents are likely to use the future facility.
- The preferred base aquatic facility is the two 25-metre lap pool option.
- The three most important amenity priorities are the dynamic movement gym, one indoor gymnasium and more social space to relax/hang out.
- The most important component of “indoor play” is a dynamic movement gym for programming instead of other indoor play components like children’s play structures or a multi-purpose room for birthday parties.
- The significant majority of respondents are very concerned or moderately concerned about the overall impact on taxpayers and the timing of the project and current cost of living.

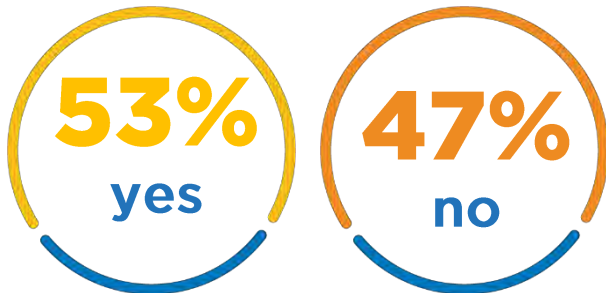
¹ Weighting is a statistical technique used by researchers to correct for problems, including non-response and unequal selection probability, and to bring collected data more in line with the population being studied. The telephone sample was weighted to match the population of the areas covered according to gender, age and region, based on the latest census results available.

- The majority of respondents support the PRRD pursuing all alternative funding options to offset costs and lessen the financial burden on taxpayers.
- When asked about level of support for different facility options, 63% of respondents support an aquatics facility only with two 25-metre lap pools and 53% of the respondents support a multi-use facility with two 25-metre lap pools and three to four recreation amenities. The multi-use facility with two 25-metre lap pools and eight amenities received slightly less support at 43%, and the enhanced aquatics facility only with the 50-metre lap pool was the least supported at 39% of respondents.
- More than half of respondents overall say they would be “very comfortable” or “moderately comfortable” at a tax increase range of \$30-40/month. Significantly fewer respondents would be comfortable with any of the other higher ranges tested: \$50-60/month, \$70-80/month, \$80- 90/month and \$90-100/month.
- When asked “Are there any other concerns you would like to share with the project partners?” 80 people responded and the top three themes were:
 - Costs – costs and tax increases
 - A new facility is needed (in support of the project)
 - Construction/procurement
- When asked “Is there anything else you would like to say about the future North Peace Leisure Facility?” 45 people responded and the top three themes were:
 - Costs – costs and tax increases
 - A new facility is needed (in support of the project)
 - Do not support a new facility

See Appendix E for a copy of the survey questions and Research Co.’s summary reports for the phone and online surveys.

1. Over the past year, have you (or anyone else in your household) used the North Peace Leisure Pool located in the City of Fort St. John?

Summary

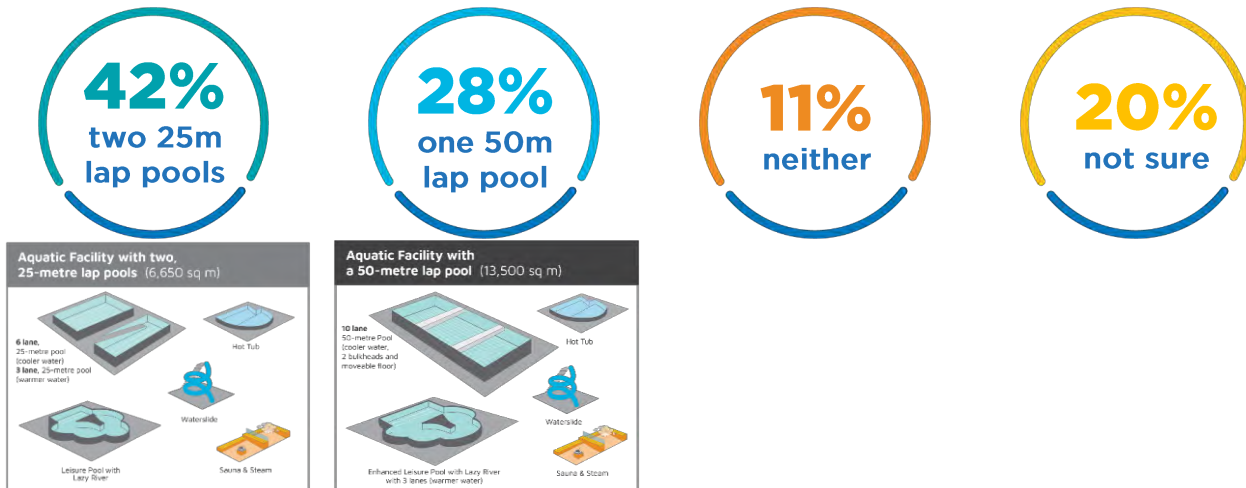


By jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Yes %	No %
Fort St. John	55%	45%
Area B	42%	58%
Area C	52%	48%
Taylor	45%	55%

2. Thinking specifically about the lap pool option for the base aquatic facility, which of these options would you prefer?

Summary

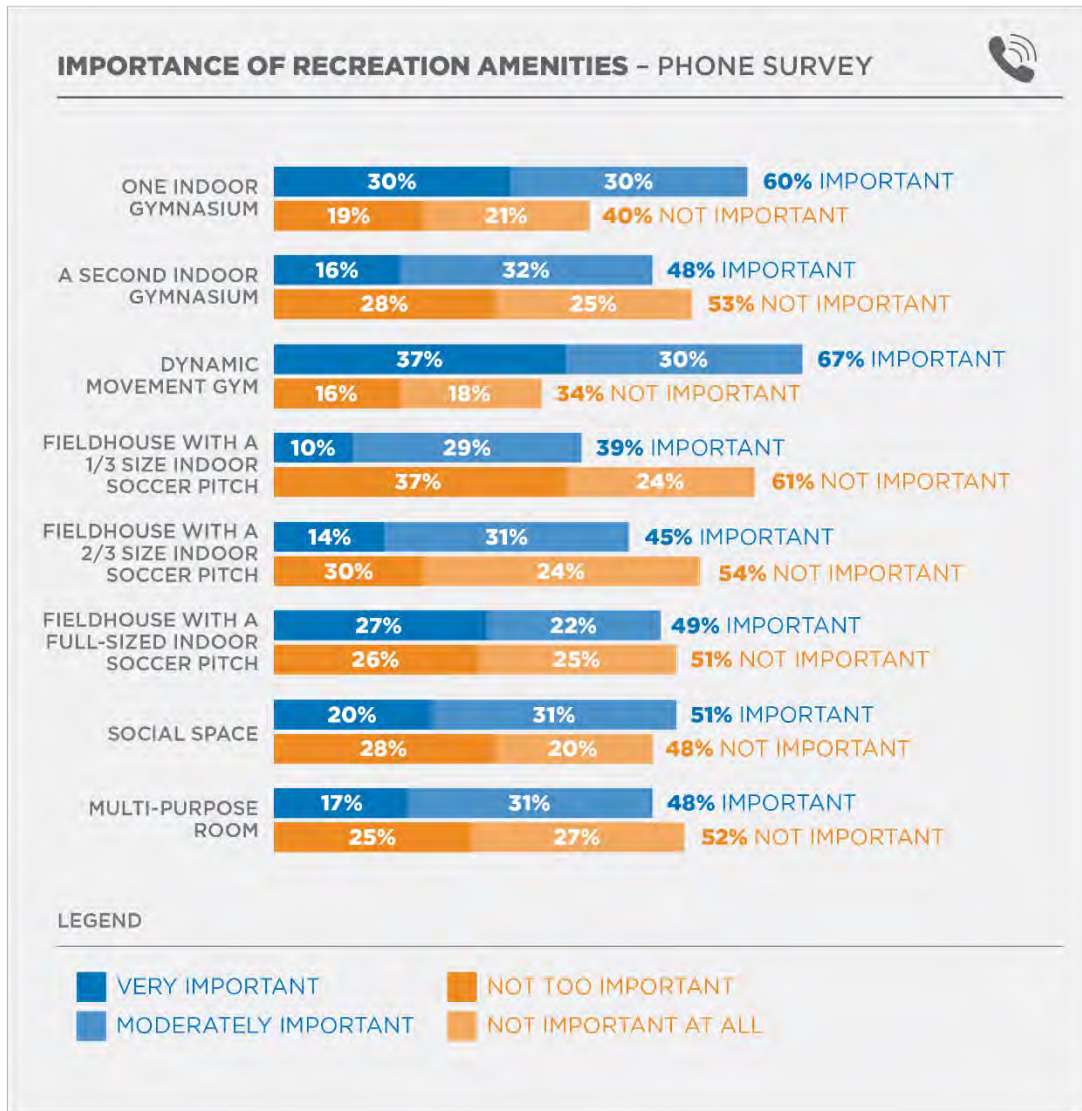


By jurisdiction

Base aquatic facility	Two 25-metre lap pools	One 50-metre lap pool	Neither	Not sure
Fort St. John	42%	33%	6%	19%
Area B	33%	17%	33%	17%
Area C	43%	19%	14%	24%
Taylor	45%	9%	27%	18%

3. Thinking about how you would use the new facility, how important are each of these components of a future North Peace Leisure Facility to you and your family?

Summary



By jurisdiction

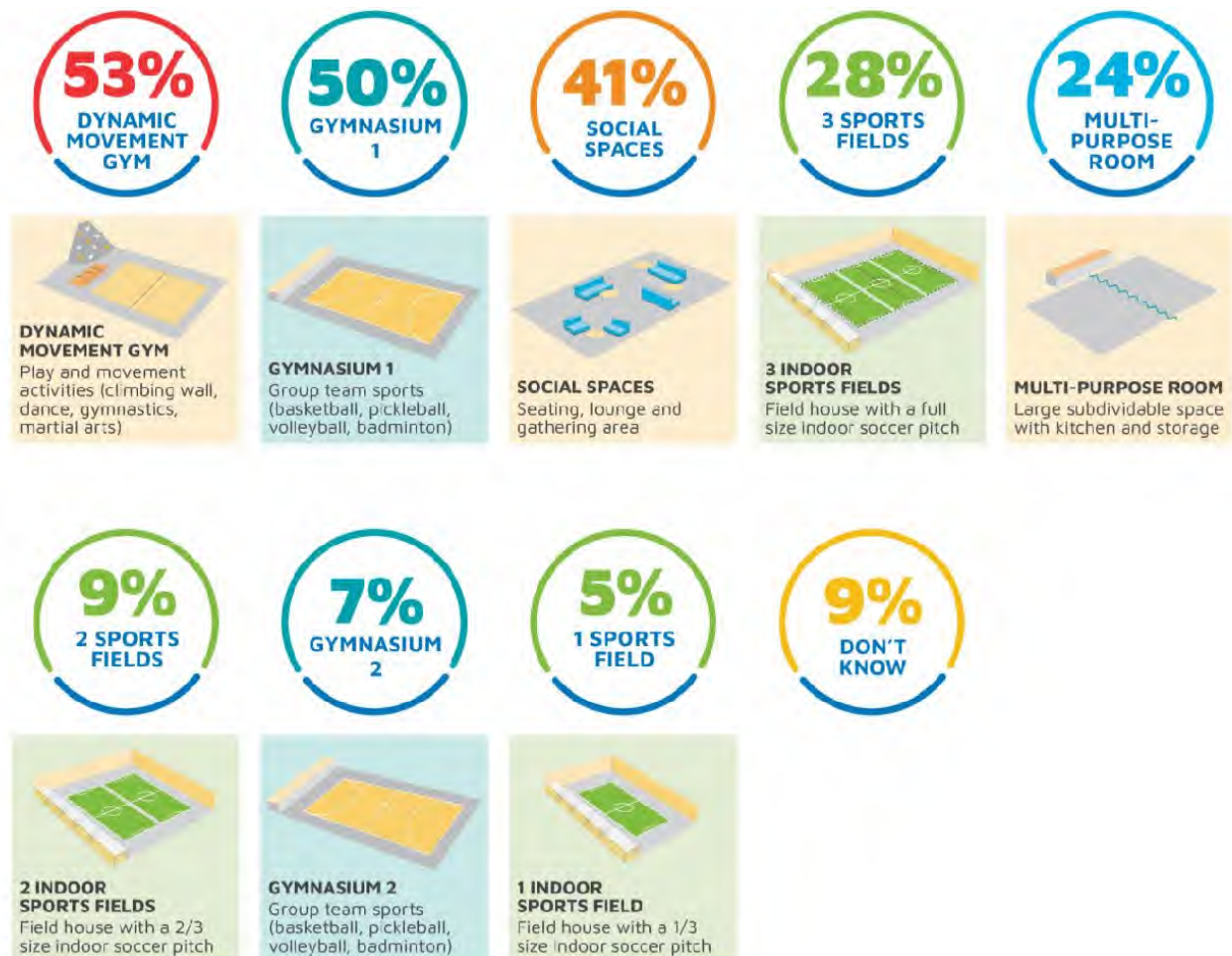
	Very important	Moderately important	Not too important	Not important at all
One indoor gymnasium				
Fort St. John	35%	29%	18%	18%
Area B	8%	33%	17%	42%
Area C	24%	31%	24%	21%
Taylor	18%	36%	9%	36%

	Very important	Moderately important	Not too important	Not important at all
A second indoor gymnasium				
Fort St. John	18%	30%	30%	22%
Area B	0%	38%	25%	38%
Area C	12%	36%	24%	28%
Taylor	18%	27%	18%	36%
Dynamic movement gym				
Fort St. John	41%	29%	15%	14%
Area B	13%	33%	25%	29%
Area C	10%	40%	29%	21%
Taylor	9%	18%	27%	45%
Fieldhouse with a 1/3 size indoor soccer pitch				
Fort St. John	11%	28%	40%	22%
Area B	0%	25%	29%	46%
Area C	10%	40%	29%	21%
Taylor	9%	18%	27%	45%
Fieldhouse with a 2/3 size indoor soccer pitch				
Fort St. John	17%	30%	31%	21%
Area B	0%	25%	38%	38%
Area C	12%	36%	28%	24%
Taylor	9%	27%	18%	45%
Fieldhouse with a full-sized indoor soccer pitch				
Fort St. John	28%	21%	27%	24%
Area B	0%	29%	38%	33%
Area C	34%	21%	21%	24%
Taylor	18%	18%	18%	45%

	Very important	Moderately important	Not too important	Not important at all
Social space				
Fort St. John	23%	35%	25%	18%
Area B	17%	29%	25%	29%
Area C	14%	21%	43%	22%
Taylor	18%	18%	27%	36%
Multi-purpose room				
Fort St. John	18%	32%	26%	23%
Area B	17%	17%	21%	46%
Area C	12%	34%	22%	31%
Taylor	18%	18%	18%	45%

4. If you could have only three of these components at a future North Peace Leisure Facility, which would you choose?

Summary

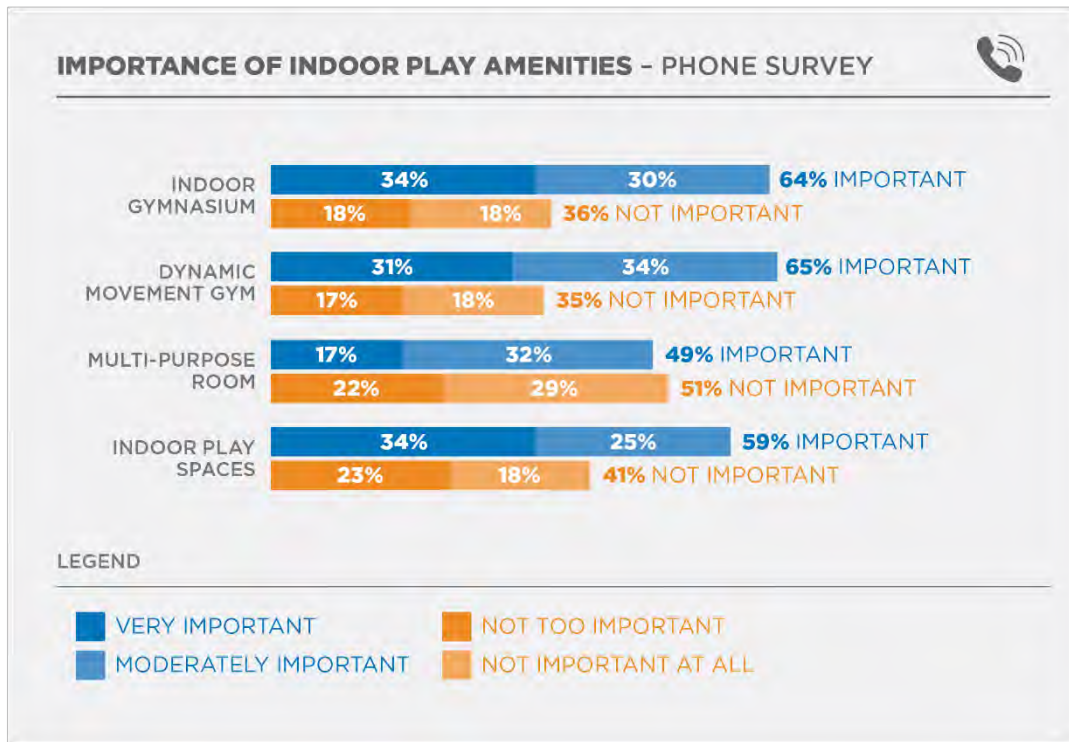


By jurisdiction

Optional amenity	Fort St. John	Area B	Area C	Taylor
One indoor gymnasium	54%	25%	45%	64%
A second indoor gymnasium	8%	13%	3%	9%
Dynamic movement gym	58%	29%	47%	45%
Fieldhouse with a 1/3 size indoor soccer pitch	4%	8%	3%	9%
Fieldhouse with a 2/3 size indoor soccer pitch	10%	0%	9%	0%
Fieldhouse with a full-sized indoor soccer pitch	28%	21%	36%	18%
Social space	41%	75%	28%	27%
Multi-purpose room	23%	38%	21%	18%
Don't know	6%	13%	17%	9%

5. **In the first two rounds of community engagement, we heard that indoor play areas were important, but we want to understand what you would like to see for indoor play spaces. How important are each of these components of a future North Peace Leisure Facility to you and your family?**

Summary

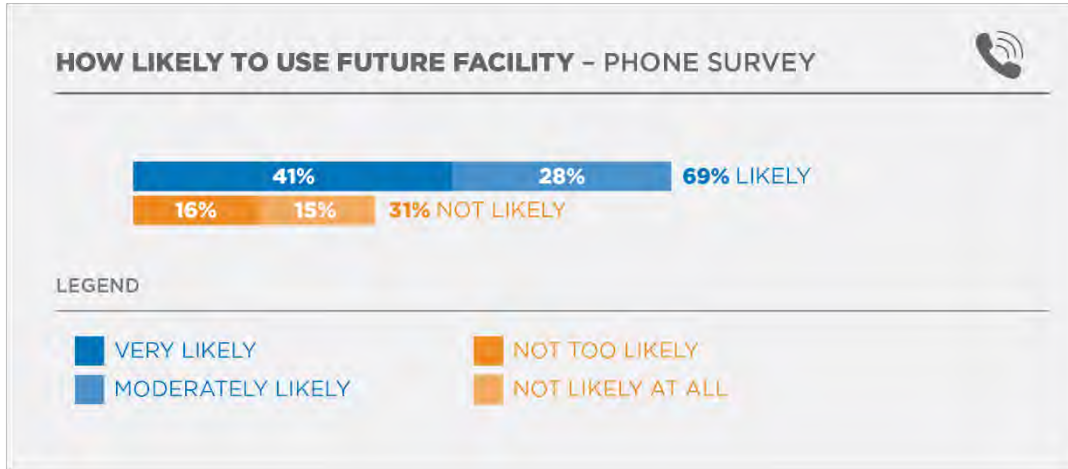


By jurisdiction

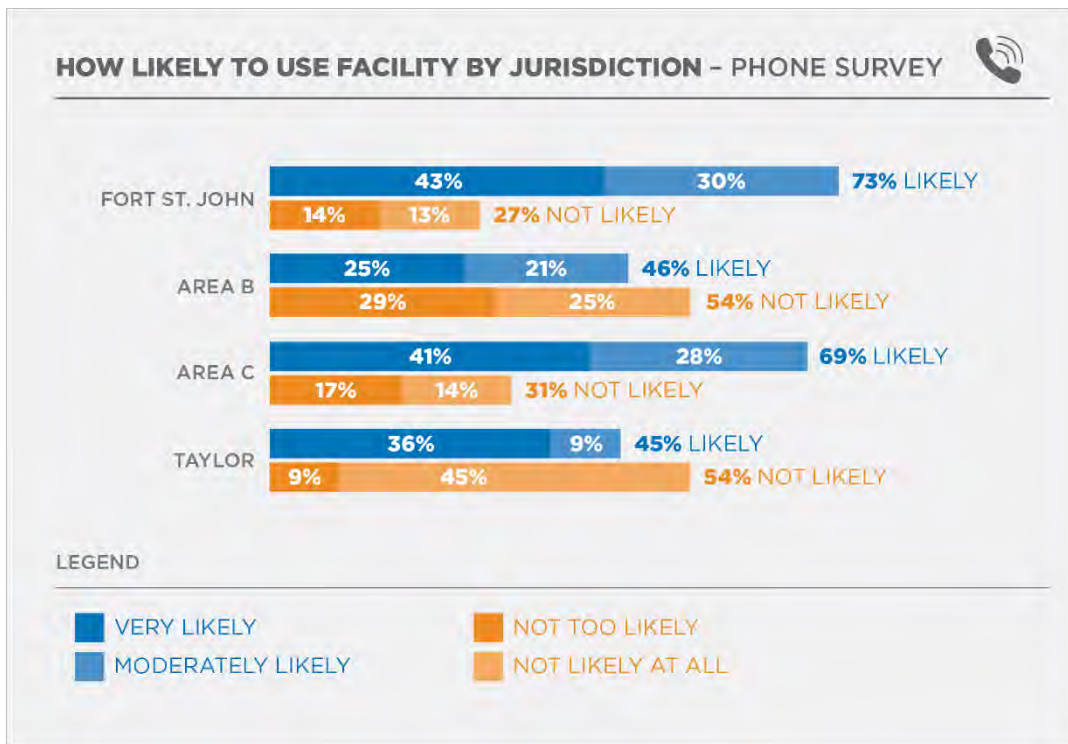
	Very important	Moderately important	Not too important	Not important at all
Indoor gymnasium				
Fort St. John	39%	29%	18%	13%
Area B	8%	33%	21%	38%
Area C	28%	33%	19%	21%
Taylor	27%	27%	0%	45%
Dynamic movement gym				
Fort St. John	37%	33%	17%	12%
Area B	4%	38%	25%	33%
Area C	21%	40%	16%	24%
Taylor	36%	18%	0%	45%
Multi-purpose room				
Fort St. John	18%	36%	22%	24%
Area B	17%	17%	17%	50%
Area C	12%	31%	22%	34%
Taylor	27%	9%	18%	45%
Indoor play spaces (e.g. play structure)				
Fort St. John	39%	24%	24%	13%
Area B	8%	42%	13%	28%
Area C	28%	22%	26%	24%
Taylor	27%	18%	18%	36%

6. How likely are you, or someone in your household, to use a future North Peace Leisure Facility?

Summary

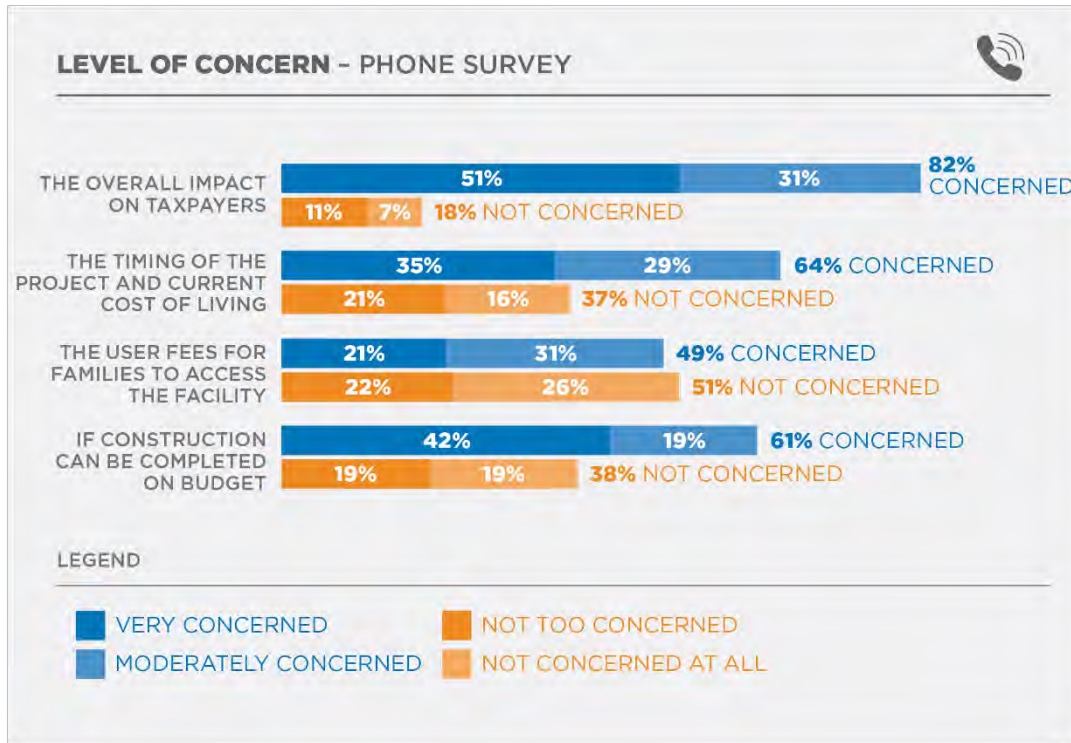


By jurisdiction



7. At the April workshops, participants shared some general concerns. How concerned are you about each of the following when thinking of a future North Peace Leisure Facility?

Summary



By jurisdiction

	Very concerned	Moderately concerned	Not too concerned	Not concerned at all
The overall impact on taxpayers				
Fort St. John	45%	33%	14%	9%
Area B	58%	33%	8%	0%
Area C	64%	28%	3%	5%
Taylor	73%	18%	9%	0%
The timing of the project and current cost of living				
Fort St. John	33%	28%	22%	16%
Area B	46%	17%	25%	13%
Area C	38%	33%	16%	14%
Taylor	27%	36%	18%	18%

	Very concerned	Moderately concerned	Not too concerned	Not concerned at all
The user fees for families to access the facility				
Fort St. John	21%	31%	22%	25%
Area B	21%	42%	8%	29%
Area C	26%	31%	19%	24%
Taylor	0%	9%	55%	36%
Whether construction can be completed on budget				
Fort St. John	40%	22%	20%	18%
Area B	50%	8%	17%	25%
Area C	48%	17%	17%	17%
Taylor	45%	0%	9%	45%

8. Are there any other concerns you would like to share with the project partners?

(80 respondents)

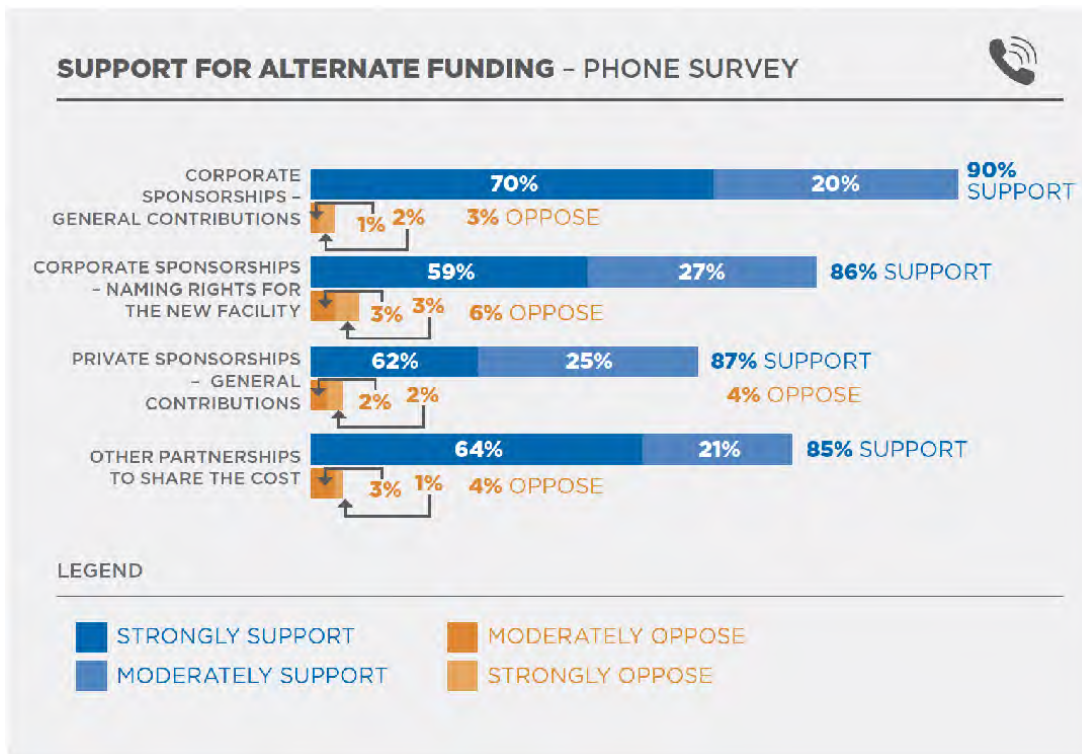
Key theme	Summary of comments
Costs – costs and tax increases <i>(30 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong concern and desire for taxes not to increase • Taxpayers should not have to pay for the facility • Concerns about project remaining within project estimated costs • Questions and comments about who is included in the taxable area • Concerns about affordability and inflation rates • Comments that the cost is too high for all options
Facility – new facility is needed <i>(21 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for a new facility to be built within a reasonable timeframe • New facility is needed to accommodate growing families; current facility is too busy • New facility needs to help attract competitive sporting events • Build a pool that will last a long time and not encounter issues that current pool has
Construction/procurement <i>(14 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about construction location • Project builder and architect should be local; more local collaboration • Questions about construction timeline • Questions if current facility closing while new facility is built

Key theme	Summary of comments
Decisions making (8 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question about Project partnership; why PRRD is leading • Comment on steps project partners need to take before proceeding to referendum • Concern about short lifespan of current facility
Costs – land costs (7 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about project cost once land costs are factored in • Need to know land costs first
Costs – operating costs (7 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns the project estimate cost is too high; operating costs will also be too high
Facility – aquatic facility (6 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment that pool should be “Olympic sized” • Comment on current pool size and comparison to new facility • Support for pool and hot tub amenity • Support for physiotherapy pool access
Facility design (technical) (6 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility design needs to be child friendly/all ages and abilities • Incorporate wheelchair ramps into pool design
Facility – do not support a new facility (6 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not support the project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A new pool is not needed – It is not the right time
Funding opportunities (6 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for grants to fund the project • Support for private sponsorship to fund the project instead of taxpayers
Parking (5 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure facility has adequate parking • Ensure lots of parking but also access for public transportation
Engagement process (4 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the project engagement process • Comment on how the options are presented in the engagement process; request for 50-metre pool and all optional amenities • Engage with local businesses and builders
Facility capacity (3 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility needs to be big enough to host swim competitions • Ensure facility will accommodate current demand and future growth • Comment that small communities do not need such a large facility
Facility – renovate the current facility (2 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fix the current facility hot tub • More information about why current facility cannot be fixed for less than future facility estimates

Key theme	Summary of comments
Other (4 mentions, 1 mention each)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the new facility is built for northern environment Consider making the facility dog friendly Suggestion that people should get to vote on the project Comment that the facility should have security

9. The PRRD is exploring grant funding and is also interested in pursuing other funding to offset costs to lessen the financial burden on taxpayers for this project. Do you support or oppose each of the following options?

Summary

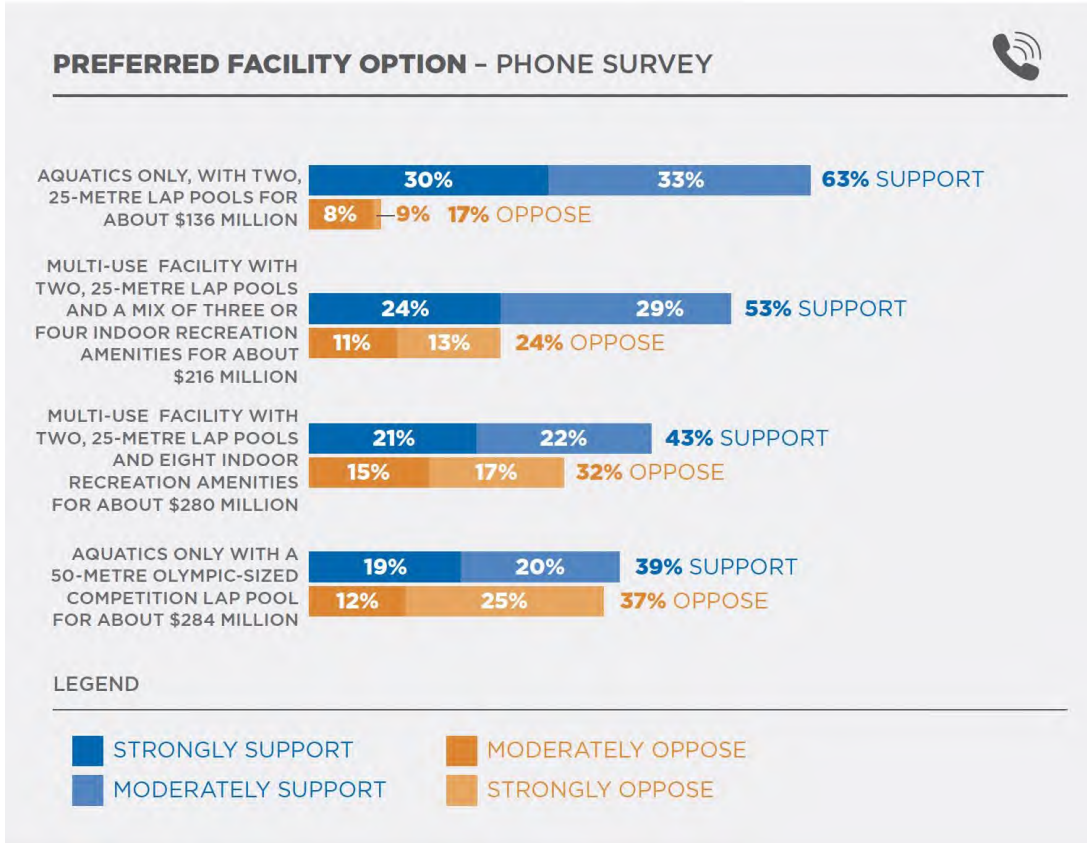


By jurisdiction

	Strongly support	Moderately support	Moderately oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
Corporate sponsorships – general contributions					
Fort St. John	72%	19%	1%	1%	8%
Area B	42%	29%	8%	13%	8%
Area C	78%	17%	0%	0%	5%
Taylor	64%	27%	0%	9%	0%
Corporate sponsorships – naming rights for the new facility					
Fort St. John	61%	26%	2%	2%	9%
Area B	33%	29%	17%	13%	8%
Area C	60%	29%	0%	0%	10%
Taylor	55%	36%	0%	9%	0%
Private sponsorships – general contributions					
Fort St. John	65%	23%	2%	1%	9%
Area B	33%	33%	4%	13%	17%
Area C	66%	29%	0%	2%	3%
Taylor	64%	27%	0%	9%	0%
Other partnerships to share the cost					
Fort St. John	67%	17%	4%	1%	12%
Area B	29%	42%	4%	8%	17%
Area C	66%	24%	3%	0%	7%
Taylor	64%	27%	0%	9%	0%

10. The mix of amenities at the new facility directly affects the cost, and the options all involve a larger facility to reflect the need for more capacity. All things considered, what is your level of support for each of the following facility options:

Summary

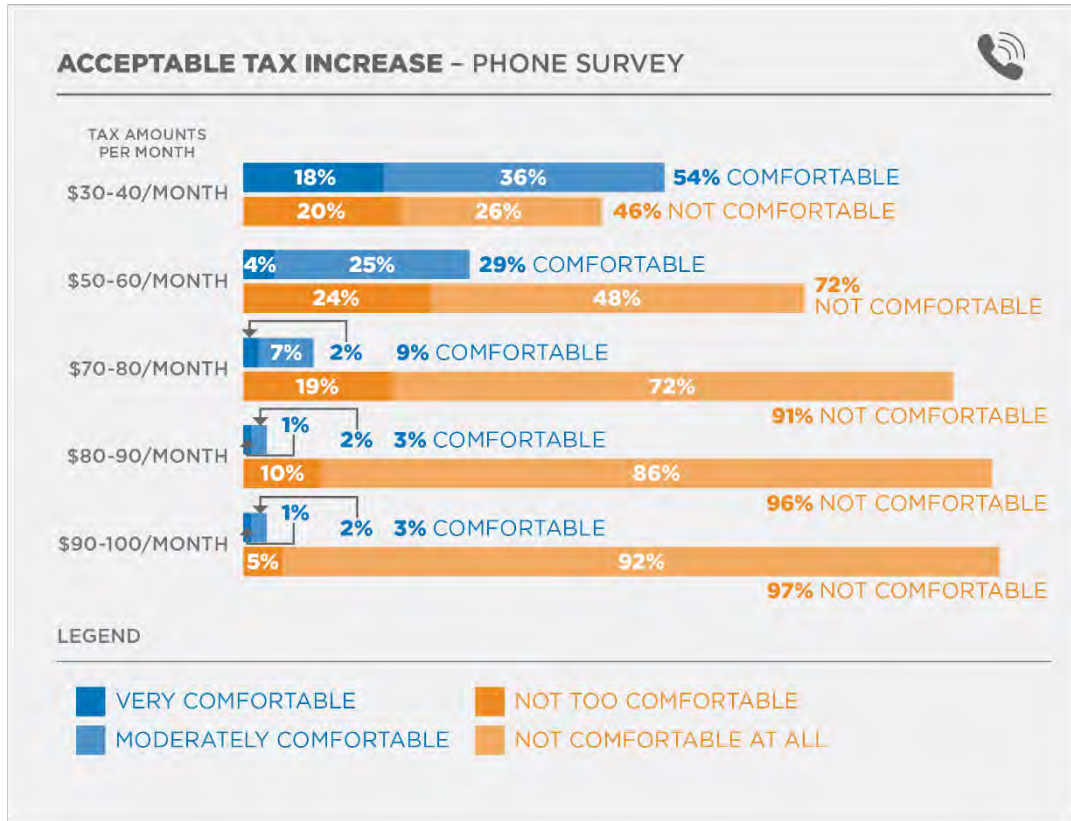


All options include: a leisure pool with water slide, a hot tub, steam room and sauna.
The above graphic does not include the “Not sure” responses. See below for details by jurisdiction.

By jurisdiction

	Strongly support	Moderately support	Moderately oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
Aquatics only, with two 25-metre lap pools for about \$136 million					
Fort St. John	33%	33%	7%	9%	18%
Area B	17%	28%	12%	13%	21%
Area C	24%	28%	9%	9%	31%
Taylor	27%	36%	0%	18%	18%
Aquatics with two 25-metre lap pools and a mix of three or four indoor recreation amenities for about \$216 million					
Fort St. John	29%	28%	13%	11%	19%
Area B	8%	21%	8%	29%	33%
Area C	17%	33%	7%	14%	29%
Taylor	9%	55%	0%	18%	18%
Aquatics facility with two 25-metre lap pools and eight indoor recreation amenities for about \$280 million					
Fort St. John	23%	23%	13%	16%	24%
Area B	4%	21%	17%	33%	25%
Area C	21%	17%	16%	16%	31%
Taylor	9%	18%	27%	18%	27%
Aquatics only with a 50-metre Olympic-sized competition lap pool for about \$284 million					
Fort St. John	23%	22%	12%	22%	21%
Area B	4%	8%	17%	42%	29%
Area C	16%	21%	12%	24%	28%
Taylor	9%	0%	9%	45%	36%

11. All things considered, how comfortable would you be if you paid these amounts each month, in tax, to cover the cost of the future North Peace Leisure Facility?



By jurisdiction

	Very comfortable	Moderately comfortable	Not too comfortable	Not comfortable at all
\$30-40/month				
Fort St. John	21%	37%	21%	21%
Area B	13%	13%	21%	54%
Area C	10%	43%	17%	29%
Taylor	9%	36%	18%	36%
\$50-60/month				
Fort St. John	5%	27%	24%	44%
Area B	0%	17%	13%	71%
Area C	3%	21%	29%	47%
Taylor	0%	18%	9%	73%

	Very comfortable	Moderately comfortable	Not too comfortable	Not comfortable at all
\$70-80/month				
Fort St. John	2%	9%	20%	69%
Area B	0%	4%	13%	83%
Area C	0%	5%	19%	76%
Taylor	0%	0%	18%	82%
\$80-90/month				
Fort St. John	2%	2%	12%	84%
Area B	0%	4%	0%	96%
Area C	0%	2%	10%	88%
Taylor	0%	0%	0%	100%
\$90-100/month				
Fort St. John	2%	1%	6%	91%
Area B	0%	4%	0%	96%
Area C	0%	2%	7%	91%
Taylor	0%	0%	0%	100%

12. Is there anything else you would like to say about the future North Peace Leisure Facility?

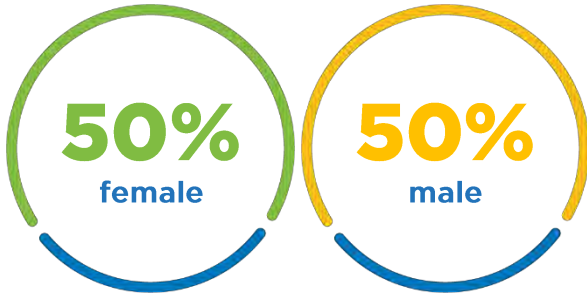
(45 respondents)

Key theme	Summary of comments
Costs – costs and tax increases (13 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about tax increases Taxpayers should not pay for the project Project partners should save for 10 years to pay for the project Comments about how costs should be fairly distributed between jurisdiction taxpayers Negative comments about the current economy and concerns for personal affordability of tax increases Comment about what is acceptable monthly tax increase; less than \$30/month Comments about project partners remaining within established project budget
Facility – new facility is needed (8 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for the project to proceed as soon as possible A new pool is long overdue It is time to build a new facility

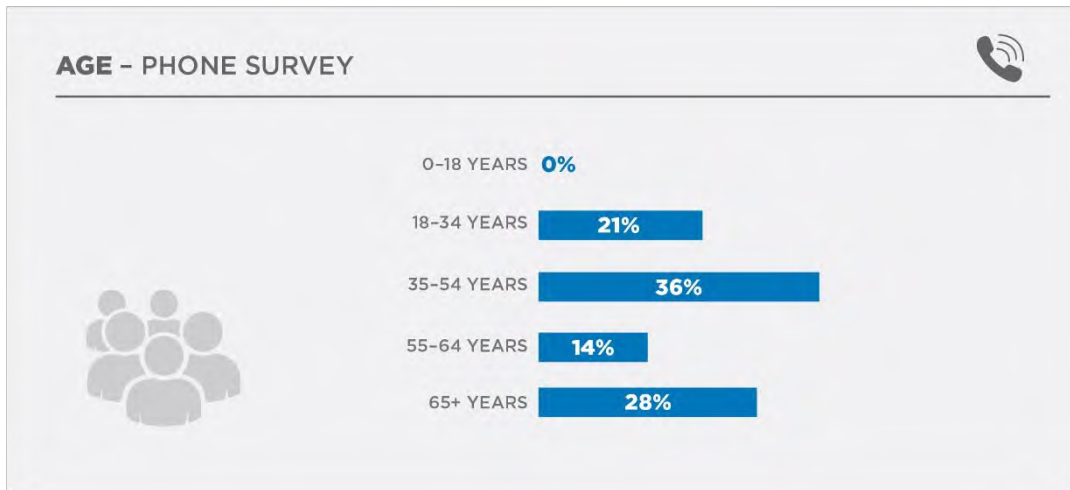
Key theme	Summary of comments
Facility – do not support a new facility (6 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not support the project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Project cost is too high – A new pool is not needed or wanted
Community priority (7 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities help bring communities together • Community youth need places to hang out • Need safe spaces for children and families • Invest in community needs
Costs – operating costs (4 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about facility operating costs once it opens • Concerns about cost for a family pass
Funding opportunities (4 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for funding partnerships and decreasing the tax burden on taxpayers
Facility – aquatic facility (3 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments about the different pool size (25-metres vs. 50-metres) • Comments that aquatic facility should be prioritized over recreation amenities
Facility – optional amenity suggestions (3 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestion to add a weightlifting area to the facility • Balance pool space with recreation space • Add racquet sports like squash and badminton
Build for the environment (2 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments about current facility cold temperatures in the winter • Ensure facility is designed for northern living condition
Costs – land costs (2 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question about project area and land costs
Facility capacity (2 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility is too big for the population of people • Current facility needs to be bigger to accommodate users
Facility –renovate the current facility (2 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to renovate the existing facility
Other (4 mentions, 1 mention each)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure facility is accessible to all communities • Support for public input to be considered • Support for swimming lessons for children • Question on who votes in the referendum process

Sample composition

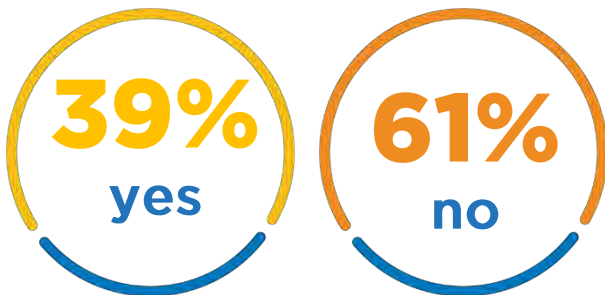
13. How do you describe yourself?



14. What is your age group?

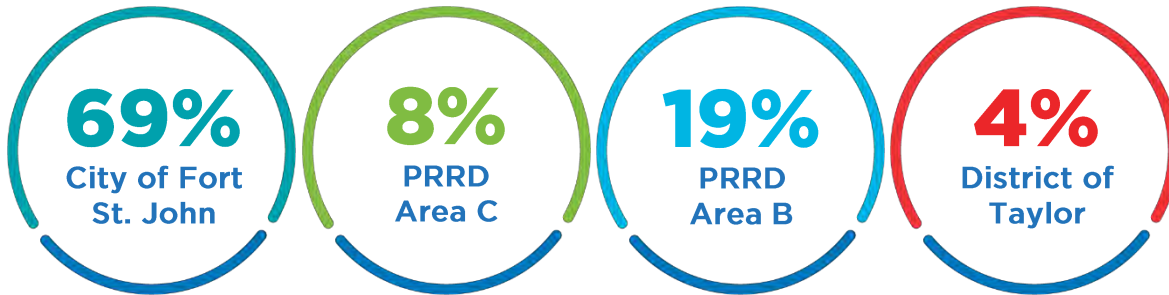


15. Are there any children younger than 18 living in your household?



16. What is your current area of residence within the Peace River Regional District?

Summary



Area of residence	Total%
Fort St. John (City of)	69.2%
Taylor (District of)	3.6%
Altona (Area 'B')	2.4%
Baldonnel (Area 'C')	1.8%
Cecil Lake (Area 'B')	1.8%
Charlie Lake (Area 'C')	15.4%
Clairmont (Area 'C')	0.4%
Clayhurst (Area 'B')	0.2%
Clearview (Area 'B')	0.2%
Flatrock (Area 'B')	0.2%
Golata Creek (Area 'B')	0.4%
Goodlow (Area 'B')	0.2%
Grandhaven (Area 'C')	0.2%
Montney (Area 'B')	1.2%
North Pine (Area 'B')	0.4%
Old Fort (Area 'C')	1.2%
Prespatou (Area 'B')	0.4%
Red Creek (Area 'B')	0.4%
Rose Prairie (Area 'B')	0.2%
Two Rivers (Area 'C')	0.2%

17. How long have you been a resident of the Peace River Regional District?



18. Do you rent or own your primary residence?



19. What is your annual household income?



3.2.5 Online survey

An 18-question online survey was conducted by Research Co. from May 6 to 28, 2024. In total, 452 adults across Fort St. John, the District of Taylor, PRRD Electoral Area B and Electoral Area C completed the survey. The survey was hosted on the Forsta online platform and included controls through “cookies” and IP address recall to ensure that no individual respondent participated more than once. Totals may not add up to 100% in some cases due to rounding. The following is a high-level summary of the survey results:

- More than three-in-five respondents have used the North Peace Leisure Pool within the past year.
- The preferred base aquatic facility is the two 25-metre lap pool option.
- The three most important amenity priorities are one indoor gymnasium, a dynamic movement gym and a full-sized indoor soccer pitch.
- The most important component of “indoor play” is children’s play structures followed closely by a dynamic movement gym for programming.
- The majority of respondents are likely to use the future facility.
- The significant majority of respondents are very concerned or moderately concerned about the overall impact on taxpayers and the timing of the project and current cost of living.
- The majority of respondents support the PRRD pursuing all alternative funding options to offset costs and lessen the financial burden on taxpayers.
- When asked about level of support for different facility options, 55% of the respondents support a multi-use facility with two 25-metre lap pools and three to four recreation amenities and 45% of respondents support an aquatics facility only with two 25-metre lap pools. The multi-use facility with two 25-metre lap pools and eight amenities received slightly less support at 44%, and the enhanced aquatics facility only with the 50-metre lap pool was the least supported at 22% of respondents.
- Over two-thirds of respondents say they would be “very comfortable” or “moderately comfortable” at a tax increase range of \$30-40/month. Fewer respondents would be comfortable with any of the other higher ranges tested: \$50-60/month, \$70-80/month, \$80- 90/month and \$90-100/month.
- When asked “Are there any other concerns you would like to share with the project partners?” The top three themes were:
 - Costs – costs and tax increases
 - A new facility is needed (in support of the project)
 - Do not support a new facility
- When asked “Is there anything else you would like to say about the future North Peace Leisure Facility?” The top three themes were:
 - Costs – costs and tax increases
 - A new facility is needed (in support of the project)
 - Do not support a new facility

1. Over the past year, have you (or anyone else in your household) used the North Peace Leisure Pool located in the City of Fort St. John?

Summary

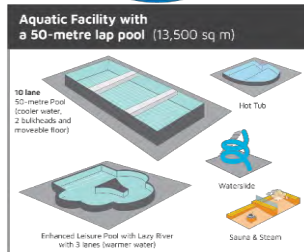
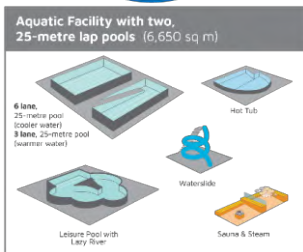
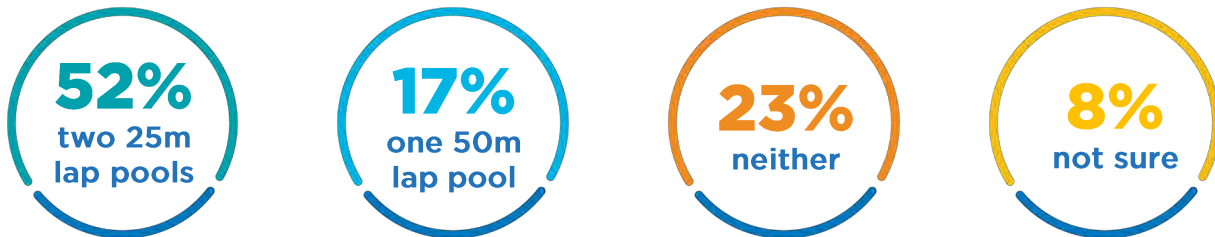


By jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Yes %	No %
Fort St. John	69%	31%
Area B	47%	53%
Area C	59%	41%
Taylor	30%	70%

2. Thinking specifically about the lap pool option for the base aquatic facility, which of these options would you prefer?

Summary

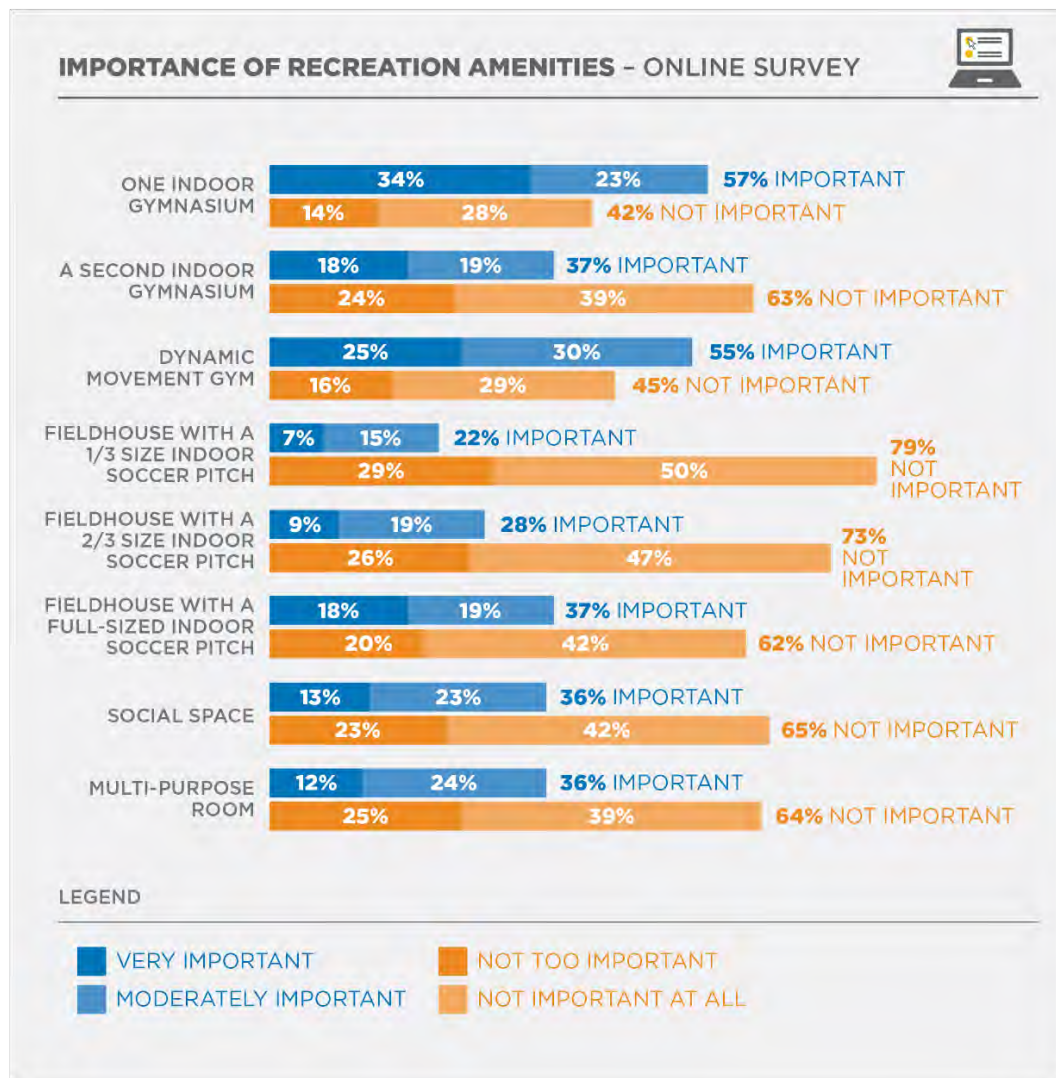


By jurisdiction

Base aquatic facility	Two 25-metre lap pools	One 50-metre lap pool	Neither	Not sure
Fort St. John	55%	21%	18%	6%
Area B	40%	13%	40%	7%
Area C	50%	11%	26%	13%
Taylor	45%	9%	39%	6%

3. Thinking about how you would use the new facility, how important are each of these components of a future North Peace Leisure Facility to you and your family?

Summary



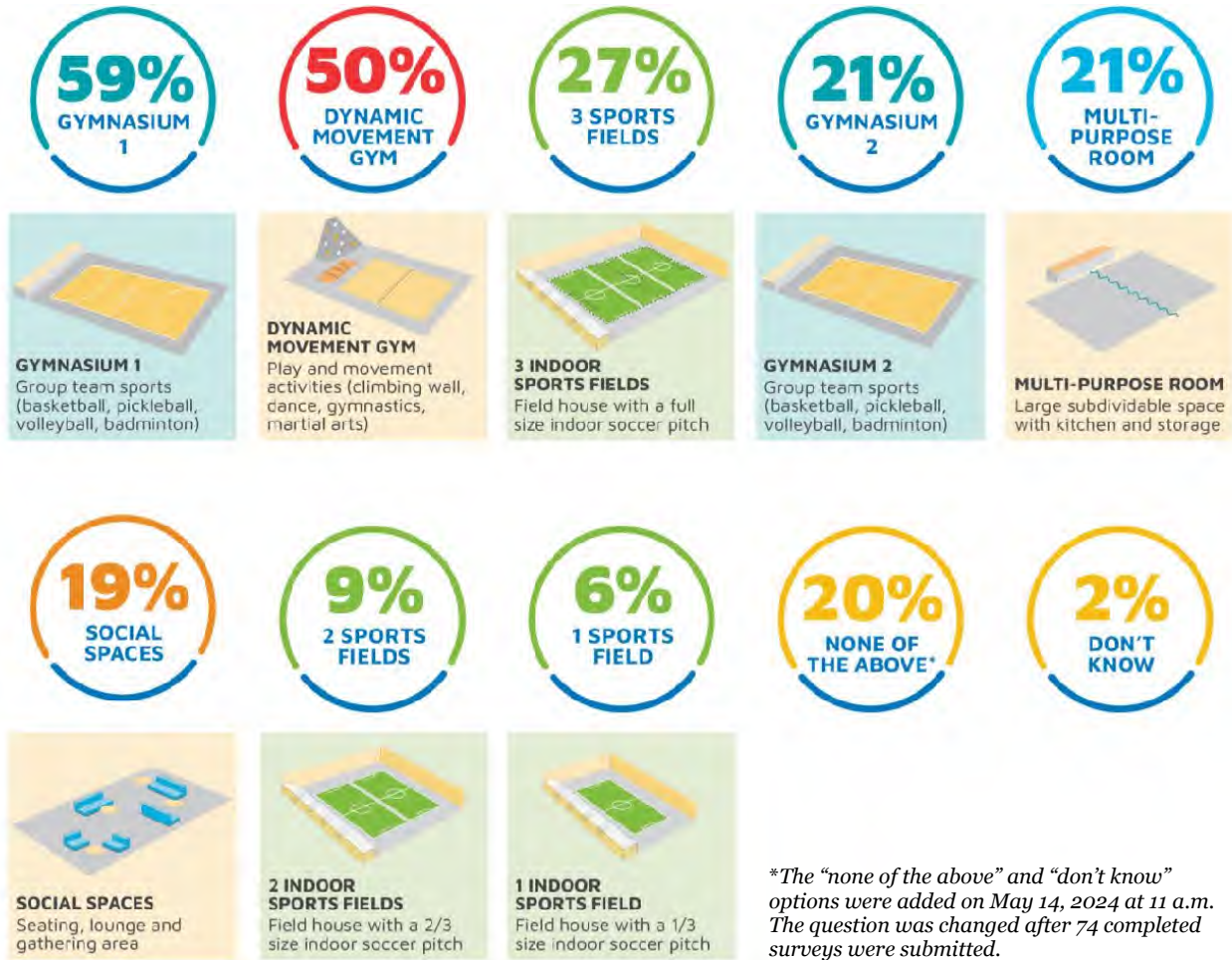
By jurisdiction

	Very important	Moderately important	Not too important	Not important at all
One indoor gymnasium				
Fort St. John	39%	25%	14%	22%
Area B	27%	20%	11%	42%
Area C	26%	21%	18%	35%
Taylor	30%	18%	9%	42%
A second indoor gymnasium				
Fort St. John	19%	23%	25%	33%
Area B	18%	11%	13%	29%
Area C	16%	14%	29%	41%
Taylor	15%	12%	18%	55%
Dynamic movement gym				
Fort St. John	28%	34%	15%	23%
Area B	22%	24%	16%	21%
Area C	18%	24%	21%	37%
Taylor	24%	21%	12%	42%
Fieldhouse with a 1/3 size indoor soccer pitch				
Fort St. John	7%	16%	29%	47%
Area B	2%	16%	22%	60%
Area C	7%	11%	33%	49%
Taylor	9%	12%	21%	58%
Fieldhouse with a 2/3 size indoor soccer pitch				
Fort St. John	8%	22%	26%	43%
Area B	7%	18%	20%	56%
Area C	12%	13%	26%	49%
Taylor	9%	9%	27%	55%

	Very important	Moderately important	Not too important	Not important at all
Fieldhouse with a full-sized indoor soccer pitch				
Fort St. John	20%	22%	21%	37%
Area B	13%	11%	20%	56%
Area C	18%	17%	19%	46%
Taylor	15%	15%	15%	55%
Social space				
Fort St. John	15%	27%	21%	37%
Area B	9%	16%	22%	32%
Area C	9%	14%	32%	45%
Taylor	15%	18%	12%	55%
Multi-purpose room				
Fort St. John	14%	27%	25%	34%
Area B	4%	11%	29%	56%
Area C	8%	23%	27%	42%
Taylor	15%	21%	9%	55%

4. If you could have only three of these components at a future North Peace Leisure Facility, which would you choose?

Summary*



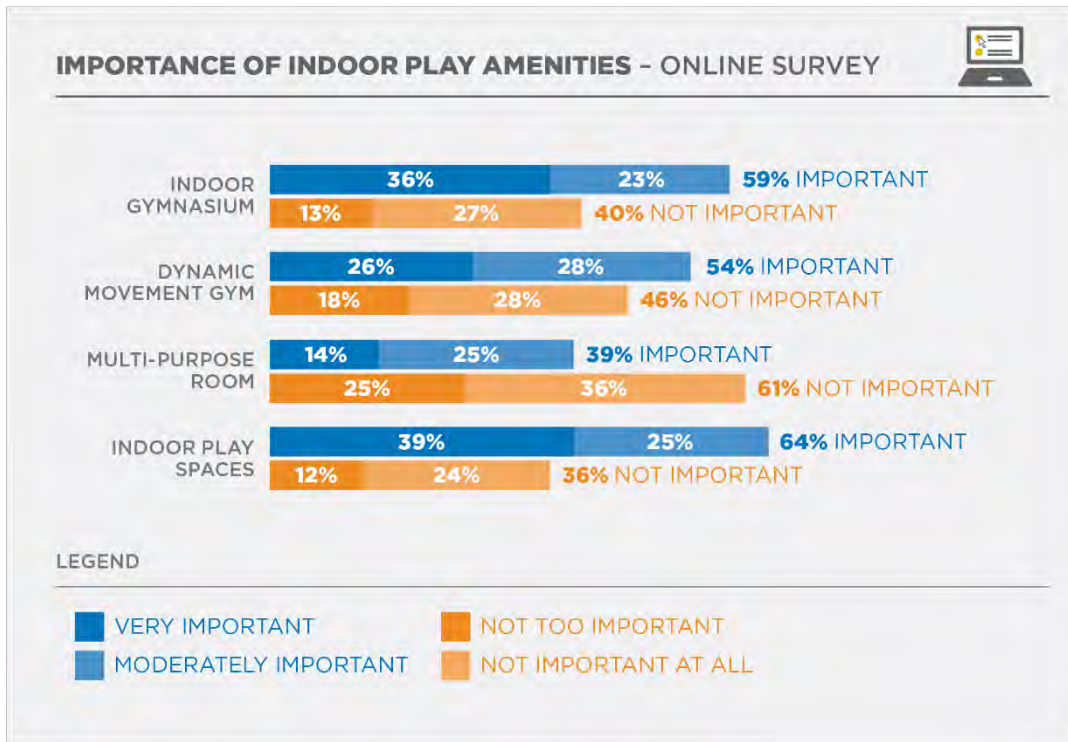
By jurisdiction

Optional amenity	Fort St. John	Area B	Area C	Taylor
One indoor gymnasium	62%	53%	56%	42%
A second indoor gymnasium	23%	22%	18%	12%
Dynamic movement gym	52%	53%	44%	48%
Fieldhouse with a 1/3 size indoor soccer pitch	5%	9%	8%	9%
Fieldhouse with a 2/3 size indoor soccer pitch	11%	4%	10%	0%
Fieldhouse with a full-sized indoor soccer pitch	30%	22%	26%	9%
Social space	21%	16%	16%	18%

Optional amenity	Fort St. John	Area B	Area C	Taylor
Multi-purpose room	22%	9%	23%	27%
Don't know	3%	0%	0%	0%
None of the above	14%	33%	23%	36%

5. In the first two rounds of community engagement, we heard that indoor play areas were important, but we want to understand what you would like to see for indoor play spaces. How important are each of these components of a future North Peace Leisure Facility to you and your family?

Summary



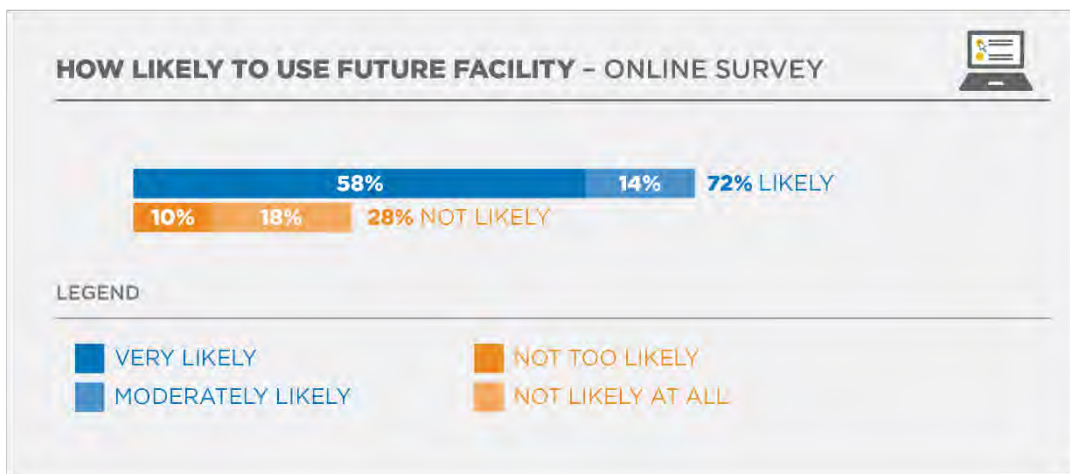
By jurisdiction

	Very important	Moderately important	Not too important	Not important at all
Indoor gymnasium				
Fort St. John	38%	27%	14%	21%
Area B	27%	20%	11%	42%
Area C	36%	18%	15%	31%
Taylor	30%	12%	6%	52%

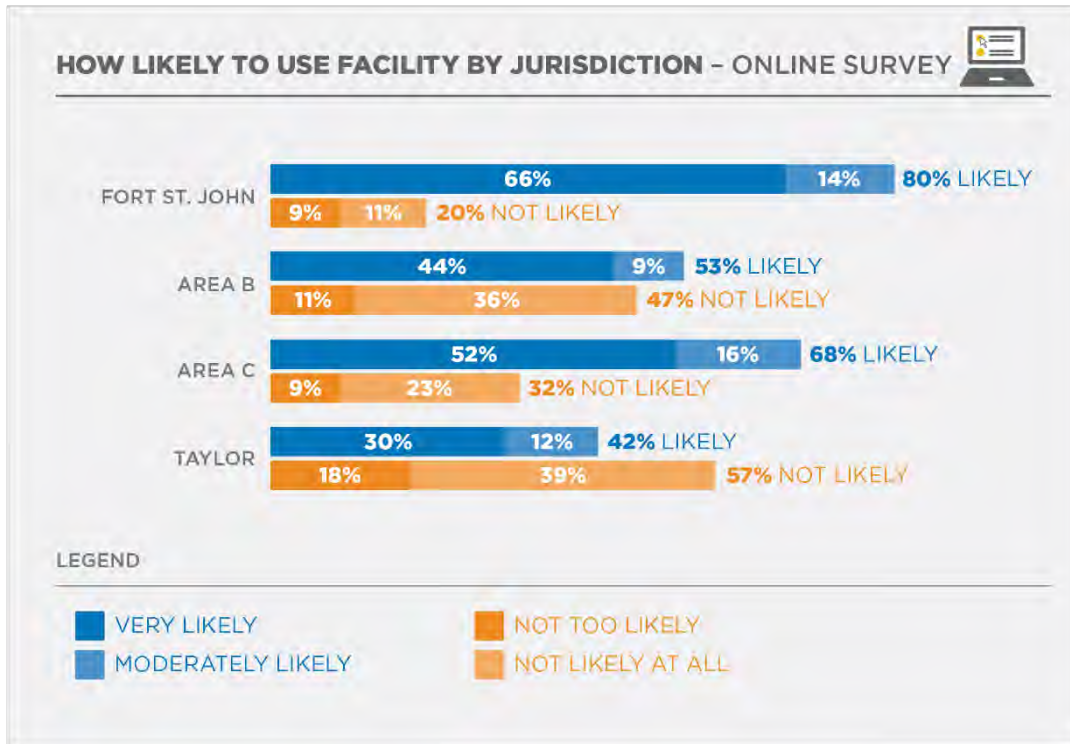
	Very important	Moderately important	Not too important	Not important at all
Dynamic movement gym				
Fort St. John	28%	32%	19%	22%
Area B	7%	9%	29%	56%
Area C	8%	27%	29%	36%
Taylor	27%	12%	12%	48%
Multi-purpose room				
Fort St. John	16%	28%	25%	31%
Area B	7%	9%	29%	56%
Area C	8%	27%	29%	36%
Taylor	21%	12%	12%	55%
Indoor play spaces (e.g. play structure)				
Fort St. John	42%	27%	12%	18%
Area B	31%	18%	11%	40%
Area C	34%	27%	12%	27%
Taylor	33%	15%	6%	45%

6. How likely are you, or someone in your household, to use a future North Peace Leisure Facility?

Summary

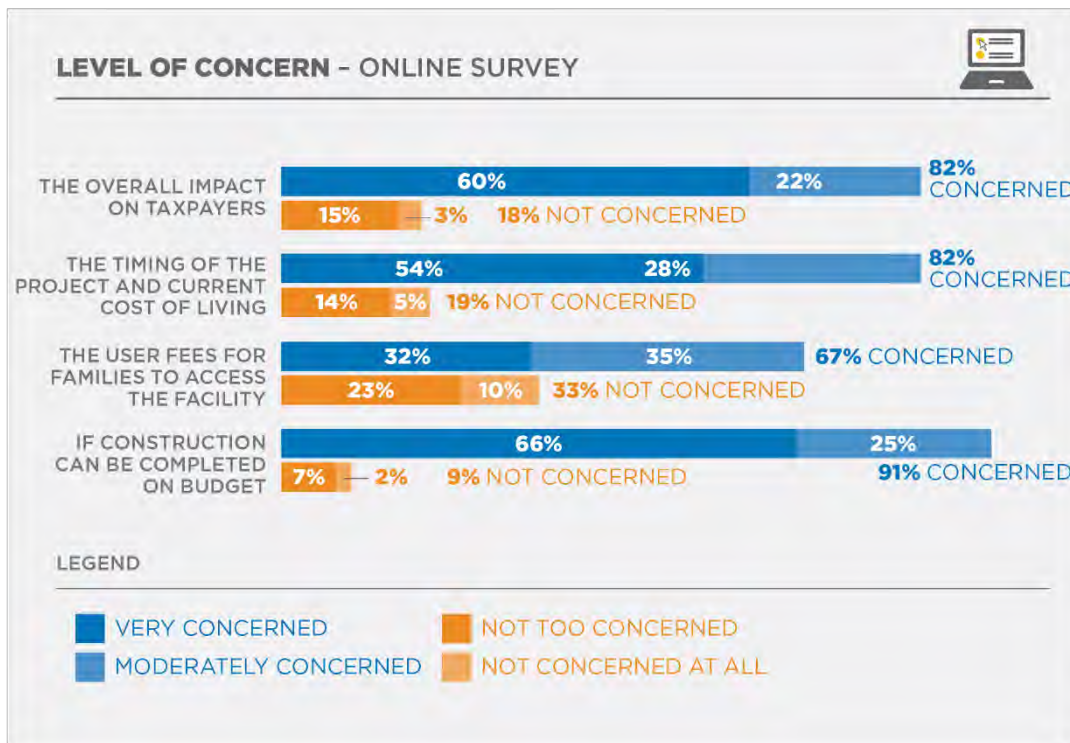


By jurisdiction



7. At the April workshops, participants shared some general concerns. How concerned are you about each of the following when thinking of a future North Peace Leisure Facility?

Summary



By jurisdiction

	Very concerned	Moderately concerned	Not too concerned	Not concerned at all
The overall impact on taxpayers				
Fort St. John	53%	25%	18%	4%
Area B	71%	18%	11%	0%
Area C	66%	20%	12%	2%
Taylor	82%	9%	3%	6%
The timing of the project and current cost of living				
Fort St. John	50%	30%	15%	5%
Area B	64%	20%	16%	0%
Area C	55%	29%	13%	3%
Taylor	70%	18%	3%	9%
The user fees for families to access the facility				
Fort St. John	30%	52%	33%	33%
Area B	33%	29%	18%	20%
Area C	33%	33%	23%	11%
Taylor	52%	21%	15%	12%
Whether construction can be completed on budget				
Fort St. John	59%	31%	8%	2%
Area B	76%	20%	4%	0%
Area C	74%	15%	8%	3%
Taylor	82%	9%	3%	6%

8. Are there any other concerns you would like to share with the project partners?

(respondents=452*)

*This survey question required a response to complete the survey. While there were 452 responses, 151 responded 'not applicable' or provided no additional comments.

Key theme	Summary of comments
<p>Costs – costs and tax increases (165 mentions)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project is too expensive at this time • Strong concern and desire for taxes not to increase • Decrease the project costs • Concerns about project remaining within project estimated costs • Concerns about the accuracy of the project component estimates • Do not compromise community quality of life with a disproportionate tax burden • Comments that taxpayers should not have to pay for the facility • Concerns about tax increases and not considering current economic pressures • Questions about how the tax model will be applied to each jurisdiction • Tax all jurisdiction areas equally • Concerns for seniors on fixed incomes • Concerns about affordability, inflation rates and cost of living • Concerns about tax increases; agree new pool is necessary • Comments on project planning process and spending taxpayer money • Only facility users should pay for the facility • Concern for project cost in comparison to other community facilities • Question why Area C tax rates are higher • Comments about inflated costs to build in northern B.C.

Key theme	Summary of comments
<p>Facility – new facility is needed <i>(75 mentions)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project timeline delays will increase costs/budget implications • Build for the future; ensure facility meets current and future demand • Supportive comments about base facility options (hot tub, sauna, lane capacity) • Support for a pool-only option; no additional amenities • Build now; avoid increasing land and construction costs • Support for a multi-purpose facility with one to four recreational options • Recreation facilities are needed to help build healthy communities • Comments about current facility issues (temperature, waterslide, hot tub) • Get the project underway; build it right • Desire for a facility to keep local youth out of trouble • Facility will help community growth
<p>Construction/procurement <i>(41 mentions)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete construction on time and on budget • Ensure quality building materials and methods • Concerns about construction delays; challenges of building up north • Concerns about construction cost overruns • Comments about proposed project location; proximity to residents and other facilities • Questions about current facility operations while new facility is being built • Comments about selecting a reputable and experienced contractor • Comments about project partners track record on building other community facilities on time/on budget
<p>Facility – do not support a new facility <i>(39 mentions)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not support the project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – It is not the right time – Cost is too high – Facility is not needed – Facility is not wanted – Other community priorities are more important

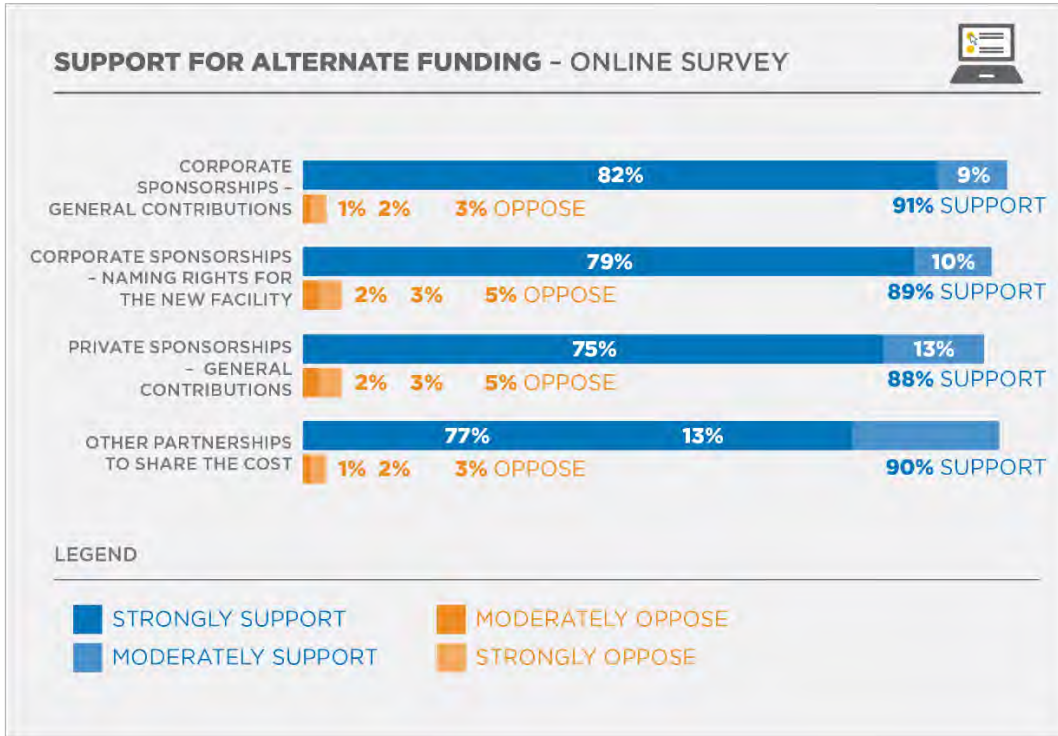
Key theme	Summary of comments
<p>Decision making (31 mentions)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions about the project benefitting areas • Concerns with regard to past facility decisions that lead to current facility issues • Concerns related to other community facility construction projects; cost overruns and scope changes • Comment that Taylor should not be part of the project partners • Comments on that the 3% slush fund required by the provincial government is unfair • Comments on how government processes for prioritizing community projects • Comments on holding contractors accountable for project delays/changes • Comments on resident decisions to live in their specific jurisdiction; lower housing/tax costs
<p>Facility – design (technical) (31 mentions)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus facility design on the interior/function and ensure current facility issues will not be repeated • Comments that presented options do not accurately reflect community needs • Present the facility design to the public to vote on • Build it once, build it right • Suggestions for changeroom designs for families and private stalls • Facility design needs to be child friendly/all ages and abilities
<p>Facility – aquatic facility (26 mentions)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep project costs down, build only a pool • Replacing the pool is the priority; recreation activities can be covered by other city facilities • Support for the two 25-metre pool option • Support for hot tub, steam and sauna amenities in the base facility • New pool needs to accommodate more users than current amount; pool is too busy
<p>Funding opportunities (22 mentions)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore more funding options before greenlighting the project • Support for funding partnerships and decreasing the tax burden on taxpayers • Support for pursuing more government funding; provincial and federal • Support for grants to fund the project • Suggestions to explore all funding opportunities
<p>Facility – comparison (21 mentions)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations for more research/review of existing facility design funding models, decision-making processes and operational costs (e.g., Grand Prairie, Spruce Grove, Leduc, Edmonton, Vernon, Prince George)

Key theme	Summary of comments
Facility – optional amenities suggestions <i>(19 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add gymnasium for sports like squash, volleyball, basketball, tennis • Support for a rock climbing wall • Suggestion to add a parkour course • Rationale for choosing gymnasiums over fieldhouses or vice versa
User fees <i>(18 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns that facility size will drastically increase user fees • Concerns about affordability of user fees • Increase user fees to reduce project debt • Suggestions for user fee discounts for certain groups (City staff, fire/emergency services)
Engagement process <i>(14 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestions for project partners to continue to engage with external user groups • Concern the project partners will not fully consider the concerns expressed by the community regarding the tax impacts • Suggestions to share information about the ‘tax increase calculator tool’ used during the workshops with the public prior to the referendum • Suggestions for more engagement with pool staff on what needs to change in the facility
Costs – operating costs <i>(11 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term maintenance and operating costs need to be fully considered depending on facility selected • Question if operating costs are split equally between the project partners • Concern that one jurisdiction will be majorly responsible for maintenance costs/repairs • Concern about inflation and future operating costs
Facility – capacity <i>(11 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project size is not to scale with community size • Support for increased pool capacity; number of lanes • Question what overall facility capacity is for each option
Costs – land costs <i>(10 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question about project area and land costs • Preferred option cannot be selected without knowing land costs first
Access/accessibility <i>(9 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure facility is accessible to all communities • Ensure facility design is inclusive for all ages and abilities; wheelchair accessible
Build for the environment <i>(8 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure project contractor has experience building in the north • Ensure facility is designed for all seasons and for northern climate • Comments about current facility temperature in winter • Comments about other community facilities being poorly designed for the climate

Key theme	Summary of comments
Facility – renovate current facility <i>(7 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to renovate the existing facility • Renovating will cost less than building something new
Facility – programming <i>(6 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure programming equity for children and for adults • Support for teen job training programs and spaces
Community priorities over clubs <i>(5 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern the pool options presenter was influenced by the swim club • Concern that recreation clubs will influence facility size
Staffing <i>(5 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments about current facility staffing; short-staffed • Comments about staff required to run a 50-metre pool • Concerns about securing adequate staff and necessary training • Suggestions for staff to receive user discounts/passes
Facility – phased approach <i>(4 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the project to be built in phases • Build what can be afforded now, build more later
Parking <i>(4 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure facility has adequate parking
Referendum <i>(3 mentions)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question about the referendum process

9. The PRRD is exploring grant funding and is also interested in pursuing other funding to offset costs to lessen the financial burden on taxpayers for this project. Do you support or oppose each of the following options?

Summary



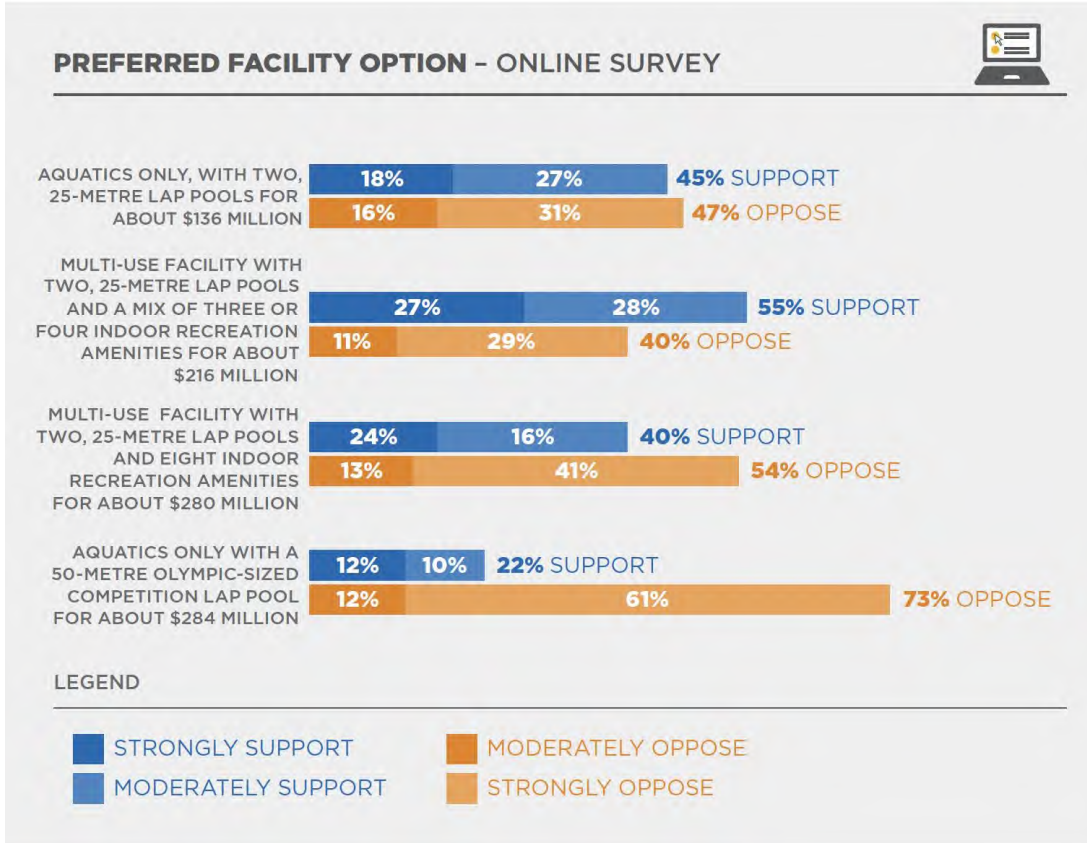
By jurisdiction

	Strongly support	Moderately support	Moderately oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
Corporate sponsorships – general contributions					
Fort St. John	84%	10%	0%	2%	3%
Area B	76%	4%	2%	0%	18%
Area C	80%	9%	1%	3%	7%
Taylor	79%	9%	3%	6%	3%
Corporate sponsorships – naming rights for the new facility					
Fort St. John	81%	11%	2%	3%	3%
Area B	69%	7%	4%	0%	20%
Area C	77%	10%	1%	3%	9%
Taylor	76%	9%	9%	6%	0%

	Strongly support	Moderately support	Moderately oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
Private sponsorships – general contributions					
Fort St. John	79%	14%	1%	2%	4%
Area B	67%	9%	7%	2%	16%
Area C	67%	15%	3%	4%	11%
Taylor	73%	15%	3%	9%	0%
Other partnerships to share the cost					
Fort St. John	80%	15%	0%	1%	4%
Area B	73%	4%	2%	0%	20%
Area C	76%	12%	0%	3%	9%
Taylor	70%	12%	3%	9%	6%

10. The mix of amenities at the new facility directly affects the cost, and the options all involve a larger facility to reflect the need for more capacity. All things considered, what is your level of support for each of the following facility options:

Summary



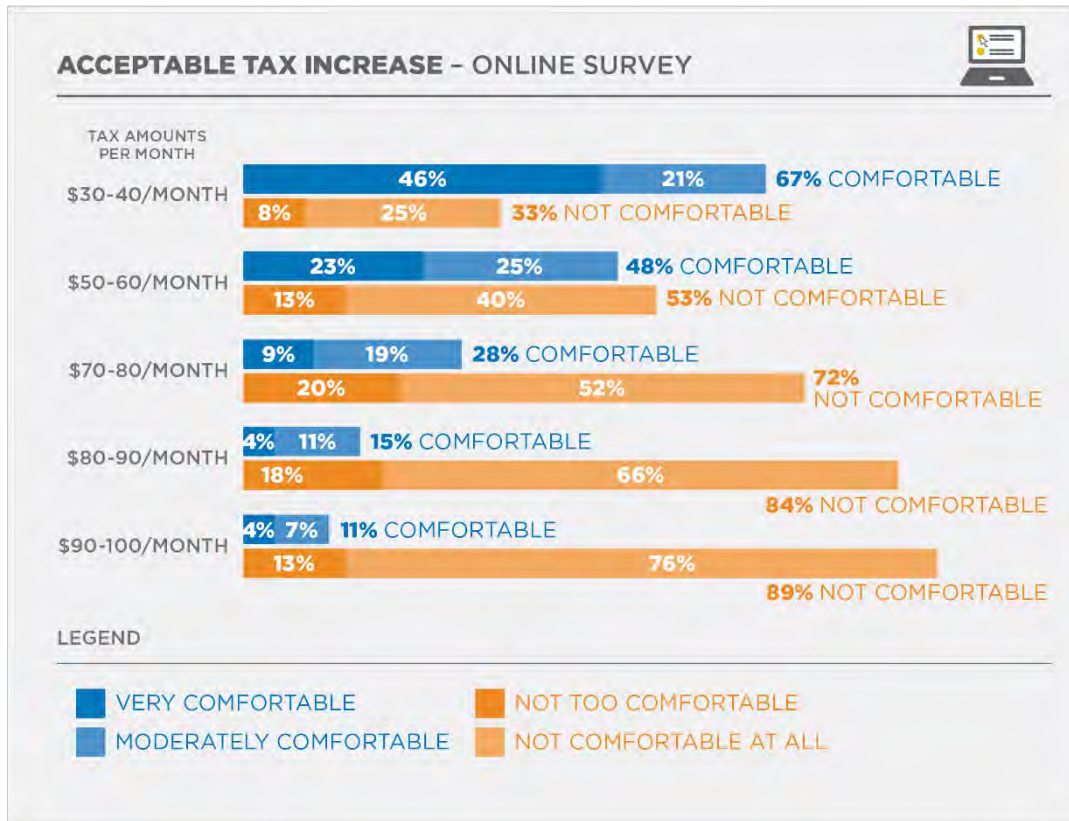
All options include: a leisure pool with water slide, a hot tub, steam room and sauna. The above graphic does not include the “Not sure” responses. See below for details by jurisdiction.

By jurisdiction

	Strongly support	Moderately support	Moderately oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
Aquatics only, with two 25-metre lap pools for about \$136 million					
Fort St. John	20%	28%	17%	28%	8%
Area B	13%	22%	24%	33%	7%
Area C	17%	24%	13%	37%	9%
Taylor	15%	33%	12%	30%	9%

	Strongly support	Moderately support	Moderately oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
Aquatics with two 25-metre lap pools and a mix of three or four indoor recreation amenities for about \$216 million					
Fort St. John	30%	31%	11%	23%	5%
Area B	27%	22%	4%	42%	4%
Area C	24%	25%	13%	35%	3%
Taylor	15%	15%	15%	42%	12%
Aquatics facility with two 25-metre lap pools and eight indoor recreation amenities for about \$280 million					
Fort St. John	26%	19%	15%	35%	6%
Area B	29%	2%	9%	56%	4%
Area C	21%	16%	13%	48%	2%
Taylor	18%	12%	9%	52%	9%
Aquatics only with a 50-metre Olympic-sized competition lap pool for about \$284 million					
Fort St. John	14%	13%	13%	56%	5%
Area B	9%	9%	7%	71%	4%
Area C	11%	3%	11%	69%	6%
Taylor	6%	6%	12%	64%	12%

11. All things considered, how comfortable would you be if you paid these amounts each month, in tax, to cover the cost of the future North Peace Leisure Facility?



By jurisdiction

	Very comfortable	Moderately comfortable	Not too comfortable	Not comfortable at all
\$30-40/month				
Fort St. John	53%	22%	7%	18%
Area B	36%	11%	11%	42%
Area C	38%	23%	11%	28%
Taylor	24%	15%	3%	58%
\$50-60/month				
Fort St. John	25%	30%	15%	31%
Area B	20%	13%	7%	60%
Area C	23%	19%	14%	44%
Taylor	6%	15%	3%	76%

	Very comfortable	Moderately comfortable	Not too comfortable	Not comfortable at all
\$70-80/month				
Fort St. John	8%	22%	25%	45%
Area B	7%	13%	11%	69%
Area C	13%	16%	14%	57%
Taylor	3%	12%	6%	79%
\$80-90/month				
Fort St. John	4%	12%	23%	61%
Area B	7%	4%	11%	78%
Area C	6%	13%	12%	69%
Taylor	3%	3%	9%	85%
\$90-100/month				
Fort St. John	4%	8%	14%	74%
Area B	2%	4%	9%	84%
Area C	5%	7%	12%	76%
Taylor	3%	0%	12%	85%

12. Is there anything else you would like to say about the future North Peace Leisure Facility?

(respondents=452*)

*This survey question required a response to complete the survey. While there were 452 responses, 175 responded 'not applicable' or provided no additional comments.

Key theme	Summary of comments
<p>Costs – costs and tax increases (107 mentions)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong concern and desire for taxes not to increase • Comments on what tax range is personally affordable to respondent; \$10/month • Concerns the project estimated costs are too low • Concerns about cost overruns and project delays • Concerns about tax rate increasing, affordability and current cost of living • Concerns about tax increases and project timing; now is not the right time • Suggestions that project partners do not proceed until alternative funding options are fully explored • Questions about how/if non-property owners will be taxed

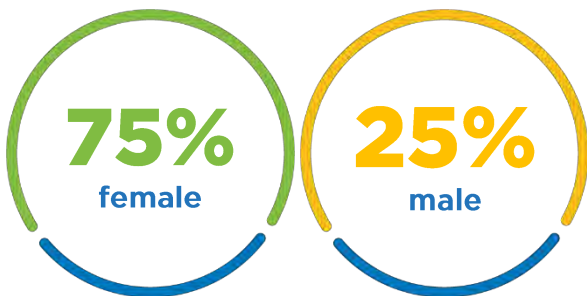
Key theme	Summary of comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question why Fort St. John cannot afford to pay for the facility • Desire for more information about proposed taxation model • Suggestions that the project should proceed until money is saved • Suggestions on how taxes should be structured between jurisdictions • Comment that project taxes increases are a good community investment • Comments that only facility users should have to pay • Only build what can be afforded
<p>Facility – new facility is needed <i>(103 mentions)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the project, but hesitant about tax increases • Support and enthusiasm for the project to proceed on the condition alternative funding will help lower cost to taxpayers • Facility is needed; but keep it affordable and within budget • New facility will benefit all communities, not just Fort St. John • New facility is needed to accommodate families, youth, young children • Desire for the project to proceed quickly • Support for a multi-purpose facility, not just a pool • Support for a facility that non-profits can use for rental space • Comments that new facility will attract families and working professionals • Recreation helps build community health and active living • Comments that project partners should have started saving years ago when issues with current pool began • Support for better swimming facilities for swim club members and swimming lessons
<p>Facility – do not support a new facility <i>(64 mentions)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not support the project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – It is not the right time – Tax increase is too high – New facility is not needed – New facility is not wanted – Disbelief that project can be built within budget
<p>Funding opportunities <i>(32 mentions)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for funding partnerships and decreasing the tax burden on taxpayers • Support for pursuing as many government grants as possible • Support for corporate sponsorships; suggestions for industry sectors (hydro, oil, etc.) • Comments that the project should not proceed until more funding options are secured

Key theme	Summary of comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions why there is no funding currently available from the project partners • Support for private sponsorship; concerns about what the potential terms could be
Facility – optional amenity suggestions (29 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for court sports like basketball, pickleball, squash and badminton and volleyball • Suggestions for a rock-climbing wall • Support for indoor play structure for children; the ability to host community birthday parties • Support for water play area for young children; spray features • Suggestion to include a café with healthy food options • Support for gymnastics activity area
Facility comparison (22 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestions for project partners to research more about the following facilities: Chetwynd, Dawson, Prince George and Grand Prairie • Find an existing facility to replicate and reduce design costs • Review children’s water features available in YMCA gyms
Facility design (technical) (21 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure adequate space, size and privacy for change rooms • Ensure adequate hot tub size and long-term use • Ensure pool and hot tub areas have no blind spots for lifeguards; ensure user safety • Questions about what the lazy river design would look like • Focus design efforts on the inside of the facility, not the outside; keep it functional and not fancy • Incorporate local public art in the facility
Engagement process (18 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about coordination and collaboration between project partners (ability to proceed as one) • Support for public engagement and project information transparency • Suggestions for ongoing engagement with external recreation clubs and businesses • Support for more project information that includes visuals of the options • Comments about engagement process and non-local consultants • Engage with local contractors early to explore cost savings

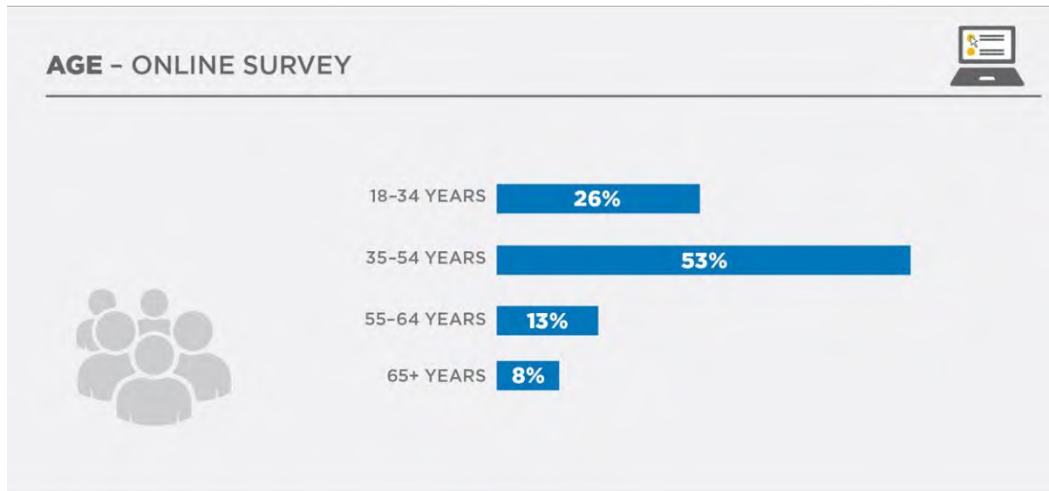
Key theme	Summary of comments
Construction/procurement (14 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about construction location • Suggestions for project location • Build it to last; project lifespan should exceed 30 years • Support for construction to occur within the established timeline • Comments about how the current facility was built; design changes and cost savings that lead to current issues
Facility – aquatic facility (13 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for a new pool regardless of size • Question about rationale of two 25-metre pools vs. one 50-metre pool • Support for a standalone pool with less amenities • Comment that pool should be “Olympic sized” • Support for lap pools to have more room for aquafit • Include a better functioning hot tub
User fees (13 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure user rates are affordable for families • Base user fees on resident proximity to facility; charge out-of-town users a higher rate • Examine user fee structure at other facilities; charge sports teams higher rates • Provide different user fee rates for recreation or pool users
Decision making (12 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fort St. John should lead and pay for the project • Support for community members contributing to project decision-making • Comments about project process and decision-making taking too long • More design work needs to be done before the referendum • Comments that past community projects have gone over budget and beyond anticipated timelines
Community priority (11 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All options will benefit the community • Support for a facility that offers year-round activities and recreation • Support for more adult recreation options within the community
Access/accessibility (9 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure facility is inclusive and accessible to all ages and abilities • Make it a family-friendly environment
Build for the environment (9 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure facility is designed for northern living condition • Project needs a builder and architect that understands northern climate • Facility needs more recreational space so people have somewhere to go in winter months

Key theme	Summary of comments
Facility capacity (7 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current facility is at capacity; support for a facility that can handle current and future user demand • Other recreational facilities (e.g., school gyms) are at capacity • Requests for more enrollment information from external recreation groups • Question when current facility will reach user demand overflow/inability to service the community
Costs – operating costs (7 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question why current pool maintenance costs exceed \$6 million when maintenance/repairs appear lacking • Ensure future facility size can operate with maintenance costs; sufficient staff
Facility –renovate the current facility (6 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair the existing facility, no matter the cost • Refurbish the existing facility for recreation; build a separate pool
Costs – land costs (5 mentions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land costs and interest rates are too high; wait and save money • Concerns about project cost once land costs are factored in • Need to know land costs first
Other (3 mentions, 1 mention each)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phased approach: start with pool facility then add on recreation facilities • Ensure adequate parking that fits the facility • Ensure adequate staffing/lifeguards on duty

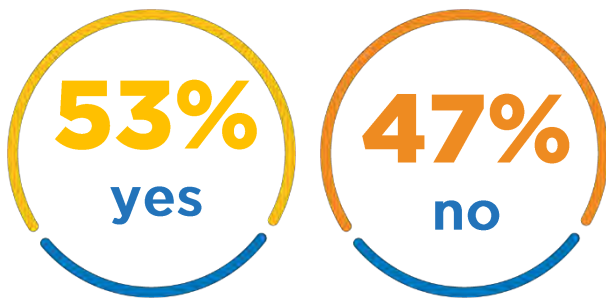
13. How do you describe yourself?



14. What is your age group?

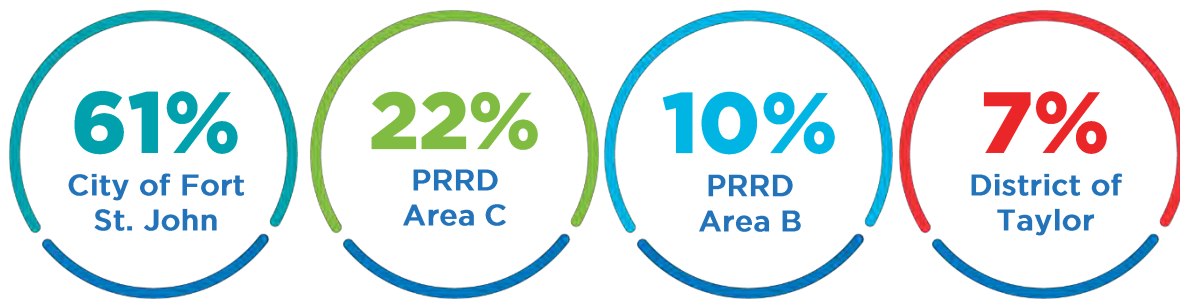


15. Are there any children younger than 18 living in your household?



16. What is your current area of residence within the Peace River Regional District?

Summary



Online survey residence

Area of residence	%
Fort St. John (City of)	61%
Taylor (District of)	7%
Altona (Area 'B')	0%

Area of residence	%
Baldonnel (Area 'C')	4%
Blueberry River First Nations	0%
Buick (Area 'B')	0%
Cecil Lake (Area 'B')	1%
Charlie Lake (Area 'C')	14%
Clairmont (Area 'C')	2%
Clayhurst (Area 'B')	0%
Clearview (Area 'B')	0%
Doig River First Nation	0%
Flatrock (Area 'B')	0%
Golata Creek (Area 'B')	0%
Goodlow (Area 'B')	1%
Grandhaven (Area 'C')	1%
Halfway River First Nation	0%
Kwadacha Nation (Area 'B')	0%
Montney (Area 'B')	3%
North Pine (Area 'B')	2%
Old Fort (Area 'C')	1%
Osborn (Area 'B')	0%
Pink Mountain (Area 'B')	0%
Prespatou (Area 'B')	0%
Red Creek (Area 'B')	0%
Rose Prairie (Area 'B')	2%
Sikanni Chief (Area 'B')	0%
Tsay Keh Dene Nation (Area 'B')	0%
Two Rivers (Area 'C')	0%
Upper Cache (Area 'B')	0%
Upper Halfway (Area 'B')	0%
Wonowon (Area 'B')	0%
Other	1%

17. How long have you been a resident of the Peace River Regional District?



18. Do you rent or own your primary residence?



19. What is your annual household income?



4 Frequently asked questions

4.1 Facility options and amenities

Will the existing pool close before the new facility is built?

If the new facility is built at a different location, the goal is to keep the current pool operational until the new facility is opened. There continues to be challenges with maintaining the current pool, which means some of the amenities may need to be closed. No decisions have been made related to a future facility site, but most of the proposed options would require a larger site than the existing pool.

Are there opportunities to use current indoor recreation facilities like school gyms, the fieldhouse and existing facilities for gymnastics, martial arts and other clubs?

There is limited space and availability at existing indoor recreation facilities. The existing fieldhouse is in high demand and the field is equal to about 1/3 the size of a full soccer pitch. It can only accommodate small-scale soccer games (5 players per side). Indoor gymnasiums are primarily available through agreements with the school district but are regularly booked for school activities. Most school gyms are too small or the ceilings too low for some popular sports like volleyball and basketball. In the first two rounds of community engagement (2018 and 2022), we learned that there is interest in additional indoor recreation space. That's why a multi-use facility option was developed.

What will you do with the existing pool building when a new facility is built?

No decisions have been made about the future use of the existing pool building. During the April 2024 community workshops, several ideas were suggested, including using the space for indoor recreation activities, such as a climbing wall, gymnasium, racquet courts or a library.

Have you considered renovating the existing pool rather than replacing it?

Renovating the existing pool has not been considered in depth as the goal is to provide our communities with a new facility that reflects their priorities and is built to accommodate current demand and future growth. The existing pool is at capacity and unable to meet demand for programs such as swimming lessons.

Can the facility or amenities be constructed in phases?

The idea of building an aquatic facility first and adding the recreation amenities in the future was raised during the workshops. This will be shared with the Steering Committee for the project, which includes elected officials from all four partner jurisdictions (PRRD Areas B and C, Fort St. John and Taylor). This approach would involve selecting a site that can accommodate a future expansion of the facility.

What is the projected lifespan of the proposed new facility?

The goal would be to build a facility that would serve the North Peace region for the next 50 years or more.

Why was the 50-metre pool option developed and would swim clubs contribute financially for the larger size?

After the 2022 community engagement process, a request was made to consider a 50-metre lap pool option to support provincial competitions. There are no decisions at this point related to user fees or other funding mechanisms. Swim clubs do pay a fee to use the current facility, and this would continue as part of the new facility.

Have you considered other options for the indoor recreation spaces?

April 2024 community workshop participants shared several ideas, including an indoor play structure for children instead of a dynamic movement gym, racquet courts or the ability to play ultimate Frisbee or do archery in the field house. We're interested to hear from others in the community at the open houses and through the survey to see if there is broad interest in these options.

Will the partners consider including a workout facility in the multi-purpose or gymnasium option to provide support to health and to generate revenue?

This option has been considered. The North Peace has several private workout facilities and putting a facility like this in a public building would compete with these local businesses. Largely for this reason, a workout gym has not been included for the scope of this project.

What types of activities could be held in the multi-purpose room amenity? Would any person or group be able to rent it?

The multi-purpose room could be used for a broad range of activities, ranging from hosting children's birthday parties to training sessions to fitness and workout classes. The proposed space would also include a kitchen and it would be available as a rental space for groups or individuals.

4.2 Costs and tax impacts

Why are the cost estimates for this facility so much higher than pools recently built in other communities?

Some of the key factors affecting cost of our facility are inflation and the increases in the construction market, which means buildings that are already completed are not affected by these increases. It's important to compare "apples to apples" when looking at other facilities. The size of the facility and amenities offered would need to be the same as our facility options, and the amount would need to include the same costs as our estimates, specifically project cost, contingency and soft costs (e.g., furniture, equipment, professional fees, permits, etc.). It also costs about 150% more to build in the north. We are not aware of another facility that is scheduled for construction in 2026, is the same size and amenity mix as the facility options we have developed and is located in the north.

How were the base amenities calculated? Why does the estimate jump from \$136 million to \$280 million?

Cost estimates for the three facility options were developed by a third-party quantity surveyor, whose job it is to estimate costs, material quantities and project timelines. The cost increase is based on the size of the building and mix of amenities, and there are increasing levels of amenity offerings between Option 1 and Option 3.

Who was responsible for estimating the facility options? How can we know the options are suitable for our northern environment?

A third-party expert calculated the cost estimates for the three facility options. Their role involves estimating costs, quantities of materials and project timelines. The cost increase is based on the building's size and mix of amenities. The types of amenities vary, depending on the facility option. Current options being considered include an enhanced aquatic facility with two 25-metre lap pools, an enhanced aquatics facility with a 50-metre lap pool, or a multi-use facility with an enhanced aquatic facility with two 25-metre lap pools and a mix of recreation amenities.

Can a study be done about what economic benefit could come from hosting regional swim competitions?

Yes, this could be completed, however, this has not been included for the scope of work for this project.

Has there been a cost estimate to complete existing facility repairs or refurbishment?

There has not been an estimate for renovating or refurbishing the existing facility at this time as the focus has been on developing a facility option that reflects the priorities shared by the community and is designed to address the need for expanded capacity. That said, as part of the feasibility assessment, it was noted that renovating the existing pool would be expensive due to the issues with degrading pipes that are encased in the concrete foundation.

What is the tax base and benefitting service area?

The tax base includes all property classes, including residential, commercial and industrial properties. There is no final decision yet on what the benefitting service area will be; however, for this community engagement, we are using all of PRRD Area B and Area C, Fort St. John and Taylor.

How much will the land cost? Are there any land sites/locations that have been identified?

We have not made any decisions related to the future site of the facility as it will depend on what facility option is supported and the related amount of land required. Some initial work has been done to identify what the site requirements would be, such as proximity to other amenities, amount of land needed to accommodate the facility and parking, and transportation and accessibility considerations.

Will the PRRD pursue other funding to offset the project cost and lower the impact on taxpayers, such as government grants and corporate sponsorship?

Yes, the PRRD sees this as a priority and is already looking into grants and other potential funding options. We are sharing more information about the funding being pursued at this open house.

Can Fort St. John share some of its reserves to help pay for the pool?

Under the current partnership contract between the PRRD and the City of Fort St. John, the PRRD is responsible for the construction and ownership of the North Peace Leisure Pool, and the City is the pool operator. The partnership model for the new facility is structured the same way. As the owner of the building, the PRRD is responsible for the loan and applying PRRD capital reserves for project costs to construct and eventually replace the North Peace Leisure Facility. The City of Fort St. John uses its capital reserves for funding and managing their infrastructure.

Who is the Municipal Finance Authority? Where does the money come from? What is the interest rate on the loan?

The Municipal Finance Authority (MFA) provides long-term, short-term and equipment financing, investment management and other financial services to communities and public institutions in B.C. The MFA pools the borrowing and investment needs of B.C. communities through a collective structure and provides a range of low cost and flexible financial services to clients equally, regardless of the size of the community. The money for the financing comes from the financial markets. As an example, MFA issued \$1.105 billion of long-term bonds in 2023.

The MFA is independent from the Province of British Columbia and operates under the governance of a Board of members appointed from the various Regional Districts within the province. The interest rate will depend on the timing of the loan.

Can we defer the investment in a new facility until other factors affecting affordability improve?

The current pool infrastructure is failing and delaying the project further could mean that the existing pool has to be closed before a new facility is built. The goal is to have the construction complete in time to move to the new facility before a full closure is necessary. That said, there have been suggestions from residents to build the pool first but allow space at the site to add recreation amenities in future.

What taxation model will be used? At what rate are commercial/industrial properties taxed?

No decisions have been made on what taxation model will be applied at this time. For the community engagement tax estimates, we used the Improvements Only model.

If the referendum passes, when would tax increases go into effect? How long would it take to repay the loan?

The tax increase would start soon after construction begins, and the loan would be repaid over a 30-year period. This also means that if the existing pool is able to remain open during construction, residents would be paying their current tax for operating the pool until it closes along with the tax for the new facility.

If residential taxes go up for landlords, will they be able to pass along the increase to tenants in proportion to the tax increase?

Yes, but it must adhere to the provincial regulations on rent control. The provincial government mandates that landlords can only increase rent if they provide tenants with at least three full months' notice. Rent can only be increased once every 12 months and must be within the yearly rent increase limit, as set by the Residential Tenancy Branch.

4.3 Referendum/who decides

What is the timeline for the referendum?

The timing of the referendum will be decided by the PRRD Board, which includes elected officials from electoral areas and municipalities in the region. The current direction is to move forward with a referendum in the fall of 2024.

Who gets to vote in the referendum and why?

If the project goes to referendum, all eligible voters, whether property owners or renters, who live within the defined benefitting service area will get to vote. The benefitting service area will be recommended by the project Steering Committee to the PRRD Board. The boundaries of the benefitting service area have not been determined yet.

Why do you need to hold a referendum?

The PRRD would need to borrow money to fund this project, and the B.C. provincial government requires public approval of long-term borrowing. The province also requires approval from eligible voters for all new services. This means the referendum question would be seeking approval for both the loan amount and the project itself if it involves a new service.

How does the referendum work?

The PRRD Board sets the terms of the referendum based on community engagement and other assessments. The terms would include how much is being asked to be borrowed (with interest) over how many years, a map of the benefitting service area included for taxation, and the reason for the loan. Prior to the referendum, there would be communication to provide information about the project and to notify the public about the time, place and alternative options for how to vote. If there is a majority “yes” vote, the PRRD would start the design and construction of the facility.

Do commercial/industrial property owners vote in the referendum?

No.

What if the majority votes “no” in the referendum?

The project would be paused and reassessed.

Do residents get a say in how the referendum process is structured, e.g., one referendum for all four jurisdictions vs. one referendum within each jurisdiction?

The referendum process and structure have not yet been determined.

5 Next steps

The project partners are committed to continuing engagement, transparency and open dialogue with the public. Engagement with stakeholders and public comments will be considered in project planning activities, along with economic and technical considerations. This summary report will be presented to the project Steering Committee in July 2024 to inform recommendations for the next steps.

If the project is to proceed, a referendum related to the facility loan and new services is required. If a referendum goes forward, the goal would be to hold the referendum in fall 2024. The cost and tax impact options are based on all four jurisdictions participating in the project to share the costs and benefits.

If the referendum is held and the majority of residents vote yes to secure funding, the project will proceed to design and construction. The estimated timing for completion of design, project planning and the bid process is 2025 with a projected construction start of 2026.

If one of the jurisdictions votes against the participating jurisdictions, the costs will increase significantly for the other partner jurisdictions. Should this occur, the project would be paused and reassessed.

Peace River Regional District North Peace Leisure Facility

Phase 3 Engagement Summary Report Appendices

28 June 2024

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Appendix A Workshop materials

1 Workshop presentation

A presentation was shown at the beginning of each workshop and provided key information about the project partners and team, project background information, and detailed the options and amenities and the workshop activity instructions.

North Peace Leisure Facility Replacement Project Workshop

Session #3 – Area B
Tuesday, April 16, 2024
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Who we are

Peace River Regional District

- Kevin Clarkson, General Manager of Community Services
- Roxanne Shepherd, Chief Financial Officer

Fort St. John

- Karin Carlson, Director of Community Services

Taylor

- Ryan Galay, Director of Community Services

Who we are

Subject Matter Experts

- Melissa Higgs, hcma

Facilitators

- Therese Mickelson
- Pam Ryan
- Elana Krol

Agenda

1. Current pool and challenges
2. What we have learned to date
3. Three facility options
4. Understanding the numbers
5. Table discussions
 - Q&A
 - Amenity options and costs activity
6. Results summary and next steps

Replacing the North Peace Leisure Pool

Kevin Clarkson,
 General Manager of Community Services
 Peace River Regional District

North Peace Leisure Pool

Current challenges

- Hot tub permanently closed
- Rotting pipes
- Waterslide seasonal availability
- Poor temperature regulation during winter
- Narrow lap pool lanes and insufficient deck space
- Building systems and important facility assets reaching end of life

What we have learned

General principles

- Make it bigger
- Include multi-use amenities
- Design for the climate
- Offer enhanced programming

THE TOP THREE PRIORITIES FOR AQUATICS ARE:

43%

28%

17%

WATERSLIDES & LEISURE SWIMMING

SWIMMING DEVELOPMENT/ LESSONS

SWIMMING FOR PERSONAL FITNESS

THE TOP THREE PRIORITIES FOR RECREATION ARE:

44%

17%

13%

SPACES FOR FOOD TO EAT

SPACES TO MEET FRIENDS & FAMILY

SPACES TO HANG OUT & SOCIALIZE

What we have learned – top priorities for amenities

Aquatics

- Leisure pool
- Hot tub
- Waterslide
- 25-metre lap pools

Recreation

- Dynamic movement gym
- Multi-purpose room(s)
- Gymnasium
- Fieldhouse

Addressing challenges and community priorities

Key design considerations

- Increased capacity and enhanced programming
- All-seasons facility, designed for the climate
- Multi-use amenities
- Promote water safety in remote areas
- Better position the community to attract and retain residents



Let's discuss options

OPTION 1 Enhanced Aquatic Facility


ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: \$136 million
ESTIMATED OPERATING COST: \$5.9 million/year

OPTION 3 Multi-Use Facility

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: \$280 million
ESTIMATED OPERATING COST: \$6.6 million/year

OPTION 2 Enhanced Aquatic Facility WITH 50-METRE LAP POOL

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: \$284 million
ESTIMATED OPERATING COST: \$8.8 million/year



Enhanced Aquatic Facility

OPTION 1

- Leisure pool with lazy river (warmer water)
- 6 lane, 25-metre pool with diving boards (cooler water)
- 3 lane, 25-metre pool (warmer water)
- Hot tub, steam and sauna
- Waterslide
- Meeting and training room
- Café and social space

ESTIMATED COST: \$136 million
ESTIMATED OPERATING COST: \$5.9 million/year

The estimated project costs were completed in the fall and are based on construction taking place in 2023. Operating cost estimates are based on usage starting in 2026.



Enhanced Aquatic Facility PLUS 50-Metre Lap Pool

OPTION 2

- Enhanced leisure pool with lazy river and swim lanes (warmer water)
- 10 lane, 50-metre lap pool with diving boards (cooler water)
- Hot tub, steam and sauna
- Waterslide
- Meeting and training room
- Spectator seating and timing room
- Café and social space

ESTIMATED COST: \$284 million
ESTIMATED OPERATING COST: \$8.8 million/year

The estimated project costs were completed in the fall and are based on construction taking place in 2023. Operating cost estimates are based on usage starting in 2026.



Multi-Use Facility

OPTION 3


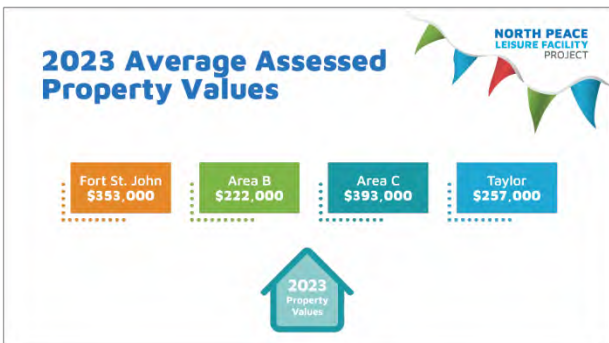
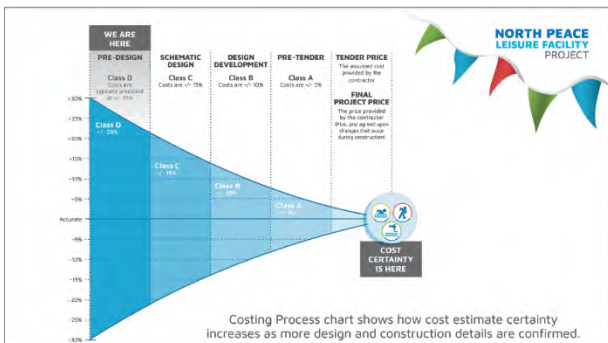
- Leisure pool with lazy river (warmer water)
- Hot tub, steam and sauna
- Waterslide
- 6 lane, 25-metre pool with diving boards (cooler water)
- 3 lane, 25-metre pool (warmer water)
- Meeting and training room
- Café and social space
- Multi-purpose rooms
- Additional indoor and social viewing spaces
- Dynamic movement gym
- Two gymnasiums
- Three indoor sports fields (one fieldhouse)

ESTIMATED COST: \$280 million
ESTIMATED OPERATING COST: \$6.6 million/year

The estimated project costs were completed in the fall and are based on construction taking place in 2023. Operating cost estimates are based on usage starting in 2026.



Understanding the Numbers

Break-out groups

Room 1 – Facilitator: Therese Mickelson

Room 2 – Facilitator: Pam Ryan

Room 3 – Facilitator: Elana Krol



Summary

Group 1 – Facilitator: Therese Mickelson

Group 2 – Facilitator: Pam Ryan

Group 3 – Facilitator: Elana Krol




Next steps

Following the April workshops, the results will be presented at upcoming open houses in May 2024 along with a community survey for additional feedback.







This project will require borrowing money


- A referendum related to the loan is required.
- The cost and tax impact options are based on all four jurisdictions participating in the project to share the costs and benefits.
- If even one jurisdiction votes against participating, the costs increase significantly for other partner jurisdictions, so the project would be paused and reassessed.



Thank you

Comments or questions: haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf

WORKSHOP VIRTUAL 1  April 13 <small>10:00 am - 12:00 pm</small> <small>VIA ZOOM</small>	WORKSHOP FORT ST. JOHN  April 15 <small>7:00 pm</small> <small>VENUE: The Festival Place 807-810 St. John St.</small>	WORKSHOP AREA B  April 16 <small>7:00 pm</small> <small>VENUE: Peace Heights Community Curling Centre 2077 250 St., Peace Hills</small>	WORKSHOP TAYLOR  April 17 <small>7:00 pm</small> <small>VENUE: Curling Club 6888 Charley Ave W, Taylor</small>	WORKSHOP AREA C  April 18 <small>7:00 pm</small> <small>VENUE: Queen's Lake Elementary School 2985 Queen's Lake Peace Hills, BC V0A 1L8</small>	WORKSHOP VIRTUAL 2  April 20 <small>10:00 am - 12:00 pm</small> <small>VIA ZOOM</small>
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1.1 Workshop video

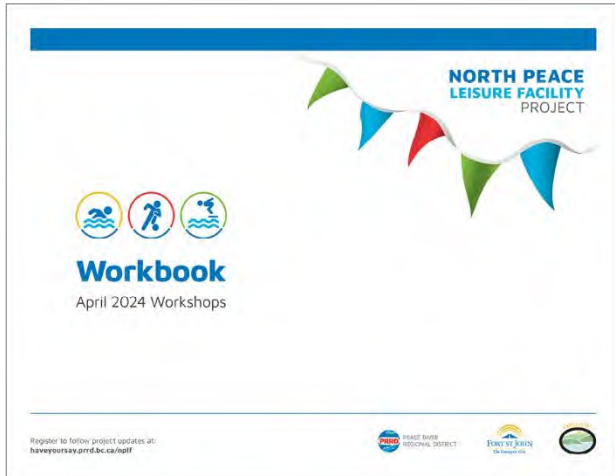
The workshop video was a recorded version of the presentation and was posted to the Have Your Say project page on May 1, 2024. Below is the YouTube link to the video.



[Workshop video on YouTube](#)

3 Workbook

The workbook provided a more in-depth summary of what was learned from the previous rounds of engagement. It was designed to support the discussions at the workshops by providing more detailed information about the facility options and amenities than what had been shared in the project newsletter. The workbook also provided directions to workshop participants on how to complete the worksheet activity in selecting their base aquatic facility, their mix of optional amenities and calculating their estimated tax impact.



NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

Workbook
April 2024 Workshops

Register to follow project updates at: haveyoursay.prd.bc.ca/hqf

HEALTH SERVICES REGIONAL DISTRICT | CITY OF FORT ST. JAMES | CITY OF TAYLOR

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North Peace Leisure Facility Replacement Project

Over the past decade, the North Peace Leisure Pool has been challenged by a variety of maintenance issues. Continual, repeated shutdowns of various pool features and the entire facility have negatively impacted community use, and related capital and operating costs continue to increase (approximately \$9 million/year).

The region served by the pool is also growing, and the existing facility no longer meets community needs. The Peace River Regional District (PRRD), City of Fort St. James and District of Taylor have partnered to determine the future of the North Peace Leisure Pool and how best to address regional aquatic and other recreational service needs going forward.

Current pool features and challenges

Although the current pool is only about 30 years old, its infrastructure is falling.

Key challenges:

- The hot tub has been permanently closed after years of trying to repair it.
- The piping that circulates the water for the pool basins is rotting.
- The waterslide can only be used during warmer weather.
- The temperature in the building is generally not warm enough in the winter.
- The lap pool lanes are too narrow, with insufficient deck space around them.
- The building systems and important facility assets are reaching end of life and are in a state of deterioration and are extremely expensive to maintain and repair.

Many of the issues with the current building are linked to the budget cuts required when the pool was in the planning and referendum stage. The loan amount for the initial design was not approved when it went to referendum. After several referendum attempts, a reduced loan amount was approved for the project. Several of the design changes had an immediate impact on the building and its amenities. As an example, the waterslide was installed on the outside of the facility to reduce the building size. This design saved money but the waterslide can only be used during warmer weather and this design compromised the use on the building, which makes it difficult to maintain a comfortable interior air temperature.

To reduce overall space, the lane widths are only 1.88 metres and the limited deck area leads to challenges in movement around the pools, teaching/coaching and for viewing and socializing.

Some of the compromises related to construction materials are contributing to current infrastructure problems. As an example, the piping used is thinner than the standard for pools and has deteriorated more quickly.

The pool facility has also been at capacity for years and cannot accommodate future growth in the service area.



Planning for a new facility

The planning for a new facility has involved feasibility assessments to determine what is needed and the preferred mix of amenity options for the partner communities.

This work involves a combination of a needs assessment, community engagement and a budget to make recommendations on how to "right-size" a facility to meet both the current aspirations and the future community needs associated with anticipated community growth and demographic shifts over time. The needs assessment aspect of this work found that the region has a high number of young families with children and a significant senior population. The communities are expected to continue to grow, and the current aquatic facility is not well designed to meet the needs of the current or future population. The feasibility assessment and review of design considerations also looked at how to address the issues and challenges experienced at the current pool.

Two rounds of community engagement were conducted in 2018 and 2022 to collect input on the preferred amenities, as well as other priorities related to non-tangible benefits to the community. After the completion of the second round of engagement, there was also a request for a 50-metre lap pool to support training and swim competitions.

What we have learned to date

Across all communities, we learned that residents support a new multi-purpose facility that includes both aquatic amenities and indoor recreation spaces.

The following is an overview of what was learned from the first round of engagement.

1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The general principles for a new facility that received broad support include:

- MAKE IT BIGGER:** Allow for a larger aquatic facility that reflects the needs of the community.
- INCLUDE MULTI-USE AMENITIES:** Provide a multi-use family-friendly facility for all ages.
- DESIGN FOR THE CLIMATE:** Address winter climate considerations to provide access to year-round natural light and indoor recreation space, with robust/durable materials and design.
- OFFER ENHANCED PROGRAMMING:** Provide additional swimming lesson capacity and longer operating hours.

2. TOP PRIORITIES FOR AQUATICS AND INDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES

THE TOP THREE PRIORITIES FOR AQUATICS ARE:

- 43% RECREATIONAL & LEISURE SWIMMING
- 28% SWIMMING DEVELOPMENT/ LESSONS
- 17% SWIMMING FOR PERSONAL FITNESS

THE TOP THREE PRIORITIES FOR RECREATION ARE:

- 44% SPACES FOR KIDS TO PLAY
- 17% SPACES TO PLAY SPORTS & FOR FUN
- 13% SPACES TO HANG OUT & SOCIALIZE

"Because of our long winters, a new pool needs to be an absolute priority for the city."
—FROM JUMP IN NORTH PLACE 2018

"Should have a multi complex where we have more than just a pool. It would be nice to get other sports back: rock climbing, squash, etc."
—FROM JUMP IN NORTH PLACE 2018

3. TOP PRIORITIES FOR AQUATICS AND RECREATION AMENITIES

The priority amenities for aquatics and indoor recreation space were also consistent across all four partner jurisdictions. The following are the top priorities shared by respondents.

THE TOP PRIORITIES FOR AQUATICS:

- Leisure pool
- Hot tub
- Waterslide
- 25-metre lap pools

THE TOP PRIORITIES FOR INDOOR RECREATION SPACES:

- Dynamic movement gym for dance, climbing, gymnastics, etc.
- Multi-purpose room(s)
- Gymnasium
- Fieldhouse

For more details on the results of the two rounds of community engagements, please view the community engagement summary reports at [honeycrispandco.ca/en/inf](https://www.honeycrispandco.ca/en/inf).

WORKBOOK | 8

Addressing challenges and community priorities

The following are some of the high-level design considerations that guided the development of the facility options being presented to the community.

- **Increased capacity and enhanced programming**
The current population for the service area is about 34,000 (2016 Census) people and it is estimated that the population will increase to about 54,250 people by 2036. The planned capacity for the facility is to accommodate 360,000 annual swims. The enhanced size and features proposed for the new facility reflect the needs for additional aquatics spaces, including regulation-sized swim lanes, and allow for simultaneous activities, additional swimming lesson capacity and indoor sports and recreation programs.
- **All-season facility, designed for the climate**
Designed to accommodate the region's climate impacts, including cold winters and hot, dry summers, to provide access to year-round natural light and warm, indoor aquatics and recreation space.
- **Multi-use amenities**
A multi-use family-friendly facility for all ages and abilities, with space for indoor sports and other recreation in addition to an enhanced aquatic facility.
- **Remote communities**
Sufficient space in the aquatics facility for leisure swimming, school programs and swimming lessons, which are essential for rural and remote areas near rivers, dugouts and other natural water sources where learning to swim is essential for life safety.
- **Better position the community to attract and retain residents**
Support broad community benefits noted during community engagement, such as overall quality of life, improving the region's ability to attract key professionals, such as medical professionals and teachers and to help increase property values.



WORKBOOK | 9



Let's discuss options

We are presenting three options with general cost and tax estimates as a starting point for discussion with residents about what you want and what costs are acceptable.

The facility options and related amenities are based on community input. Unfortunately, the estimated costs were higher than anticipated because of inflation and the construction market.

We are concerned about the cost and want to hear from you. Our goal is to find the best mix of amenities at a cost that works for all four partner jurisdictions. Then, with community support, we can pursue funding for design and construction.



WORKBOOK | 10

Facility options at a glance

1	Enhanced Aquatic Facility	2	Enhanced Aquatic Facility WITH 50-METRE LAP POOL	3	Multi-Use Facility
	ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: \$126 million ESTIMATED OPERATING COST: \$5.9 million/year		ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: \$284 million ESTIMATED OPERATING COST: \$8.8 million/year		ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: \$280 million ESTIMATED OPERATING COST: \$6.6 million/year
	Aquatic • Leisure pool with lazy river (warmer water) • Hot tub, steam and sauna • Waterslide • 6 lane 25-metre lap pool with diving boards (cooler water) • 3 lane 25-metre lap pool (warmer water) • Meeting and training room • Cafe and social space		Aquatic • Enhanced leisure pool with lazy river and swim lanes (warmer water) • Hot tub, steam and sauna • Waterslide • 10 lane 25-metre lap pool with diving boards (cooler water) • Meeting and training room • Spectator seating and dining room • Cafe and social space		Aquatic • Leisure pool with lazy river (warmer water) • Hot tub, steam and sauna • Waterslide • 6 lane 25-metre lap pool with diving boards (cooler water) • 3 lane 25-metre lap pool (warmer water) • Meeting and training room • Cafe and social space Community • Multi-purpose room(s) • Additional indoor social and viewing spaces Recreation • Dynamic movement gym (subdividable) • Two gymnasiums Fieldhouse • Three indoor sports fields (one helihouse)

*PLEASE NOTE: The cost estimates were completed last fall and are based on construction taking place in 2026. Actual cost and tax amounts will depend on final design, timing of construction, taxation model, property value and benefitting service area.

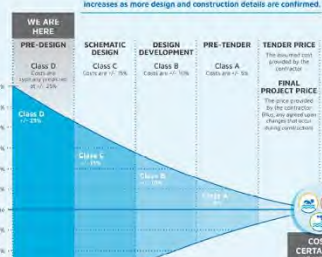
WORKBOOK | 11

Understanding the numbers

Estimated facility costs and tax impacts for each service area were completed last fall and are based on average assessed property value in each community in 2023, construction taking place in 2026 and operating costs starting in 2028.

The actual project cost and tax increases will depend on final design, timing of construction, property value, taxation model and service area. We are also exploring other funding options such as grants, borrowing or private donation/sponsorship.

It's important to note that these are rough estimates based on preliminary planning. The project cost estimates include construction cost, contingency funds and soft costs. Soft costs include the other expenses required to complete the project, such as landings, fixtures and equipment needed in the future facility. They also include professional fees, service contracts, permit fees and general project management. Once a preferred option is determined, more detailed planning will be completed, which will provide more accurate estimates to consider when making final decisions for project approval.



WORKBOOK | 12

Taxation model used for engagement

For the purposes of providing the community with a range of costs, it was decided to use the Improvements Only taxation model as it has the most balanced, equitable and lowest impact to taxpayers across the jurisdictions and lowest impact to regional residents. This includes taxing on improvements on properties only and does not account for the value of land tax on the value of the land.

This model is being applied for the community engagements; however, no decision has been made regarding the final taxation model that will be used. There are several options available to collect taxes from local service areas for the capital construction and general operations of a recreation facility. A number of these options have been evaluated by the project Steering Committee, though none formally selected. Further analysis of taxation approaches will occur once the facility components and overall project scope are finalized and agreed upon by the participating local governments, following the completion of Phase 3 Community Engagement.

Average assessed property values

The average assessed property values used to calculate the tax impacts in each jurisdiction are based on 2023 estimates.



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Estimated tax increases

The following amounts are based on 75% of the 2023 average assessed property values in each jurisdiction as an estimate for **Improvements Only** and include operating costs starting in 2026, annual debt repayment costs for the construction project and a 3% capital replacement cost.

Estimated tax increases

JURISDICTION	TAX IMPACT Annual increase	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3
Fort St. John	Estimated Total Tax	\$317	\$610	\$566
	Current Tax**	\$86	\$86	\$86
	Net Increase**	\$231	\$524	\$480
PRRD Area B	Estimated Total Tax	\$199	\$304	\$356
	Current Tax**	\$54	\$54	\$54
	Net Increase**	\$145	\$250	\$302
PRRD Area C	Estimated Total Tax	\$353	\$679	\$631
	Current Tax**	\$95	\$95	\$95
	Net Increase**	\$258	\$584	\$536
Taylor	Estimated Total Tax	\$231	\$444	\$412
	Estimated Total Increase	\$231	\$444	\$412

* This only applies to property owners in Fort St. John and Electoral Areas B and C who are already paying taxes towards operational cost of the existing North Point Leisure Pool.
** Estimated total tax minus current tax being paid.

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How to calculate tax impact

To determine the estimated tax impacts, there is a formula that applies the value of improvements (buildings) listed on the tax assessment notice and the tax rate per \$1,000 in assessed property value for each option.

Estimated tax rate per \$1,000 in assessed property value

The following table provides the estimated tax rate per \$1,000 in assessed property value used to calculate the estimated tax increase for each option.

Option	Facility Description	Estimated Tax Rate per \$1,000
1	Enhanced Aquatic Facility WITH TWO 25-METRE LAP POOLS	\$1,196.0
2	Enhanced Aquatic Facility WITH ONE 50-METRE LAP POOL	\$2,301.9
3	Multi-Use Facility WITH AQUATICS AND RECREATION SPACES	\$2,139.4

Calculate estimated tax increase

To calculate the estimated tax increase for your property, use the value of improvements (buildings) on your property assessment notice for each, divide it by 1,000 and multiply it by the tax rate.

Example: Estimated tax impact for Option 1

Value of buildings on assessment	\$276,655
Divide by 1,000	\$276.655
Multiply by estimated tax rate	\$1,196.0
Total estimated tax increase	\$330.88

WORKBOOK | 15



Share your ideas

Public input to date has helped to develop a mix of options for a new facility that reflects community priorities. Now, the project partners are asking for feedback on the options.

We're inviting residents in the four partner jurisdictions to discuss the amenity options and costs for the new facility. Our goal is to understand the best mix of amenities, balanced with cost. Your input will contribute towards the development of a final option for a new facility.

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Activity instructions

A worksheet and amenity blocks will be provided by the facilitator.

1. Select your preferred aquatic facility option

Facility with two 25-metre lap pools
Facility with one 50-metre lap pool

2. Where do you live?

Indicate on your worksheet which jurisdiction you represent.

3. Select your preferred optional amenities

Each optional amenity has a cost associated with it as shown on the amenity blocks and charts on the following pages.
Select your preferred optional amenities from the eight options.

4. Enter your assessed property value

Enter either the average assessed property value for your jurisdiction or the "Improvements Only" (Buildings) assessed value on your property assessment.

5. Calculate total estimated tax increase

When you have selected your preferred optional amenities, please notify your facilitator, who will calculate your totals for you.
The facilitator will enter the data in the spreadsheet to get your total estimated project costs, operating costs and estimated tax increase.



6. Reflect

Based on the tax increase, re-evaluate if you would like to change any of your preferred amenity options.

7. Rank your amenity priorities

We may not be able to include all amenities in the new facility. Rank your selected optional amenities in order of your priorities.

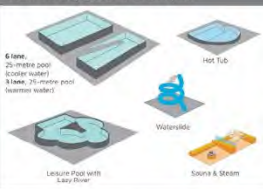
WORKBOOK | 17

Facility options: amenity space and cost overview

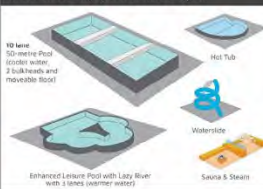
Each worksheet includes required components listed as **Base Required Spaces** and **Aquatics Requirements**, and the indoor recreational amenities are broken out into **Optional Amenities** that can be added or removed for the workshop activity.

The required components are pre-printed on the activity worksheets as they cannot be removed; however, workshop participants can select either.

Aquatic Facility with two, 25-metre lap pools (6,650 sq m)



Aquatic Facility with a 50-metre lap pool (13,500 sq m)



Amenity drawings are for illustrative purposes only and drawn to scale.

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Facility options: optional amenities

Optional Amenities

PELLE-PERFORMA ROOM Large multi-purpose room with tables and chairs. Project cost: \$6 million Operating cost: \$20,500	OPTIMAL PERFORMANCE OVR High-tech performance arena featuring wall, arena, gymnastics, and more. Project cost: \$78.5 million Operating cost: \$50,800	SOCIAL SPACES Cafeteria, lounge and gathering area. Project cost: \$20 million Operating cost: \$55,400
SYNCHRONIZATION 1 Broad area for group activities, including, martial, aerobics. Project cost: \$5 million Operating cost: \$50,000	INDOOR SPORTS FIELD 1 12 on 6 ft court soccer pitch (100 x 60 ft) Project cost: \$20.6 million Operating cost: \$41,100	

The tables on pages 20-22 provide a description of the required components included in the **Base Required Spaces**, **Base Aquatic Amenities** and the optional **Community, Recreation and Fieldhouse Amenities**.

The components listed in the tables have been contained for the purposes of this engagement activity to help understand priorities when balanced with cost. Project costs and area square metres are rough estimates and have been rounded for this engagement activity. Project cost estimates include construction cost, contingency funds and soft costs, (e.g. furnishings, fixtures, equipment and project management) and are based on construction starting in 2026. The estimated operating costs are based on scope starting in 2028.



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Aquatic facility with two, 25-metre lap pools (6,650 sq m)			
	Required Components	Estimated Project Cost	Estimated Annual Operating Cost
Base Required Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reception and lobby Staff office spaces, building support space, mechanical room, general storage Cafe and social space with seating area Public washrooms Parking 		
Base Aquatic Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 lane, 25-metre pool (cooler water) with diving boards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six, 2.5-metre wide regulation swim lanes geared towards recreation/fitness lane swimming, adult swim lessons, and training and hosting swim competitions Deeper, cooler water for fitness and recreation Generous deck space for guarding, coaching, teaching and on-deck viewing/seating, as well as space suitable for hosting regional short-course competitions 1-metre and 3-metre diving boards 3 lane, 25-metre pool (warmer water) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three, 2.5-metre wide regulation swim lanes with a separate accessible entry ramp Shallow, slightly warmer water geared towards recreational/leisure lane swimming with a focus on seniors lane swims, water walking, children's swim lessons and aqua-fit classes This lane would serve as a warm-up lane if needed for meet swim competitions Generous deck space for guarding, teaching and on-deck space for viewing lessons and spectator seating Leisure pool with lazy river <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warm water leisure pool including a lazy river Beach entry ramp 15-metre swim lanes, spray and play features for a broad range of users Hot tub, steam and sauna <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Larger hot tub (60-70 people maximum capacity) with an accessible entry ramp Sauna and steam room with a focus on socializing and health and wellness Water slide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor water slide and pool deck area around the slide Pool change rooms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully accessible pool change rooms and washrooms Pool staff support spaces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Space for pool staff (lifeguards, instructors), staff change rooms and washrooms Staff technical spaces and pool storage areas Meeting room and training room <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open to both lobby and the pool deck Accommodates a range of activities, including meetings, lifeguard training and community rentals Pool mechanical <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Space required for pool air handling and water treatment systems 	\$146M	\$5.9M (includes base)

WORKBOOK | 20

Aquatic facility with a 50-metre lap pool (13,500 sq m)			
	Required Components	Estimated Project Cost	Estimated Annual Operating Cost
Base Required Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reception and lobby Staff office spaces, building support space, mechanical room, general storage Cafe and social space with seating Public washrooms Parking 		
Base Aquatic Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 lane, 50-metre pool (cool water) with diving boards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ten, 2.5-metre wide regulation swim lanes geared towards competition training and hosting Movable floor, and two removable bulkheads to configure the pool in a variety of layouts for flexible programming (e.g., 50-metre lane swimming or 25-metre lane swimming in the deep end with aqua-fit in the shallow end) The pool would be operated at a cooler temperature for fitness and recreation/training Diving boards, including 1-metre and 3-metre springboards, and a 3-metre platform Generous deck space for guarding, coaching, teaching and on-deck viewing/seating Space suitable for hosting large-scale competitions (see spectator seating and timing rooms), no accessible entry ramp Enhanced leisure pool with lazy river and swim lanes (warmer water) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lazy river Beach entry ramp Three, 25-metre swim lanes Spray and play features for a broad range of users Hot tub, steam and sauna <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Larger hot tub (60-70 people maximum capacity) with an accessible entry ramp Sauna and steam room with a focus on socializing and health and wellness Water slide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor water slide and pool deck area around the slide Pool change rooms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully accessible change rooms and washrooms Pool staff support spaces and storage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Space for staff offices, staff change rooms and washrooms Staff technical spaces and pool storage areas Meeting room/training room <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open to both lobby and the pool deck Accommodates a range of activities, including meetings, lifeguard training and community rentals Spectator seating area and timing rooms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area and equipment required for hosting large-scale (provincial level) swim competitions including seating for spectators (750 fixed seats, 500 removable), competitors and judges, including timing booth Pool mechanical <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Space required for pool air handling and water treatment systems 	\$284M	\$8.8M

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Optional Community, Recreation and Fieldhouse Amenities			
	Optional Components	Estimated Project Cost	Estimated Annual Operating Cost
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional Social Space - seating, lounge area, and gathering (part of lobby) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff office spaces, building support space, mechanical room, general storage Smaller social and seating opportunities created through alcoves or seating areas arranged along key areas between program elements Social spaces can also provide viewing and connection into aquatic and recreation amenities Multi-Purpose Room - subdivisible for rental or classes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One large, subdivisible room with a small kitchen that accommodates a variety of activities, meetings and bookings Available for booking by the community 	\$20M	\$55,440
Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dynamic Movement Gym - subdivisible space <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports physical body movement activities like gymnastics, tumbling and physical play, climbing, dance and martial arts This space usually requires a sprung floor, variety of mats and specialized equipment to adequately support these uses Gymnasium 1 - high school basketball court size with storage, change rooms and washrooms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows for a wide range of group team sports including basketball, badminton, volleyball and fitness training Gymnasium 2 - high school basketball court size with storage, change rooms and washrooms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A second gym paired with the first gym, divisible into two separate gyms for day-to-day use The second gym allows for simultaneous uses (e.g. pickleball in one gym and basketball in the other), but it can also be combined into one large gym that allows for single court play with space for spectator seating 	\$19M	\$30,400
Fieldhouse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor Sports Field 1 - with change rooms, washrooms and storage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 180' x 80' (55m x 25m) indoor turf field (1/2 of full-sized soccer pitch) with supporting storage, change room, lobby and approximately 150 spectator seats Allows for small-scale games (5 players per side) Indoor Sports Field 2 - with change rooms, washrooms and storage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 180' x 80' (55m x 25m) indoor turf field (1/2 of full-sized soccer pitch) with supporting storage, change room, lobby and approximately 150 spectator seats When combined with Indoor Sports Field 1, this allows for two small soccer pitch games or one 18' x 88' (55m x 27m) field for larger games (7 players per side) Sports Field 3 - with change rooms, washrooms and storage Indoor Sports Field 3 - with change rooms, washrooms and storage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 180' x 80' (55m x 25m) indoor turf field (1/2 of full-sized soccer pitch) with supporting storage, change room, lobby and approximately 150 spectator seats Combined with Indoor Sports Field 1 and 2, the third field allows for three small games, one small and one medium, or can accommodate one full field soccer pitch 180' x 295' (55m x 90m) (11 players per side) and 500 total spectator seats if all three fields are built 	\$20.8M	\$141,320

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Next steps

Following the April workshops, the results will be presented at upcoming open houses in May 2024 along with a community survey for additional feedback.

This project will require borrowing money.

- This means that a referendum related to the loan is required.
- The cost and tax impact options are based on all four jurisdictions participating in the project to share the costs and benefits.
- If even one jurisdiction votes against participating, the costs increase significantly for the other partner jurisdictions, so the project would be paused and reassessed.

A workshop summary will be posted along with next steps.

To stay informed about the project, please visit haveyoursay.prd.bc.ca/nplf



Appendix B Open house materials

1 Display boards

To promote the open house dates, display boards sharing open house information were set up on May 2, 2024. One set of boards was located at the North Peace Leisure Pool and one at the Taylor Golf Club.

There were 24 display boards set up around the open house venues. They provided a project overview, summary of the April workshop engagement themes and data, and shared responses to frequently asked questions heard throughout each workshop.

NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

Welcome

Thank you for participating in this North Peace Leisure Facility open house.

The purpose of this open house is to:

- Share feedback received at the April 2024 workshops
- Respond to questions received during the project from engagement
- Gather additional input on the potential options
- Share information on next steps for the project



We welcome your input. Please respond by May 27, 2024.

- Complete a comment card
- Visit the project page and complete the community survey at haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf
- If you receive a call from Research Co. about the project, please take a moment to share your input in the survey

Learn more at haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf.



NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

Project Overview

Where we started

- The North Peace Leisure Pool is not in good condition. The Peace River Regional District (PRRD), the City of Fort St. John, and the District of Taylor are working together. They want to find the best way to meet the current and future needs for swimming and recreation in the North Peace region.
- A Steering Committee with elected officials from each of the partner jurisdictions (PRRD Areas B and C, Fort St. John and Taylor) is leading this process, and will provide recommendations for next steps.
- Preliminary work included: a feasibility study, two rounds of community engagement, initial site assessments, facility option development and high-level cost estimates.
- The proposed facility options were based on community priorities and include a mix of amenities. The estimated project costs were based on construction taking place in 2026 and include construction, contingency and soft costs (e.g., equipment, furniture, professional fees and permits).



Learn more at haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf.



NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

Project Overview

Where we're at now

We are completing a third round of community engagement to share information and discuss the facility options and cost estimates.

The goal is to find the best mix of amenities at a cost that works for residents in all four partner jurisdictions.

April 2024 community workshops were the first stage of this engagement. Workshop participants shared their feedback about the facility options, including input on project cost and tax impacts.

Participants also had the opportunity to identify what amenities they would include within their preferred cost limits.

Now it's your turn to have your say.

Workshops participation summary

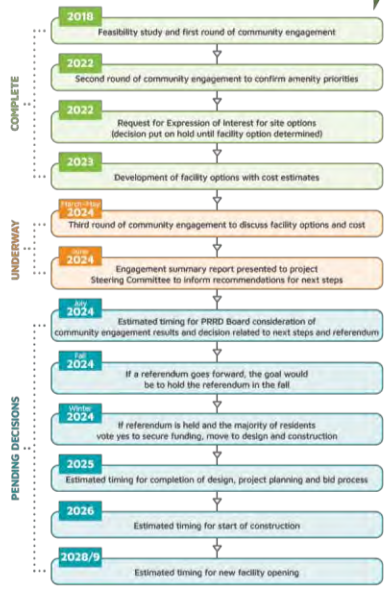
7 WORKSHOPS	4 IN-PERSON WORKSHOPS	3 VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS	195 PARTICIPANTS TOTAL	134 WORKSHEETS COMPLETED
29 COMMENT CARDS	19 HAVE YOUR SAY WEBSITE COMMENTS	13 EMAILS		

Learn more at haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf.



NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

Engagement and decision-making process



COMPLETE

- 2018 Feasibility study and first round of community engagement
- 2022 Second round of community engagement to confirm amenity priorities
- 2022 Request for Expression of Interest for site options (decision put on hold until facility option determined)
- 2023 Development of facility options with cost estimates

UNDERWAY

- 2024 Third round of community engagement to discuss facility options and cost
- 2024 Engagement summary report presented to project Steering Committee to inform recommendations for next steps

PENDING DECISIONS

- 2024 Estimated timing for PRRD Board consideration of community engagement results and decision related to next steps and referendum
- Fall 2024 If a referendum goes forward, the goal would be to hold the referendum in the fall
- Winter 2024 If referendum is held and the majority of residents vote yes to secure funding, move to design and construction
- 2025 Estimated timing for completion of design, project planning and bid process
- 2026 Estimated timing for start of construction
- 2028/9 Estimated timing for new facility opening


NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

What we learned – workshop activity summary

The following tables provide a summary of results.

The numbers shown are based on initial analysis of the data received and will be verified for the engagement summary report.

JURISDICTION	PARTICIPANTS	SUPPORT NEW FACILITY		DO NOT SUPPORT A NEW FACILITY	
		COUNT	%	COUNT	%
Fort St. John	56	48	86%	8	14%
Area B	26	16	62%	10	38%
Area C	46	26	57%	20	43%
Taylor	8	4	50%	4	50%
Summary across all jurisdiction	136	94	69%	42	31%



Learn more at haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf.

NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

What we learned – workshop activity summary

Of the participants that support a new facility:


JURISDICTION	ADULTIC FACILITY WITH TWO 25-METRE LAP POOLS	ADULTIC FACILITY WITH ONE 50-METRE LAP POOL	MULTI-USE FACILITY WITH TWO 25-METRE LAP POOLS	MULTI-USE FACILITY WITH ONE 50-METRE LAP POOL
Fort St. John	6	2	28	12
Area B	7	1	7	1
Area C	8	0	15	3
Taylor	0	0	3	1
Summary across all jurisdiction	21	3	53	17

Three participants support a multi-use facility with two 25-metre lap pools with all eight indoor recreation amenities as described in Facility Option 3.

Amenity priorities


Participants were asked to select and rank their preferred optional amenities. Below is a summary of which amenity was selected as their #1 priority.

23%
GYMNASIUM 1




23%
GYMNASIUM 1
2500 sqm gymnasium with 10 courts, 1000 seats, and 100 lockers. Project cost: \$15 million. Operating cost: \$50,000.

22%
DYNAMIC MOVEMENT gym




22%
DYNAMIC MOVEMENT gym
2500 sqm gymnasium with 10 courts, 1000 seats, and 100 lockers. Project cost: \$15 million. Operating cost: \$50,000.

13%
SPORTS FIELD 1




13%
SPORTS FIELD 1
2500 sqm sports field with 10 courts, 1000 seats, and 100 lockers. Project cost: \$15 million. Operating cost: \$50,000.

12%
MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM



12%
MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM
2500 sqm multi-purpose room with 10 courts, 1000 seats, and 100 lockers. Project cost: \$15 million. Operating cost: \$50,000.

2%
SOCIAL SPACES



2%
SOCIAL SPACES
2500 sqm social spaces with 10 courts, 1000 seats, and 100 lockers. Project cost: \$15 million. Operating cost: \$50,000.

Learn more at haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf.

NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

What we shared – estimated tax impacts

Participants were provided with estimated tax impacts for the three facility options presented.

- These tax impacts were calculated based on the buildings value (improvements only) taxation model for the purpose of this community engagement. No decision on taxation models has been made.
- The estimated tax amounts shared at the workshops were based on 2023 average assessed property value, using 75% of the total assessed value to represent the value of buildings.
- The benefiting area has not been finalized, but for this calculation, we included all properties in the partner jurisdictions, and the same tax rate for each option was applied to all jurisdictions.
- The estimated total tax includes operating cost starting in 2028, annual debt repayment costs for the construction project (amortized over 30 years) and a 3% capital replacement cost.



Learn more at haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf.

NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

Estimated tax impacts

The estimated tax increase amounts outlined below are based on 2024 average assessed property value for improvements only in each jurisdiction. They include operating cost starting in 2028, annual debt repayment costs for the construction project and a 3% capital replacement cost. Actual costs and tax increases will depend on construction timing, final design, service area, approved taxation model and assessed property value.

2024 Average Residential Assessed Property Value

Fort St. John: \$380,000	Area B: \$230,000
Area C: \$411,000	District of Taylor: \$228,000

Improvements Only Assessed Value
(Based on 75% of total average assessed value)

Fort St. John: \$285,000	Area B: \$172,500
Area C: \$308,250	District of Taylor: \$171,000

JURISDICTION	TAX IMPACT	OPTION 1 ENHANCED ADULTIC FACILITY WITH TWO 25-METRE LAP POOLS 1,200,000	OPTION 2 ENHANCED ADULTIC FACILITY WITH ONE 50-METRE LAP POOL 1,200,000	OPTION 3 MULTI-USE FACILITY WITH ENHANCED ADULTIC AMENITIES AND 25-METRE LAP POOLS 2,000,000
Fort St. John	Estimated Total Tax	\$718	\$603	\$562
	Current Tax*	\$85	\$81	\$83
	Net Increase**	\$233	\$191	\$147
PRRD Area B	Estimated Total Tax	\$209	\$191	\$169
	Current Tax*	\$56	\$56	\$56
	Net Increase**	\$183	\$140	\$113
PRRD Area C	Estimated Total Tax	\$373	\$301	\$259
	Current Tax*	\$99	\$99	\$99
	Net Increase**	\$274	\$200	\$160
District of Taylor	Estimated Total Increase	\$216	\$140	\$182

*The only applies to property owners in Fort St. John and Electoral Areas B and C who are already paying taxes towards operational cost of the existing North Peace Leisure Pool.
**Estimated total tax minus current tax being paid.

Learn more at haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf.

Estimated tax impacts cont.

NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

The following table shows the total estimated tax amount that would be paid per year for each facility option (includes debt repayment, operating costs and 3% capital replacement) broken down by each property class.

PROPERTY CLASS	PERCENTAGE OF TAX PAID TOWARD PROJECT	ANNUAL TAXES	ANNUAL TAXES	ANNUAL TAXES
		OPTION 1 ENHANCED AQUATIC FACILITY with TWO 25-METRE LAP POOLS	OPTION 2 ENHANCED AQUATIC FACILITY with 50-METRE LAP POOL	OPTION 3 MULTI-USE FACILITY with ENHANCED AQUATIC AMENITIES AND 25-METRE LAP POOLS
Residential	20.94%	\$4,098,780	\$7,773,781	\$7,244,538
Utilities	17.11%	\$3,347,524	\$6,348,943	\$5,916,703
Major Industry	16.38%	\$3,204,719	\$6,078,097	\$5,664,297
Light Industry	30.73%	\$6,013,583	\$11,405,414	\$10,628,927
Business and Other	4.75%	\$930,249	\$1,764,318	\$1,644,202
Managed Forest Land	10.05%	\$1,967,344	\$3,731,382	\$3,477,254
Recreational Non Profits	0.04%	\$7,629	\$14,470	\$13,485
Farm	0.00%	\$0	\$0	\$0
100%		\$19,968,827	\$37,116,308	\$34,589,405

No final decisions have been made regarding the benefiting service area. However, for this community engagement, the service area includes all of Fort St. John, Taylor, PRRD Area B and PRRD Area C.

Learn more at haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf.



Estimated tax impacts cont.

NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

The tax rate paid by a property owner depends on the type of use, which defines the property class. The residential rate is the base amount, and the other tax rates are based on the multiplier.

Formula: residential tax rate x multiplier = the property class tax rate

PROPERTY CLASS	MULTIPLIER	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3
		ENHANCED AQUATIC FACILITY with TWO 25-METRE LAP POOLS	ENHANCED AQUATIC FACILITY with 50-METRE LAP POOL	MULTI-USE FACILITY with ENHANCED AQUATIC AMENITIES AND 25-METRE LAP POOLS
Residential		1.2104/\$1,000	2.2957/\$1,000	2.1394/\$1,000
Utilities	3.50	4.2364/\$1,000	8.0350/\$1,000	7.4879/\$1,000
Supportive Housing	1.00	1.2104/\$1,000	2.2957/\$1,000	2.1394/\$1,000
Major Industry	3.40	4.1154/\$1,000	7.8054/\$1,000	7.2740/\$1,000
Light Industry	3.40	4.1154/\$1,000	7.8054/\$1,000	7.2740/\$1,000
Business and Other	2.45	2.9655/\$1,000	5.6245/\$1,000	5.2415/\$1,000
Managed Forest Land	3.00	3.6312/\$1,000	6.8871/\$1,000	6.4182/\$1,000
Recreational Non Profits	1.00	1.2104/\$1,000	2.2957/\$1,000	2.1394/\$1,000
Farm	1.00	1.2104/\$1,000	2.2957/\$1,000	2.1394/\$1,000

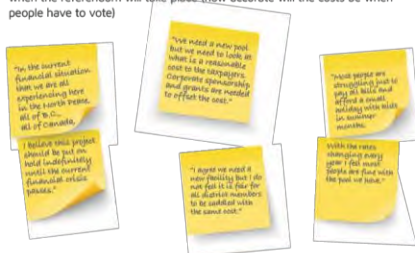
Learn more at haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf.



What we learned – costs and tax impacts

Key themes for costs:

- Concerns about cost and impact to taxpayers at a time when other factors are affecting affordability
- Strong desire to offset costs as much as possible
 - Support for grant funding, corporate sponsorships, commercial revenues
 - Suggestions to delay and/or phase implementation
- Requests for more transparency around who will pay the tax (residential, commercial, industrial, farm) and how much it will be when land cost is included
- Desire for clarity on taxation model (improvements only; graduated based on distance, etc.)
- Desire for clarity on when actual costs will be confirmed as compared to when the referendum will take place (how accurate will the costs be when people have to vote)



Learn more at haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf.



What we learned – referendum/ who decides

Key themes for referendum and decision-making:

- Concern that property owners pay but everyone can vote in the referendum (provincially mandated legislation for referendum)
- Requests for clarity on what the referendum question will be, when it will be held, and what other engagement will take place beforehand
- Concerns about whether the referendum amount will include land cost



Learn more at haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf.



FAQ

NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

Facility Options and Amenities

Q Can the facility or amenities be constructed in phases?

A The idea of building an aquatic facility first and adding the recreation amenities in future was raised during the workshops. This will be shared with the Steering Committee for the project, which includes elected officials from all four partner jurisdictions (PRRD Areas B and C, Fort St. John and Taylor). This approach would involve selecting a site that can accommodate a future expansion of the facility.

Q What is the projected lifespan of the proposed new facility?

A The goal would be to build a facility that would serve the North Peace region for the next 50 years or more.


Q Why was the 50-metre pool option developed and would swim clubs contribute financially for the larger size?

A After the 2022 community engagement process, a request was made to consider a 50-metre lap pool option to support provincial competitions. There are no decisions at this point related to user fees or other funding mechanisms. Swim clubs do pay a fee to use the current facility, and this would continue as part of the new facility.

Q Have you considered other options for the indoor recreation spaces?

A April 2024 community workshop participants shared several ideas including an indoor play structure for children instead of a dynamic movement gym, racquet courts, or the ability to play ultimate Frisbee or do archery in the field house. We're interested to hear from others in the community at the open houses and through the survey to see if there is broad interest in these options.

Learn more at haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf.



FAQ

NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

Existing Pool and Recreation Facilities

Q Will the existing pool close before the new facility is built?


A If the new facility is built at a different location, the goal is to keep the current pool operational until the new facility is opened. There continues to be challenges with maintaining the current pool, which means some of the amenities may need to be closed. No decisions have been made related to a future facility site, but most of the proposed options would require a larger site than the existing pool.

Q Are there opportunities to use current indoor recreation facilities like school gyms, the fieldhouse and existing facilities for gymnastics, martial arts and other clubs?

A There is limited space and availability at existing indoor recreation facilities. The existing fieldhouse is in high demand and the field is equal to about 1/3 the size of a full soccer pitch. It can only accommodate small-scale soccer games (5 players per side). Indoor gymnasiums are primarily available through agreements with the school district but are regularly booked for school activities. Most school gyms are too small or the ceilings too low for some popular sports like volleyball and basketball.

In the first two rounds of community engagement (2018 and 2022), we learned that there is interest in additional indoor recreation space. That's why a multi-use facility option was developed.

Learn more at haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf.



FAQ

NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

Existing Pool and Recreation Facilities cont.


Q What will you do with the existing pool building when a new facility is built?

A No decisions have been made about the future use of the existing pool building. During the April 2024 community workshops, several ideas were suggested, including using the space for indoor recreation activities, such as a climbing wall, gymnasium, racquet courts or for a library.

Q Have you considered renovating the existing pool rather than replacing it?

A Renovating the existing pool has not been considered in depth as the goal is to provide our communities with a new facility that reflects their priorities and is built to accommodate current demand and future growth. The existing pool is at capacity and unable to meet demand for programs such as swimming lessons.

Learn more at haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf.



FAQ

NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

Costs and Tax Impacts

Q Why are the cost estimates for this facility so much higher than pools recently built in other communities?


A Some of the key factors affecting cost of our facility are inflation and the increases in the construction market, which means buildings that are already completed are not affected by these increases. It's important to compare "apples to apples" when looking at other facilities. The size of the facility and amenities offered would need to be the same as our facility options, and the amount would need to include the same costs as our estimates, specifically project cost, contingency and soft costs (e.g., furniture, equipment, professional fees, permits, etc.). It also costs about 150% more to build in the north.

We are not aware of another facility that is scheduled for construction in 2026, is the same size and amenity mix as the facility options we have developed, and is located in the north.

Q Has there been a cost estimate to complete existing facility repairs or refurbishment?

A There has not been an estimate for renovating or refurbishing the existing facility at this time as the focus has been on developing a facility option that reflects the priorities shared by the community and is designed to address the need for expanded capacity. That said, as part of the feasibility assessment, it was noted that renovating the existing pool would be expensive due to the issues with degrading pipes that are encased in the concrete foundation.

Learn more at haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf.



FAQ

NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

Costs and Tax Impacts cont.

Q What is the tax base and benefitting service area?

A The tax base includes all property classes, including residential, commercial and industrial properties. There is no final decision yet on what the benefitting service area will be; however, for this community engagement, we are using all of PRRD Area B and Area C, Fort St. John and Taylor.

Q How much will the land cost? Are there any land sites/locations that have been identified?

A We have not made any decisions related to the future site of the facility as it will depend on what facility option is supported and the related amount of land required. Some initial work has been done to identify what the site requirements would be, such as proximity to other amenities, amount of land needed to accommodate the facility and parking, and transportation and accessibility considerations.

Q Will the PRRD pursue other funding to offset the project cost and lower the impact on taxpayers, such as government grants and corporate sponsorship?

A Yes, the PRRD sees this as a priority and is already looking into grants and other potential funding options. We are sharing more information about the funding being pursued at this open house.

Learn more at haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf.

FAQ

NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

Costs and Tax Impacts cont.

Q Can we defer the investment in a new facility until other factors affecting affordability improve?

A The current pool infrastructure is falling and delaying the project further could mean that the existing pool has to be closed before a new facility is built. The goal is to have the construction complete in time to move to the new facility before a full closure is necessary. That said, there have been suggestions from residents to build the pool first, but allow space at the site to add recreation amenities in future.

Q What taxation model will be used? At what rate are commercial/industrial properties taxed?

A No decisions have been on what taxation model will be applied at this time. For the community engagement tax estimates, we used the Improvements Only model. We are providing information related to the other property class tax rates at this open house.

Q If the referendum passes, when would tax increases go into effect? How long would it take to repay the loan?

A The tax increase would start soon after construction begins, and the loan would be repaid over a 30-year period. This also means that if the existing pool is able to remain open during construction, residents would be paying their current tax for operating the pool until it closes along with the tax for the new facility.

Learn more at haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf.

FAQ

NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

Referendum/ Who Decides

Q What is the timeline for the referendum?

A The timing of the referendum will be decided by the PRRD Board, which includes elected officials from electoral areas and municipalities in the region. The current direction is to move forward with a referendum in the fall of 2024.

Q Who gets to vote in the referendum and why?

A If the project goes to referendum, all eligible voters, whether property owners or renters, who live within the defined benefitting service area will get to vote. The benefitting service area will be recommended by the project Steering Committee to the PRRD Board. The boundaries of the benefitting service area have not been determined yet.

Q Why do you need to hold a referendum?

A The PRRD would need to borrow money to fund this project, and the B.C. provincial government requires public approval of long-term borrowing. The province also requires approval from eligible voters for all new services. This means the referendum question would be seeking approval for both the loan amount and the project itself if it involves a new service.

Learn more at haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf.

FAQ

NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

Referendum/ Who Decides cont.

Q How does the referendum work?

A The PRRD Board sets the terms of the referendum based on community engagement and other assessments. The terms would include how much is being asked to be borrowed (with interest), over how many years, a map of the benefitting service area included for taxation, and the reason for the loan.

Prior to the referendum, there would be communication to provide information about the project and to notify the public about the time, place and alternative options for how to vote.

If there is a majority "yes" vote, the PRRD would start the design and construction of the facility.

Q Do commercial/industrial property owners vote in the referendum?

A No.

Q What if the majority votes "no" in the referendum?

A The project would be paused and reassessed.

Learn more at haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf.

2 Feedback banners

There were nine feedback opportunities integrated into the open house. The banners were used as a “dotmocracy” to visualize attendee input. Participants were given sticker dots to place on banners to demonstrate their preferences. Each jurisdiction had its own sticker colour. The banners allowed all open house attendees to see preferences from all the jurisdictions, as well as other comments, suggestions or questions that they had about the project.

What base aquatic facility do you prefer?

Both base aquatic facilities include a leisure pool, water slide, hot tub, steam room, and a meeting/training room that can also be used for community activities like birthday parties.

One option has two, 25-metre lap pools (3 lanes with warmer water, 6 lanes with cooler water) and the other has a 50-metre lap pool (10 lanes with cooler water).

Please add **one sticker** to indicate your preference for a base aquatic facility. Fort St. John Taylor PRRD Area B PRRD Area C

<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Enhanced aquatic facility with two, 25-metre lap pools</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Enhanced aquatic facility with one 50-metre lap pool</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">I do not support a new pool/facility.</p>
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What mix of amenities and cost do you support?

Workshop participants identified a mix of preferred facility options and costs as listed below.

All of the options include an enhanced aquatic facility with a leisure pool, water slide, hot tub, steam room, sauna and meeting/training room that can be used for activities like birthday parties. There are two different options for lap pools: two, 25-metre lap pools or one, 50-metre lap pool.

Please consider the project cost you feel you can support and the number of additional recreation amenities noted in the options below.

Put **one sticker** on the facility option that best reflects your preferred mix of amenities and cost. Fort St. John Taylor PRRD Area B PRRD Area C

<div style="background-color: #0070c0; color: white; padding: 5px; font-size: x-small; margin-bottom: 5px;">Aquatics only facility with two, 25-metre lap pools</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; font-size: x-small; margin-bottom: 5px;">\$ Range</div> <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px; font-size: x-small; margin-bottom: 5px;">\$136 million</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 50px;"></div>	<div style="background-color: #0070c0; color: white; padding: 5px; font-size: x-small; margin-bottom: 5px;">Multi-use facility with two, 25-metre lap pools and 3-4 recreation amenities</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; font-size: x-small; margin-bottom: 5px;">\$ Range</div> <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px; font-size: x-small; margin-bottom: 5px;">\$216 million</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 50px;"></div>	<div style="background-color: #70ad47; color: white; padding: 5px; font-size: x-small; margin-bottom: 5px;">Multi-use facility with two, 25-metre lap pools and 8 recreation amenities</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; font-size: x-small; margin-bottom: 5px;">\$ Range</div> <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px; font-size: x-small; margin-bottom: 5px;">\$280 million</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 50px;"></div>	<div style="background-color: #e69d00; color: white; padding: 5px; font-size: x-small; margin-bottom: 5px;">Aquatics only facility with one, 50-metre lap pool</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; font-size: x-small; margin-bottom: 5px;">\$ Range</div> <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px; font-size: x-small; margin-bottom: 5px;">\$284 million</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 50px;"></div>
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I do not support a new pool/facility.



What are your top three priorities for indoor recreation amenities at a new facility?

Workshop participants suggested options for a multi-use facility with three to four recreation amenities rather than the eight recreation amenities listed below that are included in Option 3. If you could only have **three** indoor recreation amenities at a new facility, what would they be?
Please use up to **three stickers** to indicate your priorities for the listed amenities. Fort St. John Taylor PRRD Area B PRRD Area C

Multi-purpose room with a kitchen for general uses like birthday parties	More social space to relax/hang out	Gymnasium 1 for team sports like basketball, volleyball, pickleball	Gymnasium 2 for team sports like basketball, volleyball, pickleball	I just want an aquatic facility—no additional indoor recreation amenities
Dynamic movement gym for activities like gymnastics, martial arts, dance and similar activities, plus a small climbing wall	One sports field (equal to 1/3 size of a soccer pitch, used for small-scale games of 5 players per side)	Two sports fields (equal to 2/3 of a soccer pitch, used for medium-scale games of 7 players per side)	Three sports fields (equal to a full-sized soccer pitch)	
I do not support a new pool/facility.				



What does indoor play mean to you?

In the first two rounds of community engagement, we heard that indoor play areas were important, but we want to understand what you would like to see for indoor play spaces.
Please use up to **two stickers** to mark the indoor play amenities that you consider most important. Fort St. John Taylor PRRD Area B PRRD Area C

Indoor play structure	Dynamic movement gym for activities like gymnastics, martial arts, dance, etc.	Other ideas: Add a sticky note
Multi-purpose room with kitchen	Gymnasium for team sports like basketball, volleyball, pickleball	

Do you have any other questions or comments about the facility options and amenities?

Add a sticky note



Feedback What is an acceptable tax increase?

Add one sticker to indicate what you feel is an acceptable tax increase. Fort St. John Taylor PRRD Area B PRRD Area C



\$30-40/month	\$50-60/month	\$70-80/month	\$80-90/month	\$90-100/month

I do not support a new pool/facility.

Do you have any other questions or comments about costs and tax impacts?

Add a sticky note



Do you have any other questions or comments about the referendum/who decides?

Add a sticky note



The PRRD is exploring grant funding and is also interested in pursuing other funding to offset costs to lessen the financial burden on taxpayers for this project.

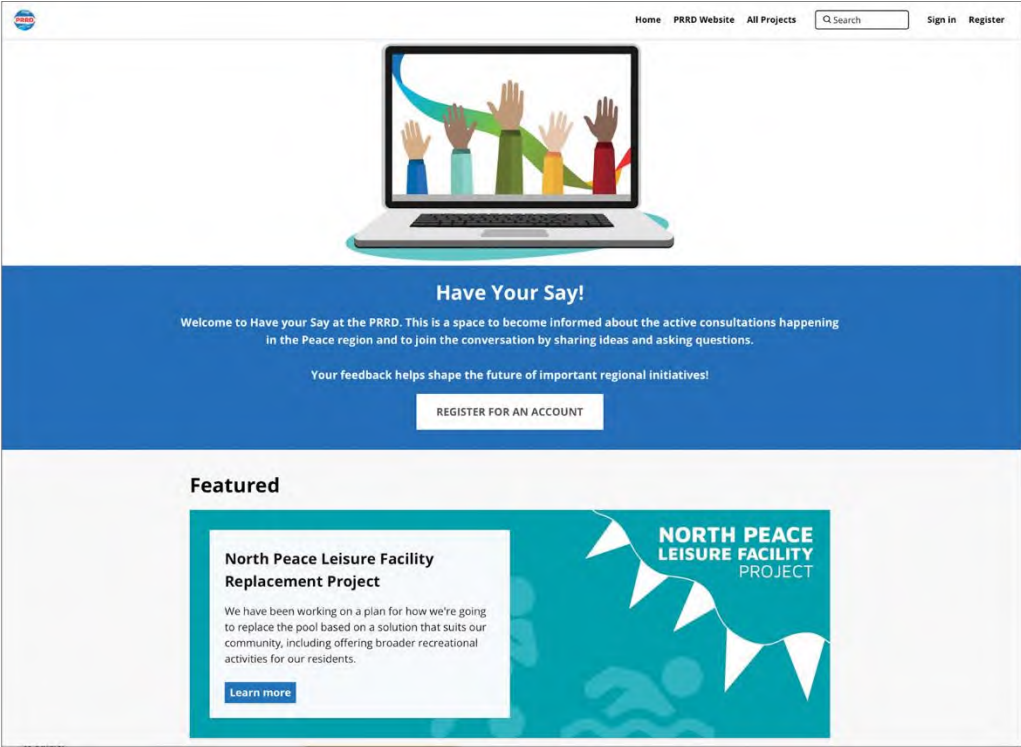
Place **one sticker next to each option** you support, and share your ideas for other funding options using a sticky note.

<p>Corporate sponsorships – general contributions</p>	<p>Corporate sponsorships – naming rights for the new facility</p>	<p>Other ideas: Add a sticky note</p>
<p>Private sponsorships – general contributions</p>	<p>Other partnerships to share the cost</p>	

Appendix C Websites

1 Have Your Say website

Peace River Regional District’s online engagement portal Have Your Say (haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf) launched for this phase of engagement on March 26, 2024. Materials were added to the ‘Project Document’ folder of the page as they became available. Between March 26 and April 26, 2024, the project page received approximately 2,000 visits and 141 documents were downloaded. Between April 27 and May 27, there were approximately 1,300 visits.



Let's talk facility options and cost.

NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

Home / North Peace Leisure Facility Replacement Project

About the Project



22 Mar 2024

The Peace River Regional District (PRRD), City of Fort St. John and District of Taylor have partnered to determine the future of the North Peace Leisure Pool and how best to address regional aquatic and other recreational service needs going forward. The pool has served our region for generations. It provides fun, recreational activities for all ages. Generally, the pool hosts more than 100,000 individual visits annually, primarily from Fort St. John, Taylor and the neighbouring PRRD communities (Electoral Areas B and C). That's about 3.5 visits for every resident in the North Peace region.

Over the past decade, the North Peace Leisure Pool has been plagued with a variety of maintenance issues. Continual, repeated shutdowns of various pool features and shutdowns of the entire facility have negatively impacted community use of the pool. Ongoing capital and operating costs continue to increase due to these problems. We are also a growing community and the pool is no longer able to meet emerging community needs.

Working together, the four partners have started a planning process that included asking residents what they want in a new facility, and we have used this input to develop a mix of options for a new facility that reflect community priorities.

To date, there have been two rounds of community engagement to help determine the types of amenities residents in the partner jurisdictions want to see at a new facility. Results of the engagement were consistent across all participating communities. We heard strong support for a multi-use facility featuring both aquatic amenities and indoor recreation spaces. The following is an overview of some of the combined input from residents.

THE TOP THREE PRIORITIES FOR AQUATICS ARE:



THE TOP THREE PRIORITIES FOR RECREATION ARE:



For more information on previous engagements, please refer to the public engagement reports available in the sidebar.

Project Timeline

- 2018: Public engagement - define vision
- 2019-2021: Project paused due to pandemic
- 2022: Public engagement - amenity priorities
- 2023: Feasibility study to develop options and assess costs completed and presented to project partners
- 2024: Public engagement - input on best mix of amenities and cost

- 2024 March Newsletter (559 KB) (pdf)
- 2024 Workshop Display Boards (1.55 MB) (pdf)
- 2024 Workbook (5,77 MB) (pdf)
- May 2024 Open House Display Boards.pdf (2,14 MB) (pdf)

Videos



Project Partners

The PRRD (Areas B and Area C), City of Fort St. John and District of Taylor are working together to explore options for a new or renovated facility to serve the North Peace region.



STAY INFORMED

Subscribe for project updates

Your email address...

SUBSCRIBE

17 members of your community are following this project

Let's talk facility options and cost.

NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

Home / North Peace Leisure Facility Replacement Project

North Peace Leisure Facility Replacement Project



The North Peace Leisure Pool is aging and its infrastructure is failing, resulting in service interruptions and other impacts on pool users. We have been working on a plan for how we're going to replace the pool based on a solution that suits our community, including offering broader recreational activities for our residents.

Developing Facility Options and Cost Estimates

The PRRD held workshops in April to share what was learned from the first two rounds of community engagement held in 2018 and 2022, present facility options that were developed based on community priorities and discuss related amenities, costs and tax impacts. We also completed an activity to learn more about amenity priorities balanced with cost.

The three facility options presented included two aquatics only options, and one multi-use option that features aquatics and indoor amenities. The estimated costs were higher than anticipated, and we are now working with residents to gain insight into what cost would be acceptable and what amenity mix would be the most important within that budget. For more details about the project, facility options developed based on the initial community input in 2018 and 2022, and estimated project cost and tax impacts, please see [Facility Options](#).

Residents in the four partner jurisdictions (PRRD Area B and C, Fort St. John and Taylor) asked lots of great questions and shared their input on the facility options and cost for the North Peace Leisure Facility Project. The next step is to present what we learned from the workshops and collect additional feedback at open houses and through a community survey. Your input in this community engagement will contribute towards the development of a final option for a new facility.

Questions? You can reach out using the [Questions](#) tab below.

OPEN HOUSES & COMMUNITY SURVEY

We want to hear from you.

We're inviting residents in the four partner jurisdictions to join us at open houses that will be taking place in May and share your input on the community survey.

We're looking for your feedback on:

- Project cost and tax impacts
- Priorities for amenities balanced with cost
- Level of support for the project and potential options

Attend an open house

Come out to ask questions of the project team and provide your feedback on the ideas and input shared during the April workshops. The open houses are from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. You can drop by at any time during the open house and stay as long as you like. All open houses will have the same content, and no registration is required.

The [May 2024 Open House Display Boards](#) are posted under [Project Documents](#).

May 21, 2024 Zoom link: [Virtual Open House](#)

Fort St. John Area B	Area B	Taylor Area C	Area C	Virtual
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Pomeroy Sport Centre Olympic Speed Skating Oval 214 F300 Fort St. John May 15, 2024	5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Montney Hall 12501 25th Rd. Montney May 14, 2024	5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Taylor Community Hall White Cherry Ave. Wren, Taylor May 13, 2024	5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Charlie Lake Elementary School 5205 Charlie Lake Fort St. John May 16, 2024	5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - via ZOOM May 21, 2024

Complete the survey

Starting May 6, 2024, we will be conducting a survey by phone and online to collect additional feedback. If you receive a phone call from Research Co asking for your input about the North Peace Leisure Facility project, please take a few minutes to complete this statistically valid survey of community views.

Community Survey Link: [North Peace Leisure Facility Project Community Survey](#)

Please complete the survey by **May 27, 2024**.

Community Survey

[Click here to take the survey!](#)

Who's Listening

Kevitt Clarkson

General Manager of Community Services
Peace River Regional District



Phone 250-784-3200

Email kevin.clarkson@prrd.bc.ca

Bryna Casey

Community Services Manager
Peace River Regional District



Phone 250-784-3200

Email bryna.casey@prrd.bc.ca

Key Dates

[Community Phone and Online Survey Underway](#)
May 08 - May 27 2024

[Fort St. John Open House - Pomeroy Sport Centre Olympic Speed Skating Oval](#)
May 15 2024

[Area B Open House - Montney Hall](#)
May 14 2024

[Taylor Open House - Taylor Community Hall](#)
May 13 2024

[Area C Open House - Charlie Lake Elementary School](#)
May 16 2024

[Virtual Open House - via Zoom](#)
May 21 2024

Project Documents

[2018 Community Engagement Summary Report](#)

[2022 Community Engagement Summary Report \(19.6 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)

[About the Project](#)

[Facility Options](#)

[FAQ](#)

[Submit Questions](#)

Let's talk facility options and cost.

NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

Home / North Peace Leisure Facility Replacement Project

Proposed Facility Options

almost 2 years ago

10 Responses



You need to be signed in to add your comment.

SIGN IN

REGISTER

Thanks to the input from residents in the PRRD Areas B and C, Fort St. John and Taylor, we have a list of priority amenities for a new North Peace Leisure Facility. For more information about what was learned, please refer to the 2018 Community Engagement Summary Report and 2022 Community Engagement Summary Report, available under Project Documents.

We used these priorities to develop four options for a new facility and then looked into the cost. The options reflect what we heard from the community through two rounds of public input, which indicated broad support for a new multi-purpose aquatics and recreation centre. The options also reflect the City of Fort St. John's long-term recreation master plan, which was developed in consultation with the PRRD and District of Taylor.

Unfortunately, the costs were a lot higher than anticipated due to inflation and the construction market. We ruled out one option immediately, and we are taking the other three options forward to our communities for input. Before deciding how to move forward, we feel it is important to share with you what we've learned and invite input on what cost would be acceptable to our communities along with the preferred amenities that we can afford.

Depending on the amenities offered, the project cost estimates range from \$136 million up to \$284 million, for construction and other project costs. It's important to note that these are rough estimates. The actual costs will depend on the mix of amenities, the timing of construction and other factors.

We are concerned about how much the project would cost and the impacts on taxpayers. While we are exploring other funding options such as grants, we need to make sure the amount is acceptable to residents if we don't get other funding.

Our goal is to finalize an option and cost for the facility that works for residents so we can secure funding and move to design and construction.

Three Facility Options

The three facility options and related project cost and tax estimates can be found below.

- Two of the options are for an enhanced and expanded aquatics centre (one with a 50-metre lap pool)
- The third option is multi-use facility with an enhanced aquatics centre with additional recreational amenities, including two gymnasiums, an indoor sports field and other spaces.
- A fourth option for a multi-use facility and 50-metre lap pool was assessed, but the estimated cost was \$419 million so it was removed from consideration.

A detailed breakdown of all three options and related project cost and tax estimates can be found below.

PLEASE NOTE: The cost estimates were completed last fall and are based on construction taking place in 2026. The tax increase amounts are based on average assessed property values in each jurisdiction and include operating cost starting in 2028, annual debt repayment costs for the construction project and a 3% capital replacement cost.

The actual project cost and tax amounts will depend on final design, timing of construction, property value, taxation model and service area.

1	Enhanced Aquatic Facility	2	Enhanced Aquatic Facility (1.1L 50 METRES LAP POOL)	3	Multi-Use Facility
ESTIMATED PROJECT COST	\$136 million	ESTIMATED PROJECT COST	\$284 million	ESTIMATED PROJECT COST	\$240 million
ESTIMATED OPERATING COST	\$5.9 million/year	ESTIMATED OPERATING COST	\$8.8 million/year	ESTIMATED OPERATING COST	\$6.6 million/year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leisure pool • Hot pool • Steam and sauna • Waterslide • Indoor social space • Multi-purpose room • Two 25-metre lap pools (3 lanes warmer water, 6 lanes cooler water) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leisure pool • Hot pool • Steam and sauna • Waterslide • Indoor social space • Multi-purpose room • One 50-metre lap pool (10 lanes cooler water) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leisure pool • Hot pool • Steam and sauna • Waterslide • Indoor social space • Multi-purpose room • Sports field • Two gymnasiums • Two 25-metre lap pools (3 lanes warmer water, 6 lanes cooler water) 			

2024 Workshop Display Boards (1.55 MB) (pdf)

2024 Workbook (5.77 MB) (pdf)

May 2024 Open House Display Boards.pdf (2.14 MB) (pdf)

Videos

Replacing the North Peace Leisure Pool

Kevin Clarkson, General Manager (Community Services, Peace River Regional District)

Project Partners

The PRRD (Areas B and Area C), City of Fort St. John and District of Taylor are working together to explore options for a new or renovated facility to serve the North Peace region.



STAY INFORMED

Subscribe for project updates

Your email address:

SUBSCRIBE

17 members of your community are following this project.

2 PRRD.bc.ca news posts

Peace River Regional District featured four news stories on their website related to the project engagement between March and May.

- March 26, 2024 - [Hard choices needed on proposed North Peace Leisure Facility](#)
- April 19, 2024 - [Additional virtual workshop added for North Peace Leisure Facility project](#)
- May 1, 2024 - [Open Houses & Community Survey for North Peace Leisure Facility Project](#)
- May 7, 2024 - [Further input sought on proposed North Peace Leisure Facility](#)

PRRD hosting workshops in April to discuss ways to balance amenity priorities and cost for future North Peace Leisure Facility
March 26, 2024

A new multi-use aquatic and recreational facility is being considered to replace the existing North Peace Leisure Pool. Using input from public consultations, we created several options for a new facility and developed cost estimates. We would like to discuss these options with residents in the four partner jurisdictions: Peace River Regional District (PRRD), Area B and C, Fort St. John and Taylor.

Each option includes a mix of different amenities and the estimated project costs range from \$136 million to \$284 million. **These costs were higher than anticipated, and we're concerned about the impact on taxpayers.**

We are hosting residents in the partner jurisdictions to participate in upcoming hour-long workshops to work with us to help find the right balance between cost and potential amenities at a new facility.

Register for Workshops

To make it more convenient for residents, we're hosting discussion workshops in each of the partner jurisdictions and our virtual workshops on Zoom. They're welcome to register for the workshops that work best for your schedule, regardless of location. For more information about the project, estimated costs and workshop schedule, visit [hopenorthpeace.ca](#).

To register for a workshop, visit [hopenorthpeace.ca](#).

Book at Blackfoot
Reserve a site at Blackfoot Regional Park through Let's Camp.

Grant Writer Services
Receive grant writing support and learn about upcoming grant opportunities in the Peace region.

Emergency & Public Alerts
Sign up for North East BC Emergency and Public Alerts. If we can reach you, we can help you.

Get Out and Vote
View upcoming voting opportunities.

Have Your Say!
Engage with active consultations happening in the Peace region.

Tenders/RFPs/EOI
View current government opportunities.

Additional virtual workshop added for North Peace Leisure Facility project
April 19, 2024

EMERGENCY AND PUBLIC ALERTS

A new Zoom option has been added to the virtual workshop taking place this Thursday, April 25 from 7-9pm. To register, visit [hopenorthpeace.ca](#).

Book at Blackfoot
Reserve a site at Blackfoot Regional Park through Let's Camp.

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Have Your Say!
Engage with active consultations happening in the Peace region.

Tenders/RFPs/EOI
View current government opportunities.

Open Houses & Community Survey for North Peace Leisure Facility Project
May 1, 2024

The PRRD and its partners, the City of Fort St. John and District of Taylor, will be hosting open houses and surveys to provide more opportunities for feedback on the North Peace Leisure Facility Project.

We had great questions and input from residents about the options and cost for the North Peace Leisure Facility during workshops held in April. The next step is to share what we learned and collect more community feedback at a series of open houses and through a community survey.

We want to hear from you

- Project cost and tax impacts
- Priorities for amenities balanced with cost
- Level of support for the project and potential options

Attend an open house

Come out to ask questions of the project team and provide your feedback on the plans and report shared during the April workshops. All open houses will have the same content, and no registration is required.

Complete the survey

Starting May 6, we will be conducting a survey by phone and online to collect additional feedback. It is a private phone call from Research Co asking for your input about the North Peace Leisure Facility project. Please take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire, and we'll be in touch with you.

The survey will also be posted at [hopenorthpeace.ca](#).

Please complete the survey by May 27, 2024.

Book at Blackfoot
Reserve a site at Blackfoot Regional Park through Let's Camp.

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View upcoming voting opportunities.

Have Your Say!
Engage with active consultations happening in the Peace region.

Tenders/RFPs/EOI
View current government opportunities.

Further input sought on proposed North Peace Leisure Facility
May 7, 2024

For 18 years, Area residents will have more opportunities to provide input on the proposed North Peace Leisure Facility through a series of public open houses, phone calls and online surveys in May.

The Peace River Regional District (PRRD), City of Fort St. John and District of Taylor have been developing for a proposed new facility to replace the aging North Peace Leisure Pool. These options are currently under consideration and were presented to residents for initial feedback at seven online and in-person workshops in April.

Twenty 200 area residents shared their thoughts on design options and costs for a new aquatic and recreational facility during the April workshops. "We heard there's a lot of interest about the costs and need more information and opportunities to discuss the potential mix of amenities at the new facility, the costs and priority for amenities. The open houses and surveys will provide an opportunity to drill down on the details that matter most, and information that can be used to help properly assess whether the proposed facility is the right project for the region," said PRRD Chair, Cheryl Ann West.

The phone and online survey open house will be held around the region from May 13 to 16, with an online open house set for May 21. No registration is required, and participants can bring in their feedback at their choosing at any time. All workshops will take place from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The open house dates and locations are:

- **Monday May 13** - Ramsey Sport Centre Olympic Speed Skating Oval, 2nd Floor, 5524 16 St., Fort St. John
- **Tuesday May 14** - Hiverton Hall 12407 256 St., Hiverton
- **Wednesday May 15** - Taylor Community Hall 8888 Cheryl Ann West, Taylor

Book at Blackfoot
Reserve a site at Blackfoot Regional Park through Let's Camp.

Grant Writer Services
Receive grant writing support and learn about upcoming grant opportunities in the Peace region.

Emergency & Public Alerts
Sign up for North East BC Emergency and Public Alerts. If we can reach you, we can help you.

Get Out and Vote
View upcoming voting opportunities.

Have Your Say!
Engage with active consultations happening in the Peace region.

Tenders/RFPs/EOI
View current government opportunities.

3 Taylor Talks page

Online information was made available on the District of Taylor's website, announcing the launch of the project engagement and encouraging participation in the workshops. PRRD contact information was also shared on the page.

talk.districtoftaylor.com/engagement-item/nplp-options-and-cost/

The screenshot shows the 'About' page of a website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a search icon, 'HOME', 'CURRENT ENGAGEMENTS', 'ARCHIVED ENGAGEMENTS', and social media icons for Facebook and Twitter. Below the navigation is a large blue banner with the text 'pick the best option at the North Peace Leisure Facility Options and Cost'. Underneath the banner are three tabs: 'About', 'Get Involved', and 'What We Heard', with 'About' selected. The main content area is titled 'About' and contains the following text: 'Let's talk about facility options and cost', 'PRRD hosting workshops in April to discuss ways to balance amenity priorities and cost for future North Peace Leisure facility', 'A new multi-use aquatic and recreational facility is being considered to replace the existing North Peace Leisure Pool. Using input shared by our communities, we created several options for a new facility and developed cost estimates. We would like to discuss these options with residents in the four partner jurisdictions: Peace River Regional District (PRRD), Area Board C, Fort St. John, and Taylor.', 'Each option includes a mix of different amenities and the estimated project costs range from \$136 million to \$284 million. **These costs were higher than anticipated, and we're concerned about the impact on taxpayers.**', and 'We are inviting residents in the partner jurisdictions to participate in upcoming two-hour workshops to work with us to help find the right balance between cost and preferred amenities at a new facility.' On the right side, there is a 'Contact' section with the following information: 'District of Taylor', 'PRRD @talk.districtoftaylor.com', 'Kevin Clarkson, General Manager of Community Services for PRRD', 'Phone: 781-954-3200', and 'Email: kevin.clarkson@talk.districtoftaylor.com'. Below the contact section are buttons for 'Map' and 'Related Links'.

The screenshot shows the 'Get Involved' page of the same website. The layout is identical to the 'About' page, but the 'Get Involved' tab is selected. The main content area is titled 'Get Involved' and contains the following text: 'Register for Workshops', 'To make it more convenient for residents, we're holding in-person workshops in each of the partner jurisdictions and two virtual workshops via zoom.', 'We'd welcome you to register for the workshop that works best for your schedule, regardless of location. For more information about the project, estimated costs and workshop schedule, visit haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplp/.', and 'To register for a workshop, visit prrd.eventbrite.com.' The 'Contact' section on the right is also present, with the same information as in the 'About' page, but the email address is 'kevin.clarkson@prrd.bc.ca'.

Appendix D Notifications

1 Workshop display boards

To promote the workshop and to provide information to the community, 10 display boards sharing workshop information and preliminary information about the pool facility options and amenities were set up on April 10, 2024, at the North Peace Leisure Pool and at the Taylor Golf Club.

NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

Share your feedback on North Peace Leisure Pool Replacement Options

Over the past decade, the North Peace Leisure Pool has been challenged by a variety of maintenance issues. Continual, repeated shutdowns of various pool features and the entire facility have negatively impacted community use, and related capital and operating costs continue to increase.

We are also a growing community, and the pool no longer meets community needs.

Public input to date has helped to develop a mix of options for a new facility that reflect community priorities. Now, the project partners are asking for feedback on the options.

Did you know?

The new facility would be funded in part by property taxpayers in Peace River Regional District (PRRD) Areas B and C, the City of Fort St. John and District of Taylor.	The District of Taylor has joined with the PRRD and the City in the planning process for the proposed North Peace Leisure Facility.	The North Peace Leisure Pool is owned by the PRRD and operated by the City of Fort St. John.
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Stay informed: haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf

PRRD PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT FORT ST. JOHN DISTRICT OF TAYLOR

NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

What We Have Learned to Date

The PRRD completed two rounds of community engagement to learn about the types of amenities residents in the four partner jurisdictions want to see at a new facility. We learned that residents support a new multi-purpose facility that includes both aquatic amenities and indoor recreation spaces.

There was also a request for a 50-metre lap pool to support training and competitions.




Stay informed: haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf

PRRD PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT FORT ST. JOHN DISTRICT OF TAYLOR

NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

The following is an overview of some of the combined input from residents.

The top three priorities for aquatics are:

43% RECREATIONAL & LEISURE SWIMMING	28% SWIMMING DEVELOPMENT/ LESSONS	17% SWIMMING FOR PERSONAL FITNESS
-------------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

The top three priorities for recreation are:

44% SPACES FOR KIDS TO PLAY	17% SPACES TO PLAY SPORTS & FOR FUN	13% SPACES TO HANG OUT & SOCIALIZE
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For more details on the results of the two rounds of community engagements, please view the community engagement summary reports at haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf.

Stay informed: haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf

PRRD PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT FORT ST. JOHN DISTRICT OF TAYLOR

NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

Choosing What We Want and What We Can Afford

We used community input to create different facility options that include a mix of amenities. Estimated costs were a lot higher than we anticipated because of inflation and the construction market.

We are concerned about the cost and want to hear from you about what costs are acceptable and what amenities we can afford.

Our goal is to find the best mix of amenities at a cost that works for all four partner jurisdictions. Then, with community support, we can pursue funding for design and construction.




Stay informed: haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf

PRRD PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT FORT ST. JOHN DISTRICT OF TAYLOR

Enhanced Aquatic Facility

OPTION
1

- Leisure pool
- Hot pool
- Steam and sauna
- Waterslide
- Multi-purpose room
- Indoor social space
- Two 25-metre lap pools
(3 lanes warmer water, 6 lanes cooler water)



***ESTIMATED COST:**
\$136 million

ESTIMATED OPERATING COST:
\$5.9 million/year

*The estimated project costs were completed in the fall and are based on construction taking place in 2020. Operating cost estimates are based on usage starting in 2026.

Enhanced Aquatic Facility PLUS 50-Metre Lap Pool

OPTION
2

- Leisure pool
- Hot pool
- Steam and sauna
- Waterslide
- Multi-purpose room
- Indoor social space
- One 50-metre lap pool
(10 lanes cooler water)



***ESTIMATED COST:**
\$284 million

ESTIMATED OPERATING COST:
\$8.8 million/year

*The estimated project costs were completed in the fall and are based on construction taking place in 2020. Operating cost estimates are based on usage starting in 2026.

Multi-Use Facility

OPTION
3


- Leisure pool
- Hot pool
- Steam and sauna
- Waterslide
- Indoor social space
- Multi-purpose room
- Sports field
- Two gymnasiums
- Two 25-metre lap pools
(3 lanes warmer water, 6 lanes cooler water)



***ESTIMATED COST:**
\$280 million

ESTIMATED OPERATING COST:
\$6.6 million/year

*The estimated project costs were completed in the fall and are based on construction taking place in 2020. Operating cost estimates are based on usage starting in 2026.



NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

Understanding the Tax Impacts

Project costs are rough estimates, and they include construction costs, contingency funds and soft costs.

The tax impacts for each service area are based on cost estimates and average assessed property value in each community. Actual costs and tax increases will depend on construction timing, final design, service area and property value.

We are also exploring other funding options such as grants.

Estimated tax increases				
The amounts are based on average assessed property values in each jurisdiction and include operating cost starting in 2026, annual ARB replacement costs for the construction project and a 3% capital replacement cost.				
JURISDICTION	TAX IMPACT	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3
Fort St. John	Estimated Total Tax	\$371	\$420	\$566
	Current Tax*	\$268	\$265	\$266
	Tax Increase†	\$103	\$155	\$300
PRRD Area B	Estimated Total Tax	\$199	\$189	\$195
	Current Tax*	\$154	\$154	\$154
	Tax Increase†	\$45	\$35	\$41
PRRD Area C	Estimated Total Tax	\$101	\$79	\$61
	Current Tax*	\$95	\$91	\$90
	Tax Increase†	\$6	\$12	\$11
Taylor	Estimated Total Increase	\$154	\$142	\$152

*This only applies to property owners in Fort St. John and Operational Areas B and C who are already paying taxes towards operational costs of the existing North Peace Leisure Pool.
†Estimated total tax minus current tax being paid.

Stay informed
development@prrd.bc.ca

PEACE RIVER
REGIONAL DISTRICT

FORT ST. JOHN
MUNICIPALITY

VERNON
MUNICIPALITY



Share Your Ideas

The PRRD and its partners are concerned about the project cost, so we're holding workshops to discuss facility options and cost.

Working together, our goal is to find the best mix of amenities balanced with cost. Your input will contribute towards the development of a final option for a new facility.

Please sign up for the one that works best with your schedule.

WORKSHOP VIRTUAL 1

Time: 1-3 pm
Venue: Via Zoom

WORKSHOP FORT ST. JOHN

Time: 7-8 pm
Venue: Festival Plaza
9523 500 St., Fort St. John

WORKSHOP AREA B

Time: 7-8 pm
Venue: Blue Prince Community Curling Centre
7077 280 Rd., Blue Prince

WORKSHOP TAYLOR

Time: 7-8 pm
Venue: Curling Club
3888 Cherry Ave. W., Taylor

WORKSHOP AREA C

Time: 7-8 pm
Venue: Charles Lake Elementary School
2260 Charles Lake
Fraserage St., Charles Lake

WORKSHOP VIRTUAL 2

Time: 10 am-12 pm
Venue: Via Zoom

To register for workshops, visit prrd.eventbrite.com

Stay informed: haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf



Next Steps

Following the April workshops, the results will be presented at upcoming open houses for additional feedback.

This project will require borrowing money.

- This means that a referendum related to the loan is required.
- The cost and tax impact options are based on all four jurisdictions participating in the project to share the costs and benefits.
- If even one jurisdiction votes against participating, the costs increase significantly for the other partner jurisdictions, so the project would be paused and reassessed.



Stay informed: haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf



2 Newsletter/flyer

A newsletter and a flyer were produced, printed and distributed to promote the project engagement activities.

April newsletter

The first newsletter provided shared a general project update, a summary of what was heard in the first two rounds of engagement, the problem definition, why a referendum is required and the upcoming engagement process and opportunities to get involved. In total 11,815 newsletters were sent via addressed mail to homes in the partner jurisdictions. An additional 1,100 copies were distributed at local venues in the four jurisdictions (500 in Fort St. John, 400 in Taylor, 200 in PRRD) so the public could take a copy home. The April newsletter was also posted on the PRRD's Have Your Say page. The newsletter was sent via e-utility bills to 5,300 recipients, which is about 63% of Fort St. John residents.

Balancing amenity priorities and cost.

Working with residents for best options.

Thanks to the input from residents in the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) Areas B and C, Fort St. John and Taylor, we have a list of priority amenities for a new North Peace Leisure Facility.

We used three priorities to describe four options for a new facility and then looked into the cost implications. The costs were a lot higher than anticipated due to inflation and the construction market. We asked our participants immediately, and we are taking the data from options forward to our committees for input. Before deciding how to proceed, we need to know if it is important to them with the cost we have learned and re-evaluate.

what cost would be acceptable to our communities along with the preferred amenities that we can afford.

Depending on the amenities offered, the project cost estimates range from \$136 million up to \$280 million, for construction and other project costs. It's important to note that these are rough estimates. The actual cost will depend on the mix of amenities, the timing of construction and other factors.

We are concerned about how much the project would cost and the impacts on taxpayers, while we are exploring other funding options both in schools, we need to make sure the amount is acceptable to residents if we don't get other funding.

Our goal is to find an option and cost for the facility that works for residents so we can secure funding and move to design and construction.

A few things to note:

- The tax impacts are based on estimated cost and are not based on property values in each jurisdiction. We are providing it based on our findings as of this point.
- This project will require borrowing money, which means that a referendum is needed to raise the tax in the future.
- The tax impacts are based on the estimates from participating in the project. If you have suggestions against the project, it would be great to hear from you.



To make this work, we need your help to find the right balance between cost and amenities.

What we have learned to date.

The PRRD completed two rounds of community engagement to learn about the types of amenities residents in the four partner jurisdictions want to see at a new facility. The results were consistent in all of the communities. Overall, the primary message we heard clearly is strong support for a multi-use facility that has both aquatic amenities and indoor recreation spaces.

The following is an overview of some of the combined input from residents:

THE TOP THREE PRIORITIES FOR AQUATIC ARE:

- 43% AQUATIC FACILITY
- 28% INDOOR SOCIAL SPACE
- 17% WATERSLIDE

THE TOP THREE PRIORITIES FOR RECREATION ARE:

- 44% INDOOR SOCIAL SPACE
- 17% MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM
- 13% WATERSLIDE

A 50-metre lap pool.

After the last round of community engagement was complete, there was a request for a 50-metre lap pool to support training and competition.

More details on what we learned can be found in the community engagement summary reports at [haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/hq/pe](https://www.prrd.bc.ca/hq/pe).

Let's discuss options.

We are presenting three options with general cost and tax estimates as a starting point for the discussion with residents about what they want and what they can afford.

- Enhanced Aquatic Facility**
 - Estimated Project Cost: \$136 million
 - Estimated Operating Cost: \$5.9 million/year
 - Amenities: Leisure pool, Hot pool, Steam and sauna, Waterslide, Indoor social space, Multi-purpose room, Two 25-metre lap pools (1 lanes warmer water, 6 lanes cooler water)
- Enhanced Aquatic Facility PLUS 50-METRE LAP POOL**
 - Estimated Project Cost: \$284 million
 - Estimated Operating Cost: \$8.8 million/year
 - Amenities: Leisure pool, Hot pool, Steam and sauna, Waterslide, Indoor social space, Multi-purpose room, One 50-metre lap pool (10 lanes cooler water)
- Multi-Use Facility**
 - Estimated Project Cost: \$280 million
 - Estimated Operating Cost: \$6.6 million/year
 - Amenities: Leisure pool, Hot pool, Steam and sauna, Waterslide, Indoor social space, Multi-purpose room, Sports field, Two gymnasiums, Two 25-metre lap pools (1 lanes warmer water, 6 lanes cooler water)

PEACE NOTE: This community needs assessment for the new North Peace Leisure Facility is based on construction starting in 2025. Actual cost and tax amounts will depend on final design, timing of construction, property value and services in a jurisdiction. Property values are based on the 2022 assessment roll. Estimated tax increases are based on average assessed property values in each jurisdiction and include operating cost starting in 2028, annual debt repayment costs for the construction project and a 3% capital replacement cost.

JURISDICTION	TAX IMPACT	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3
Fort St. John	Estimated Total Tax	\$212	\$380	\$551
	Current Tax	\$46	\$46	\$46
	Net Increase*	\$222	\$334	\$505
PRRD Area B	Estimated Total Tax	\$109	\$184	\$266
	Current Tax	\$34	\$34	\$34
	Net Increase*	\$115	\$150	\$232
PRRD Area C	Estimated Total Tax	\$181	\$247	\$341
	Current Tax	\$55	\$55	\$55
	Net Increase*	\$158	\$192	\$286
Taylor	Estimated Total Increase	\$331	\$581	\$412

*This only applies to property owners in Fort St. John and Electoral Area B and C who are already paying taxes. Residents in jurisdictions not participating in the assessment do not have a net increase. *Supplemental tax for new tax being paid.

Share your ideas.

We're inviting residents in the four partner jurisdictions to participate in a two-hour workshop to discuss the options and costs for the new facility. Our goal is to understand the best mix of amenities balanced with cost. Your input will contribute towards the development of a final option for a new facility.

We're holding in-person workshops in each community and two virtual workshops. You're welcome to sign up for the one that works best for you. Can't make it to a workshop? No problem! We'll post a workshop summary along with next steps at [haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/hq/pe](https://www.prrd.bc.ca/hq/pe).

WORKSHOP VIRTUAL 1

APRIL 13

TIME: 1-3 pm

VENUE: Via Zoom

WORKSHOP FORT ST. JOHN

APRIL 18

TIME: 7-9 pm

VENUE: Riverfront Plaza, 5625 100 St., Fort St. John

WORKSHOP AREA B

APRIL 16

TIME: 7-9 pm

VENUE: Blue Springs Community Centre, 7027 280 St., Blue Springs

WORKSHOP TAYLOR

APRIL 17

TIME: 3-5 pm

VENUE: Taylor Curling Club, 3888 Cherry Ave., W. Taylor

WORKSHOP AREA C

APRIL 18

TIME: 7-9 pm

VENUE: Charles Lake Elementary School, 4238 Charles Lake, Prins George, BC, Charles Lake

WORKSHOP VIRTUAL 2

APRIL 20

TIME: 10 am-12 pm

VENUE: Via Zoom

To register for workshops, visit [prrd-eventforbc.com](https://www.prrd-eventforbc.com). Stay informed: [haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/hq/pe](https://www.haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/hq/pe)

Sign up for PRRD email updates at [prrd.bc.ca](https://www.prrd.bc.ca)



May flyer (provided at venues in four jurisdictions)

The May flyer invited the public to participate in one of the five open houses and to complete the online survey. In total, 550 flyers were distributed at venues in the four jurisdictions.



Open Houses & Community Survey

We had great questions and input from residents about the options and cost for the North Peace Leisure Facility Project during workshops held in April. The next step is to share what we learned and collect more community feedback at a series of open houses and through a community survey.

We want to hear from you

We're looking for your feedback on:

- Project cost and tax impacts
- Priorities for amenities balanced with cost
- Level of support for the project and potential options

Attend an open house

Come out to ask questions of the project team and provide your feedback on the ideas and input shared during the April workshops. All open houses will have the same content, and no registration is required.

FORT ST. JOHN	AREA B	TAYLOR	AREA C	VIRTUAL
 MAY 13 2024	 MAY 14 2024	 MAY 15 2024	 MAY 16 2024	 MAY 21 2024
5:30 to 8:30 pm	5:30 to 8:30 pm	5:30 to 8:30 pm	5:30 to 8:30 pm	5:30 to 8:30 pm
Pomreoy Sport Centre Olympic Speed Skating Oval 2nd Flr - 9324 96 St., Fort St John	Montney Hall 12401 256 Rd., Montney	Taylor Community Hall 9896 Cherry Ave. West, Taylor	Charlie Lake Elementary School 12655 Charlie Lake Frontage Rd., Charlie Lake	via ZOOM

Complete the survey

Starting May 6, we will be conducting a survey by phone and online to collect additional feedback. If you receive a phone call from Research Co asking for your input about the North Peace Leisure Facility project, please take a few minutes to complete this statistically valid survey of community views.

The survey will also be posted at haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf. Please complete the survey by **May 27, 2024**.



Learn more at haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT



FORT ST JOHN The Emergent City



TAYLOR BC

3 Posters

Posters were installed in various community locations to advertise the workshops and the open houses. For each event, 130 posters were distributed to the following venues in PRRD, Fort St. John and Taylor.

Jurisdiction	Location
PRRD – 46 locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All rural transfer stations in Area B, C, Fort St. John, Taylor (15 locations) • Buick Creek: post office, arena, church and community hall • Cecil Lake: store, community hall and post office • Charlie Lake: fire hall, post office and two gas stations • Clearview arena • Goodlow: store and liquor store • Mile 75 rest stop • Montney: community hall and post office • Prespatou: store, cafe, feed store and Coop cardlock station • PRRD offices: Dawson Creek and Fort St. John PRRD • Rose Prairie: post office, store and curling rink • Shepherds Inn gas station and convenience store plus mailboxes (laminated one taped on outside) • Wonowon: post office and gas station
Fort St. John – 14 locations (plus bathroom stalls)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A&W • Bathroom stall doors in available ad space at City facilities • Burger King • Canadian Grind • City Hall • Fort St. John Hospital • Library • McDonald • North Peace Cultural Centre • North Peace Leisure Pool • Pomeroy Sport Centre • Tim Hortons • Visitor Information Centre • W Restaurant • Whole Wheat and Honey

Jurisdiction	Location
Taylor – 7 locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Hall District Ice Centre Lone Wolf Golf Club Municipal Hall Peace Island Park Post office Visitor Information Centre



Let's talk facility options and cost

A new multi-use aquatics and recreational facility is being considered to replace the existing North Peace Leisure Pool. Using input shared by our communities, we created several options for a new facility and developed cost estimates.

The costs were higher than anticipated, and we're concerned about the impact on taxpayers.

We're reaching out to our communities to work with residents to find the right balance between costs and preferred amenities at a new facility.

To have your say, please participate in an upcoming workshop in-person in your community or online.


You are welcome to attend the workshop that works best for your schedule.

WORKSHOP VIRTUAL 1  TUE 13-14pm 13 APRIL 12:00 - 1:00pm Virtual - Via Zoom	WORKSHOP FORT ST. JOHN  TUE 4-6pm 15 APRIL 4:00 - 6:00pm Monday, Fort St. John Community Centre	WORKSHOP AREA B  TUE 4-6pm 15 APRIL 4:00 - 6:00pm Tuesday, Peace Community Centre 2000 4th Street SW	WORKSHOP TAYLOR  TUE 1-3pm 17 APRIL 1:00 - 3:00pm Tuesday, Taylor Community Centre
WORKSHOP AREA C  TUE 4-6pm 18 APRIL 4:00 - 6:00pm Tuesday, Peace Community Centre 2000 4th Street SW	WORKSHOP VIRTUAL 2  TUE 10-12pm 20 APRIL 10:00 - 12:00pm Virtual - Via Zoom	TO REGISTER FOR WORKSHOPS Visit prrd.eventbrite.com 	

For more details about the project, visit haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf





Open Houses & Community Survey

We had great questions and input from residents about the options and cost for the North Peace Leisure Facility Project during workshops held in April. The next step is to share what we learned and collect more community feedback at a series of open houses and through a community survey.






We want to hear from you

We're looking for your feedback on:

- Project cost and tax impacts
- Priorities for amenities balanced with cost
- Level of support for the project and potential options

Attend an open house

Come out to ask questions of the project team and provide your feedback on the ideas and input shared during the April workshops. All open houses will have the same content, and no registration is required.





FORT ST. JOHN  15 APRIL 8:30 - 8:30pm HomeWay Sport Centre Openings Speed Skating Oval 2000 4th Street SW Fort St. John	AREA B  14 APRIL 5:30 - 8:30pm Montney Hall 2000 4th Street SW Fort St. John	TAYLOR  15 APRIL 8:30 - 8:30pm Taylor Community Hall 1000 1st Street W Taylor	AREA C  16 APRIL 8:30 - 8:30pm Charis Leisure Elementary School 2005 Charis Lane Montney Rd. Charis, BC	VIRTUAL  21 APRIL 8:30 - 8:30pm Via Zoom
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Complete the survey

Starting May 6, we will be conducting a survey by phone and online to collect additional feedback. If you receive a phone call from Research Co asking for your input about the North Peace Leisure Facility project, please take a few minutes to complete this statistically valid survey of community views.

The survey will also be posted at haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf. Please complete the survey by **May 27, 2024**.

Learn more at haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf

4 Invitation emails

Peace River Regional District Community Services sent out 45 targeted emails to invite the below listed groups to participate in the workshops, open houses and online survey. Open house and survey invitation emails were also sent to 47 workshop participants.

Grouping	Organization
First Nations Neighbours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blueberry First Nation • Doig River First Nation • Halfway River First Nation • Indigenous Sport and Recreation Council • Kelly Lake Cree Nation • Kwadacha Nation • McLeod Lake Indian Band • Northeast Metis Association • Prophet River First Nation • Sauleau First Nation • Treaty 8 Tribal Association • Tsay Keh Dene Nation • West Moberly First Nation
Community Groups (also asked them to distribute to members)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 Limbs Paddle • Amy’s Scuba Connection Fort St. John • Child Development Centre Fort St. John • Energetic Cheer • Engage Fitness (Riu Jiu Jitsu) • Engage Sport North • Fort St. John Chamber of Commerce • Fort St. John Men’s Soccer League • Fort St. John Minor Hockey Association • Fort St. John Minor Lacrosse Association • Fort St. John Minor Soccer Association • Fort St. John Seniors Association • Fort St. John Sports Council • Fort St. John Women’s Soccer League • Fort St. John Wrestling Club • Inconnu Swim Club • Kidsport Canada • New Totem Archery Club • North Peace Gymnastics Association

Grouping	Organization
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Peace Pride Society • North Peace Soccer • Northern BC Volleyball Club • Northern Lights College • Parent Advisory Council (Fort St. John and Taylor) • Peace Country Pickleball • Peace Region Badminton Club • Peace Rugby Club • School District 60 • Special Olympics • SUCCESS Fort St John • Taylor Minor Hockey Association • Wapiti Whitewater Kayakers

Sample workshop invitation emails

From: Community Services
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2024 10:26 AM
To: Community Services <Community.Services@prrd.bc.ca>
Subject: North Peace Leisure Facility Replacement Project

Hello there,

As a key community partner, we are writing to encourage you or a representative of your group to join us in the next round of the planning process for the North Peace Leisure Facility Replacement Project. Our goal is to work with our communities to determine the best mix of amenities for a new facility at a cost that is acceptable.

The Peace River Regional District (PRRD) has been working together with the City of Fort St. John and District of Taylor to identify options for replacing the North Peace Leisure Pool, which is aging and experiencing frequent issues.

We have identified three options along with cost estimates that we'd like to discuss. Two of these options would provide an enhanced aquatics centre – one with two, 25-metre lap pools and one with a 50-metre lap pool. The third option is for a multi-use facility with both enhanced aquatics amenities with two, 25-metre lap pools and additional recreational amenities like gymnasiums and a sports field. We used community priorities to develop these options, but the estimated costs are much higher than anticipated due to the current inflation rate and unprecedented increases in the construction market.

The PRRD and its partners are concerned about the project cost and the impacts on taxpayers. While we are exploring other funding options such as grants, we need to ensure the amount is acceptable to residents in case other funding is not available.

Register for workshops
During April, we are hosting a series of online and in-person workshops to discuss these options, along with the estimated costs and tax impacts. We invite you to send a representative from your organization to participate in these workshops and share the perspective of your members. **A newsletter is attached with the workshop schedule and more details on the project.**

We need to find ways to balance costs with community needs so we can build a facility that meets regional needs well into the future. Please help us find the right balance by participating in this important next step in the process.

To register for one of the workshops below, please visit: <http://prrd.eventbrite.com>
For additional information about the project, please visit <https://haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf>

We look forward to hearing from you!

Community Services
Direct: 250-784-3200 | community.services@prrd.bc.ca
PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT | Box 810, 1981 Alaska Avenue, Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4H8
www.prrd.bc.ca | Toll Free: (24 hrs): 1-800-670-7773 | Fax: 250-784-3201
Our office hours are typically M-F 9:30am-4:30pm. Please don't feel obligated to respond, or receive a response outside business hours.

From: Community Services
Sent: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 11:12 AM
To: rsosplon@treaty8.bc.ca
Cc: PRRD - Internal <prrd.internal@prrd.bc.ca>
Subject: Invitation to attend a workshop for the North Peace Leisure Facility Replacement Project

See More

To Treaty 8 Tribal Association,

The Peace River Regional District (PRRD) has been working together with the City of Fort St. John and District of Taylor to identify options for replacing the North Peace Leisure Pool, which is aging and experiencing frequent issues.

The purpose of this next phase of engagement is to work with our communities to determine the best mix of amenities for a new facility at a cost that is acceptable.

The PRRD has identified three options along with cost estimates that we would like to discuss. Two of these options would provide an enhanced aquatics centre – one with two, 25-metre lap pools and one with a 50-metre lap pool. The third option is for a multi-use facility with both enhanced aquatics amenities with two, 25-metre lap pools and additional recreational amenities like gymnasiums and a sports field. We used community priorities to develop these options, but the estimated costs are much higher than anticipated due to the current inflation rate and unprecedented increases in the construction market.

The PRRD and its partners are concerned about the project cost and the impacts on taxpayers. While we are exploring other funding options such as grants, we need to ensure the amount is acceptable to residents in case other funding is not available.

Register for workshops
During April, we are hosting a series of online and in-person workshops to discuss these options, along with the estimated costs and tax impacts. We would like to invite a representative from Treaty 8 Tribal Association to participate in these workshops. A community newsletter is attached with the workshop schedule and more details on the project.

We are considering different options to balance costs with community needs so we can build a facility that meets regional needs well into the future. Please help us find the right balance by participating in this important next step in the process.

To register for one of the workshops, please visit <http://prrd.eventbrite.com>
For additional information about the project, please visit <https://haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf>

If you have any questions about the information contained in this email, or if you would like more information, please contact our Community Services Department at 250-784-3200 or reply to this email.

We look forward to welcoming you at one of the upcoming workshops.

Sincerely,

Community Services
Direct: 250-784-3200 | community.services@prrd.bc.ca
PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT | Box 810, 1981 Alaska Avenue, Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4H8
www.prrd.bc.ca | Toll Free: (24 hrs): 1-800-670-7773 | Fax: 250-784-3201
Our office hours are typically M-F 9:30am-4:30pm. Please don't feel obligated to respond, or receive a response outside business hours.

Sample open house and survey invitation email

CM Communications Mailbox
North Peace Leisure Facility Project open houses and survey
To: Communications Mailbox
May 7, 2024, 9:44 AM

Good morning,

We are writing to invite your community to join us in the next stage of engagement for the North Peace Leisure Facility Replacement Project. We recently met with residents and representatives from local organizations at a series of workshops to discuss proposed facility options and cost estimates for the North Peace Leisure Facility project.

We received lots of great input and questions from participants. Starting May 13, 2024, we will share what we learned and offer additional opportunities for input at a series of open houses. There is also a community survey to seek input from the broader community, both by phone and online, that started on May 6, 2024.

We recognize that members of your organization may have specific interests, and we want to hear from you. We're looking for your feedback on:

- Project cost and tax impacts;
- Priorities for amenities balanced with cost; and
- Level of support for the project and potential options.

Please share with your members this notice of upcoming opportunities to participate in the current phase of community engagement:

Attend an open house

Join us to ask questions of the project team and provide your feedback on the ideas and input shared during the April workshops. All open houses are drop-in style and will have the same content, so you can stop by any time during the open house that works for you. No registration is required.

The open houses run from **5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** Dates and locations are:

Monday May 13	Pomeroy Sport Centre Olympic Speed Skating Oval 2nd Floor, 9324 96 St., Fort St John.
Tuesday, May 14	Montney Hall 12401 256 Rd., Montney.
Wednesday, May 15	Taylor Community Hall 9896 Cherry Ave. West, Taylor.
Thursday, May 16	Charlie Lake Elementary School 12655 Charlie Lake Frontage Rd., Charlie Lake
Tuesday, May 21	Online via Zoom .

Complete the survey


From May 6 to 27, we will be conducting a survey by phone and online to collect feedback.

If you receive a phone call from Research Co asking for your input about the North Peace Leisure Facility project, please take a few minutes to complete this statistically valid survey of community views.

For additional information and to complete the online survey, please visit haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf.

Thank you for your time and assisting us with spreading the word about this initiative!

PRRD Communications
Direct: 250-784-3200 | communications@prrd.bc.ca
PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
Toll-free (24 hr.): 1-800-670-7773



CM Communications Mailbox
North Peace Leisure Facility Project open houses and survey
To: Communications Mailbox
May 7, 2024, 9:36 AM

Good morning,

We recently met with residents and representatives from local organizations at a series of workshops to discuss proposed facility options and cost estimates for the North Peace Leisure Facility project.

We received lots of great input and questions from participants. Starting May 13, 2024, we will share what we learned and offer additional opportunities for input at a series of open houses. There is also a community survey to seek input from the broader community, both by phone and online, that started on May 6, 2024.

We recognize that members of your organization may have specific interests, and we want to hear from you. We're looking for your feedback on:

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Tuesday, May 21	Online via Zoom .

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Thank you for your time and assisting us with spreading the word about this initiative!

PRRD Communications
Direct: 250-784-3200 | communications@prrd.bc.ca
PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT | Box 810 1981 Alaska Avenue, Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4H8
Toll-free (24 hr.): 1-800-670-7773 | Office: 250-784-3200 | prrd.bc.ca



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Sample open house and survey reminder email

From: Community Services
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2024 2:54 PM
To: Community Services <Community.Services@prrd.bc.ca>
Subject: North Peace Leisure Facility Project - Survey Deadline May 27

Good afternoon,

North Peace Leisure Facility Replacement Project

Re: North Peace Leisure Facility Project survey deadline is May 27

As you know, we are reaching out to residents and local organizations in the four partner jurisdictions (PRRD Areas B and C, Fort St. John and Taylor) to discuss facility options, amenities and cost impacts for the North Peace Leisure Facility project. We encourage you to participate in this community engagement to share your input on this project.

Please share these reminders with your members.

Last chance to attend open house:

We held the in-person open houses last week, and tonight is the final open house via Zoom.

Here's the zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88317913325>.

Complete the survey:


The deadline to complete the survey is Monday, May 27, 2024. If you cannot attend the virtual workshop we would still appreciate your input via a short survey. It's a good idea to review the open house display boards before completing the online survey, as this provides information on:

- what was shared at the workshops
- what we learned from participants
- frequently asked questions and responses

To see the display boards and to complete the online survey, please visit haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf.

We look forward to your input.

Community Services
Direct: 250-784-3200 | community.services@prrd.bc.ca
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 PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT **diverse. vast. abundant.**

5 Digital ads

Digital ads promoted the engagement activities. The ads were featured through two online media channels, Energetic City and Bell Media. The total number of estimated impressions includes both media channels for the durations of the ad campaigns for both the workshop engagement period and open house/online survey engagement period.

Workshops: March 26, 2024 – April 20, 2024 on Energetic City and Bell Media

- Energetic City: 29,692 impressions
- Bell Media: 6,442 impressions

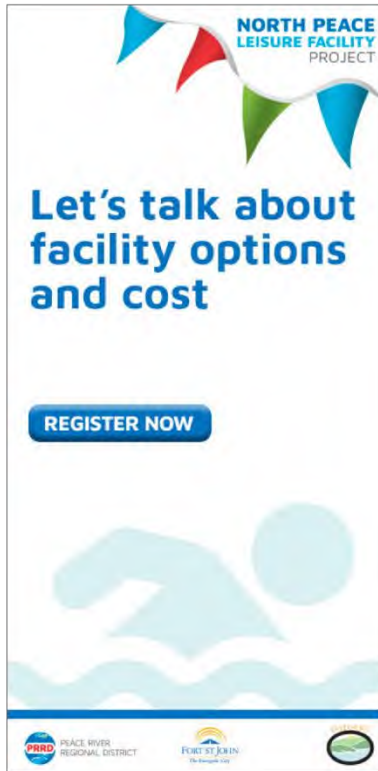
Open houses/online survey: May 2, 2024 – May 27 20, 2024 on Energetic City and Bell Media

- Energetic City: 55,856 impressions
- Bell Media: 6,323 impressions

Workshops: March 26, 2024 – April 20, 2024

ANIMATED DIGITAL ADS - Phase 1

TALL BOX - 300 x 600px



Frame 1



Frame 2



end frame

BIG BOX - 300 x 250px



end frame

MOBILE - 350 x 50px



end frame

LEADERBOARD - 728 x 90px

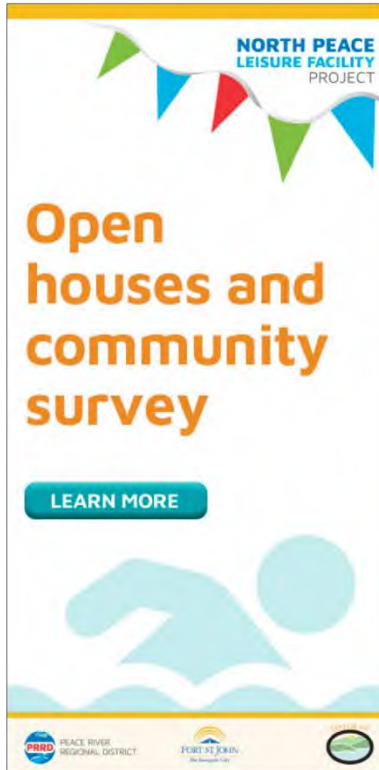


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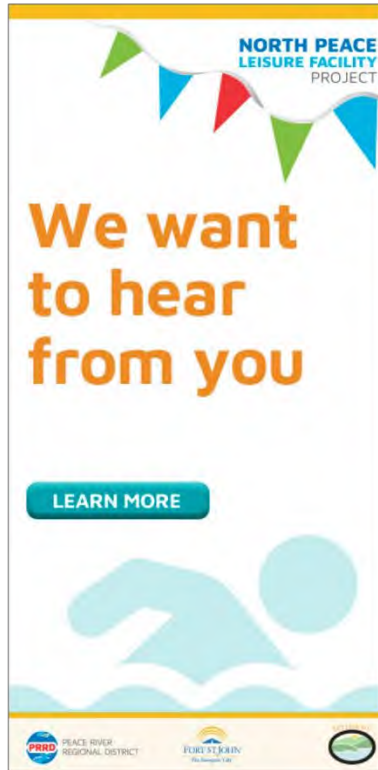
Open houses and survey: May 2 – May 27, 2024

ANIMATED DIGITAL ADS - Phase 2

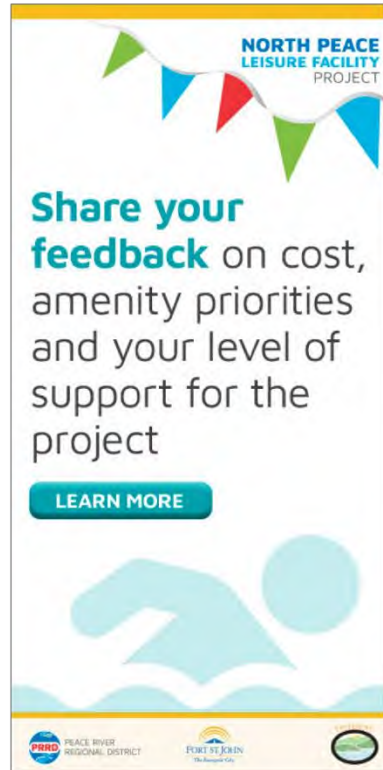
TALL BOX - 300 x 600px



Frame 1



Frame 2



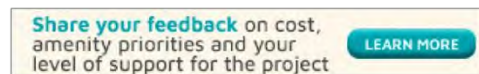
end frame

BIG BOX - 300 x 250px



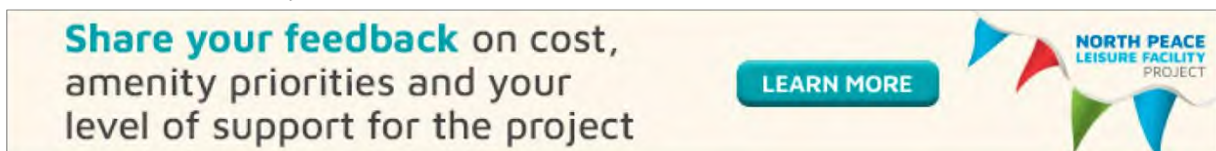
end frame

MOBILE - 350 x 50px



end frame

LEADERBOARD - 728 x 90px



end frame

Sample ad placement

DAWSON CREEK, B.C. – The Peace River Regional District (PRRD) announced Thursday it will hold public engagement sessions in June for the Regional Climate Resiliency Plan (RCRP) to assess the potential risks associated with natural disasters.

According to a PRRD media release, the plan "aims to address these challenges and build a more sustainable and resilient future for the region by providing clear direction for staff and elected officials on areas of key importance to residents."

The district says climate change is intensifying natural hazards like wildfires, floods and storms in the region, causing forced evacuations and frequent damage to property, infrastructure, and crops.

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- U-turn goes wrong in Dawson Creek hit-and-run
- Dawson Creek RCMP recover four stolen vehicles, make arrest
- Fort St. John invites local organizations, businesses to get involved in Canada Day celebrations
- Fort St. John releases Sunshine List, over \$25 million spent on salaries
- Aftermarket police siren on ATV results in fines in Hudson's Hope

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According to a PRRD media release, the plan "aims to address these challenges and build a more sustainable and resilient future for the region by providing clear direction for staff and elected officials on areas of key importance to residents."

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Enter email address

6 Social posts

Facebook posts announced the launch of the project engagement and encouraged participation. Each jurisdiction established their own social media posting schedule to promote the workshops and open houses/online survey.

Engagement launch and workshop promotion posts

- Taylor Facebook: 7 posts (March 26-April 19, 2024)
- Fort St. John City Facebook: 2 posts (March 26-April 19, 2024)
- Fort St. John North Peace Leisure Pool Facebook: 4 posts (March 26-April 19, 2024)
- PRRD Facebook: 12 posts (March 26-April 23, 2024)

Open house and online survey promotion posts

- Taylor Facebook: 3 posts (May 13-22, 2024)
- Fort St. John City Facebook: 1 post (May 27, 2024)
- Fort St. John North Peace Leisure Pool Facebook: 3 posts (May 13-22, 2024)
- Fort St. John Recreation Facebook: 3 posts (May 13-24, 2024)
- PRRD Facebook: 5 posts (May 13-22, 2024)

**Social media posts in May were limited due to wildfire evacuation communications*

April workshops sample posts



May open houses and survey sample posts

Peace River Regional District "Official Page"
May 1 at 3:31PM · 🌐

Interested in the plans for replacing the North Peace Leisure Pool? Please plan to attend an open house and share your feedback on the community survey!

- In-person open houses are May 13-16 from 5:30-8:30pm... [See more](#)

NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

Open houses and survey start soon

PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT FORT ST. JOHN The Peace City

Peace River Regional District "Official Page"
May 3 at 9:02 AM · 🌐

We had great questions and input from residents about the options and cost for the North Peace Leisure Facility Project during workshops held in April.

The next step is to share what we learned and collect more community feedback at a series of open houses and through a community survey.

We're looking for your feedback on:

- Project cost and tax impacts
- Priorities for amenities balanced with cost
- Level of support for the project and potential options

All open houses will have the same content, and no registration is required.

- For more details about the open houses and survey, visit haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf.

NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

We want to hear from you

PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT FORT ST. JOHN The Peace City

Peace River Regional District "Official Page"
May 13 at 9:01 AM · 🌐

We're hosting open houses for the North Peace Leisure Facility project this week!

This is your opportunity to ask questions and provide your feedback on the ideas and input shared by residents during the April workshops.

We're looking for your feedback on project cost and tax impacts, priorities for amenities balanced with cost and level of support for the project and potential options.

All open houses will have the same content, and no registration is required.

- See the open house schedule: haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf

NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

See you at the open houses!

PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT FORT ST. JOHN The Peace City

City of Fort St. John Recreation
May 13 at 3:00 PM · 🌐

See you tonight at the Pomeroy Sport Centre (Oval) from 5:30 - 8:30!

NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

See you at the open houses!

PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT FORT ST. JOHN The Peace City

Peace River Regional District "Official Page"
May 13 at 9:01 AM · 🌐

We're hosting open houses for the North Peace Leisure Facility project this week!

This is your opportunity to ask questions and provide your feedback on the ... [See more](#)

City of Fort St. John Recreation
May 14 at 2:21 PM · 🌐

We want your input on the North Peace Leisure Facility project! Open houses are happening this week (5:30 - 8:30 pm each):
Wednesday, May 15 - Taylor Community Hall - 9896 Cherry Ave West... [See more](#)

NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

Share your feedback: community survey

PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT FORT ST. JOHN The Peace City

North Peace Leisure Pool
May 14 at 2:01 PM · 🌐

We are going to be making decisions soon about the next steps for the North Peace Leisure Facility amenity options and cost, and we'd like your input. We hope t... [See more](#)

District of Taylor
6 days ago · 🌐

There's still time to provide your input on the North Peace Leisure Facility project amenity options and cost by completing the online survey. We encourage you to review the display boards to learn more about what was shared by residents at the April workshops, and then provide your input by completing the survey. Please note that the survey deadline is May 27, 2024. To view the display boards and survey link, visit <https://haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf>

NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

Share your feedback: survey deadline is May 27.

PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT FORT ST. JOHN The Peace City

District of Taylor
Public & Government Service [Send message](#)

7 Media releases

The PRRD issued news releases that outlined the project, engagement opportunities and the partnership between the local governments. Below are the various earned media channels that publicized the news releases and promoted the engagement opportunities.

News release/date	Earned media outlet
<p>Hard choices needed on proposed North Peace Leisure Facility</p> <p>March 26, 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canadian Press via MSN.com • EnergeticCity.ca (3 stories) • CJDC tv news • Broken Typewriter news blog • Moose Talks interview • Two posts @EnergeticCity • One post @BCHeadlines (Civic Info) • Council Corner – EnergeticCity.ca
<p>Further input sought on proposed North Peace Leisure Facility</p> <p>May 7, 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canadian Press via MSN.com, Yahoo News Canada and Penticton Herald • EnergeticCity.ca (2 stories) • CJDC tv news • Broken Typewriter news blog • Three posts @EnergeticCity • One post @BCHeadlines (Civic Info)

May Open Houses



PRRD PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release
May 7, 2024

Further input sought on proposed North Peace Leisure Facility
Public open houses, phone and online surveys set for May

Fort St. John – Area residents will have more opportunities to provide input on the proposed North Peace Leisure Facility through a series of public open houses, plus phone and online surveys in May.

The Peace River Regional District (PRRD), City of Fort St. John and District of Taylor have been developing plans for a proposed new facility to replace the aging North Peace Leisure Pool. Three options are currently under consideration and were presented to residents for initial feedback at seven online and in-person workshops in April.

"Nearly 200 area residents shared their thoughts on design options and costs for a new aquatics and recreation facility during the April workshops," said Brad Sperling, Peace River Regional District Board Chair. "We heard clearly that residents are concerned about the costs and want more information and opportunities to discuss the potential mix of amenities in the new facility, the costs and property tax implications. The open houses and surveys will provide an opportunity to drill down on the details that matter most, and information at the open houses will help property owners calculate the estimated tax impacts for their property."

The phone and online survey are now under way to collect additional feedback. Randomly selected residents will be contacted to participate in the phone survey. The PRRD encourages residents to take the time to share their views. If residents receive a phone call from Research Co asking for their input about the North Peace Leisure Facility, please take the time to complete this statistically valid survey. Residents can also complete the survey online using the link posted at haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf until May 27, 2024.

Additionally, four in-person open houses will be held around the region from May 13 to 16, with an online open house set for May 21. No registration is required, and participants can drop by an open house of their choosing at any time. All workshops will take place from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The open house dates and locations are:

- **Monday May 13** - Pomeroy Sport Centre Olympic Speed Skating Oval, 2nd Floor, 9324 96 St., Fort St. John.
- **Tuesday, May 14** - Montney Hall 12401 256 Rd., Montney.
- **Wednesday, May 15** - Taylor Community Hall 9896 Cherry Ave., West, Taylor.
- **Thursday, May 16** - Charlie Lake Elementary School 12655 Charlie Lake Frontage Rd., Charlie Lake
- **Tuesday, May 21** - Online via Zoom. Link available at: haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf.

"It's vital that we hear from area residents through these upcoming opportunities," says Trevor Bolin, Chair of the North Peace Leisure Facility Replacement Project Steering Committee and City of Fort St. John Councillor. "The project partners will use this input to make decisions on next steps, which could include holding a referendum vote on the loan amount."

The North Peace Leisure Pool is owned by the PRRD and operated by the City of Fort St. John through a partnership agreement. The District of Taylor has joined with the PRRD and the City in the planning process for the proposed North Peace Leisure Facility. The current proposal would see a new facility funded in part by contributions from property taxpayers in PRRD Areas B and C, the City of Fort St. John and District of Taylor.

-end-

Contact information:
Annette Andrews, Communications Manager
250-784-4848 | annette.andrews@prrd.bc.ca

8 Outdoor signs

To promote the workshops and open house dates, roadside signs were installed in key locations in both April and May 2024. Locations were as follows:

- Charlie Lake
- Rose Prairie
- Taylor
- Taylor outdoor billboard
- Pomeroy Centre outdoor billboard

Road signs – Charlie Lake, Rose Prairie and Taylor



Taylor Electronic Billboard

Taylor promoted the project engagement and drove people to the Have Your Say site by featuring information on their electronic outdoor billboard. The billboard was posted in April and May.



9 Facility screens

Digital displays promoting the project and engagement activities were featured on nine facility reach screens at four different Fort St. John facilities. The displays were shown on each screen for a duration of 10 seconds on a cycle of six times per hour. The reach screens were located at City Hall, Pomeroy Sport Centre, North Peace Leisure Pool, North Peace Arena, Kids Arena Fieldhouse and the Lido Theater.

NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

Help us pick the best option at the right price.

Join us to discuss the amenities you want at a cost that works for you.

To register for upcoming workshops, visit prrd.eventbrite.com

Stay informed:
haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf |

This digital display features a light blue background with a string of colorful pennants (green, blue, red, green, blue) in the top right corner. The main headline is in large, bold blue font. Below it, a sub-headline in a smaller blue font invites participation. Three circular icons with blue outlines represent swimming, cycling, and surfing. A QR code is positioned to the left of the registration text. The bottom section includes social media links, logos for the PRRD, Fort St. John, and Taylor BC, and the text 'Stay informed:'.

NORTH PEACE LEISURE FACILITY PROJECT

We want to hear from you

Join us at an open house and complete the survey to share your feedback on facility options and cost.

Learn more at haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca

Stay informed:
haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf |

This digital display features a light yellow background with a string of colorful pennants (green, blue, red, green, blue) in the top right corner. The main headline is in large, bold orange font. Below it, a sub-headline in a smaller blue font invites participation. Three circular icons with blue outlines represent swimming, cycling, and surfing. A QR code is positioned to the right of the survey text. The bottom section includes social media links, logos for the PRRD, Fort St. John, and Taylor BC, and the text 'Stay informed:'.

10 Website banners

Digital banners were displayed on the PRRD website to attract visitors' attention and drive them towards the Have Your Say page to learn about the project and the engagement opportunities or to complete the online survey.



Open houses and survey
we want to hear from you

[LEARN MORE](#)

**NORTH PEACE
LEISURE FACILITY
PROJECT**

This banner features a white background with a yellow border. The text is in orange and black. A string of colorful pennants (blue, red, green, blue) is on the right. A teal button with white text is at the bottom center.



Let's talk about facility options and cost.
Learn more about how to share your input.

[LEARN MORE](#)

**NORTH PEACE
LEISURE FACILITY
PROJECT**

This banner has a teal background. It includes faint icons of a person playing tennis and a person swimming. A string of white pennants is on the right. A white button with teal text is at the bottom left.



Let's talk about facility options and cost.
Learn more about how to share your input.

[LEARN MORE](#)

**NORTH PEACE
LEISURE FACILITY
PROJECT**

This banner has an orange background. It includes faint icons of a person playing tennis and a person swimming. A string of white pennants is on the right. A white button with orange text is at the bottom left.

11 Fort St. John tax insert

Project mailers were sent out to approximately 8,000 residents within the partner jurisdictions sharing project information and opportunities to participate in public engagement through the Have Your Say page. Delivery areas focused on Fort St. John, Area B, Area C and Taylor.



Interested in the plans for replacing the North Peace Leisure Pool?

**NORTH PEACE
LEISURE FACILITY
PROJECT**

Please plan to attend an open house and share your feedback on the community survey.

Learn more at haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf.



PEACE RIVER
REGIONAL DISTRICT



Appendix E Survey

1 Survey questions – telephone and online

Introduction

The North Peace Leisure Pool is not in good condition. The Peace River Regional District (PRRD), the City of Fort St. John, and the District of Taylor are working together. They want to find the best way to meet the current and future needs for swimming and recreation in the North Peace region. The partners are assessing options, project costs and tax impacts for a new facility.

As part of the current phase of engagement, approximately 195 residents in the four partner jurisdictions attended workshops in April 2024, to provide input on cost and tax estimates, and their preferred mix of amenities.

The project partners are continuing to build on this input and want to learn more about what residents think is a fair cost for a new facility. They also want to know what the most important features are for the residents, within that budget. In short—what can be included in the facility at a price residents feel they can afford. The information gathered from community input, along with other research that will be done, will help to inform the final recommendations for next steps.

Q1: Over the past year, have you (or anyone else in your household) used the North Peace Leisure Pool located in the City of Fort St. John?

Choose one.

[SINGLE CHOICE]

- Yes
- No

Q2. Thinking specifically about the lap pool option for the base aquatic facility, which of these options would you prefer?

Choose one.

[SINGLE CHOICE]

- Two, 25-metre lap pools – 3 lanes with warmer water for swim lessons, aquafit, water walking for older adults and accessible entry ramp, and 6 lanes of cooler water for fitness swimming, swim training and regional competitions
- One, 50-metre lap pool – 10 lanes with cooler water, providing an Olympic-size, competition focused pool for fitness swimming, swim training and provincial competitions, and would also be used for swim lessons
- Neither
- Not sure

Q3. Thinking about how you would use the new facility, how important are each of these components of a future North Peace Leisure Facility to you and your family?

Choose one for each row.

[ROWS – RANDOMIZE, with “One indoor...” and “A second...” ALWAYS TOGETHER]

- One indoor gymnasium for team sports like basketball, volleyball, pickleball
- A second indoor gymnasium for team sports like basketball, volleyball, pickleball
- Dynamic movement gym (used for gymnastics, dance, martial arts and similar activities, plus a small climbing wall)
- A fieldhouse with a 1/3 size indoor soccer pitch (for small scale games of 5 players per side)
- A fieldhouse with a 2/3 size indoor soccer pitch (for medium scale games of 7 players per side)
- A fieldhouse with a full-sized indoor soccer pitch
- More social space to relax/hang out,
- Multipurpose room with kitchen for general uses, like birthday parties

[COLUMNS]

- Very important
- Moderately important
- Not too important
- Not important at all

Q4. If you could have only three of these components at a future North Peace Leisure Facility, which would you choose?

Choose up to three.

[MULTIPLE CHOICE UP TO THREE]

- One indoor gymnasium for team sports like basketball, volleyball, pickleball
- A second indoor gymnasium for team sports like basketball, volleyball, pickleball
- Dynamic movement gym (used for gymnastics, dance, martial arts and similar activities, plus a small climbing wall)
- A fieldhouse with a 1/3 size indoor soccer pitch (for small scale games of 5 players per side)
- A fieldhouse with a 2/3 size indoor soccer pitch (for medium scale games of 7 players per side)
- A fieldhouse with a full-sized indoor soccer pitch
- More social space to relax/hang out
- Multipurpose room with kitchen for general uses
- Don't know [EXCLUSIVE]
- None of the above [EXCLUSIVE]

[Note: The two ‘don't know’ and ‘none of the above’ options were added to the online survey on May 14, 2024, at 11 a.m. after 74 completed surveys were submitted. No phone respondents required either of these options.]

Q5. In the first two rounds of community engagement, we heard that indoor play areas were important, but we want to understand what you would like to see for indoor play spaces. How important are each of these components of a future North Peace Leisure Facility to you and your family?

Choose one for each row.

[ROWS – RANDOMIZE]

- Indoor gymnasium for team sports like basketball, volleyball, pickleball
- Dynamic movement gym (used for gymnastics, dance, martial arts and similar activities)
- Multi-purpose room with kitchen for general uses like birthday parties,
- Indoor play spaces for young children (e.g. play structure)

[COLUMNS]

- Very important
- Moderately important
- Not too important
- Not important at all

NQ1. How likely are you, or someone in your household, to use a future North Peace Leisure Facility?

Choose one.

[SINGLE CHOICE]

- Very likely
- Moderately likely
- Not too likely
- Not likely at all

NQ2. At the April workshops, participants shared some general concerns. How concerned are you about each of the following when thinking of a future North Peace Leisure Facility?

Choose one for each row.

[ROWS – RANDOMIZE]

- The overall impact on taxpayers
- The timing of the project and current cost of living
- The user fees for families to access the facility
- Whether construction can be completed on budget

[COLUMNS]

- Very concerned
- Moderately concerned
- Not too concerned
- Not concerned at all

NQ2a. Are there any other concerns you would like to share with the project partners?

Please type your response in the box below.

[PROVIDE BOX]

NQ3. The PRRD is exploring grant funding and is also interested in pursuing other funding to offset costs to lessen the financial burden on taxpayers for this project. Do you support or oppose each of the following options?

Choose one for each row.

[ROWS – RANDOMIZE]

- Corporate sponsorships – general contributions
- Corporate sponsorships – naming rights for the new facility
- Private sponsorships – general contributions
- Other partnerships to share the cost

[COLUMNS]

- Strongly support
- Moderately support
- Moderately oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Not sure

NQ4. The mix of amenities at the new facility directly affects the cost, and the options all involve a larger facility to reflect the need for more capacity. All things considered, what is your level of support for each of the following facility options:

Choose one for each row.

[ROWS]

- Aquatics only, with two, 25-metre lap pools, a leisure pool with water slide, and a hot tub, steam room and sauna for about \$136 million
- Aquatics with two, 25-metre lap pools a leisure pool with water slide, and a hot tub, steam room and sauna and a mix of three or four indoor recreation amenities for about \$216 million
- Aquatics facility with two, 25-metre lap pools a leisure pool with water slide, and a hot tub, steam room and sauna and eight indoor recreation amenities for about \$280 million
- Aquatics only with a 50-metre Olympic-sized competition lap pool, a leisure pool with water slide, and a hot tub, steam room and sauna for about \$284 million

[COLUMNS]

- Strongly support
- Moderately support
- Moderately oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Not sure

NQ5. All things considered, how comfortable would you be if you paid these amounts each month, in tax, to cover the cost of the future North Peace Leisure Facility?

Choose one.

[ROWS]

- \$30-40/month
- \$50-60/month
- \$70-80/month
- \$80-90/month
- \$90-100/month

[COLUMNS]

- Very comfortable
- Moderately comfortable
- Not too comfortable
- Not comfortable at all

NQ6. Is there anything else you would like to say about the future North Peace Leisure Facility?

Please type your response in the box below.

[PROVIDE BOX]

Demographics

Thank you for your input. All data collected is anonymous and will only be presented in aggregate. The following questions are for statistical purposes only, as we aim to hear from a representative sample of community residents.

Demo1. How do you describe yourself?

Choose one.

[SINGLE CHOICE]

- Male
- Female
- Transgender
- Do not identify as female, male or transgender

Demo2. What is your age group?

Choose one.

[SINGLE CHOICE]

- 0-18 years
- 18-34 years
- 35-54 years
- 55-64 years
- 65 years +

Demo3. Are there any children younger than 18 living in your household?

Choose one.

[SINGLE CHOICE]

- Yes
- No

Demo4. What is your current area of residence within the Peace River Regional District?

Choose one.

[SINGLE CHOICE]

- Fort St. John (City of)
- Taylor (District of)
- Altona (Area 'B')
- Baldonnel (Area 'C')
- Blueberry River First Nations
- Buick (Area 'B')
- Cecil Lake (Area 'B')
- Charlie Lake (Area 'C')
- Clairmont (Area 'C')
- Clayhurst (Area 'B')
- Clearview (Area 'B')
- Doig River First Nation
- Flatrock (Area 'B')
- Golata Creek (Area 'B')
- Goodlow (Area 'B')
- Grandhaven (Area 'C')
- Halfway River First Nation
- Kwadacha Nation (Area 'B')
- Montney (Area 'B')
- North Pine (Area 'B')
- Old Fort (Area 'C')
- Osborn (Area 'B')
- Pink Mountain (Area 'B')
- Prespatou (Area 'B')
- Red Creek (Area 'B')
- Rose Prairie (Area 'B')
- Sikanni Chief (Area 'B')
- Tsay Keh Dene Nation (Area 'B')
- Two Rivers (Area 'C')
- Upper Cache (Area 'B')
- Upper Halfway (Area 'B')
- Wonowon (Area 'B')

Demo5. How long have you been a resident of the Peace River Regional District?

Choose one.

[SINGLE CHOICE]

- Less than 5 years
- 5 to 14 years
- 15 years or more

Demo5a. Do you rent or own your primary residence?

Choose one.

[SINGLE CHOICE]

- Rent
- Own
- Prefer not to say

Demo6. What is your annual household income?

Choose one.

[SINGLE CHOICE]

- Less than \$50,000
- From \$50,000 to \$100,000
- More than \$100,000
- Prefer not to say

Thank you

Thank you for input. If you would like to be kept up to date on the project as it proceeds, please enter your email address below. Your email address will only be used to provide you with information about this study.

- Yes, I would like to receive project updates by email. [PROVIDE BOX]
- No, thank you.

There are also opportunities to ask questions and share input at open houses taking place May 13, 14, 15, 16, as well as a virtual open house on May 21. For details visit <https://haveyoursay.prrd.bc.ca/nplf>.

2 Research Co. phone survey report

A telephone survey was conducted by Research Co. from May 8 to May 17, 2024, among 500 adults in Fort St. John, the District of Taylor, PRRD Electoral Area B and Electoral Area C. The data has been statistically weighted¹ according to Canadian census figures for age, gender and region.

¹ Weighting is a statistical technique used by researchers to correct for problems, including non-response and unequal selection probability, and to bring collected data more in line with the population being studied. The telephone sample was weighted to match the population of the areas covered according to gender, age and region, based on the latest census results available.



Research Factum | Peace River North

Methodology:

Results are based on a telephone survey conducted from May 8 to May 17, 2024, among 500 adults in Fort St. John, the District of Taylor, Electoral Area B and Electoral Area C.

The data has been statistically weighted according to Canadian census figures for age, gender and region.

The margin of error—which measures sample variability—is +/- 4.4 percentage points, nineteen times out of twenty.

HCMA, the Peace River Regional District, the City of Fort St. John and the District of Taylor

Over the past year, have you (or anyone else in your household) used the North Peace Leisure Pool located in the City of Fort St. John?

- More than half of respondents (53%) have used the facility in the past year, including 70% of those with children under 18 in their household.

Thinking specifically about the lap pool option for the base aquatic facility, which of these options would you prefer?

- Just over two-in-five respondents (42%) express a preference for two, 25-metre lap pools – 3 lanes with warmer water for swim lessons, aquafit, water walking for older adults and accessible entry ramp, and 6 lanes of cooler water for fitness swimming, swim training and regional competitions.
- Just under three-in-ten respondents (28%) would rather have one, 50-metre lap pool – 10 lanes with cooler water, providing an Olympic-size, competition focused pool for fitness swimming, swim training and provincial competitions, and would also be used for swim lessons.
- Just over one-in-ten respondents (11%) select neither and 20% are undecided.

Thinking about how you would use a new facility, how important are each of these components of a future North Peace Leisure Facility to you and your family?

- More than half of respondents say three components are “very important” or “moderately important” to them and their family: dynamic movement gym (used for gymnastics,

dance, martial arts and similar activities, plus a small climbing wall) (67%), one indoor gymnasium for team sports like basketball, volleyball, pickleball (60%) and more social space to relax/hang out (51%).

- Fewer respondents deem five other components as “very important” or “moderately important” to them and their family: a fieldhouse with a full-sized indoor soccer pitch (49%), multipurpose room with kitchen for general uses (48%), a second indoor gymnasium for team sports like basketball, volleyball, pickleball (also 48%), a fieldhouse with a 2/3 size indoor soccer pitch (for medium scale games of 7 players per side) (45%) and a fieldhouse with a 1/3 size indoor soccer pitch (for small scale games of 5 players per side) (39%).

If you could have only three of these components at a future North Peace Leisure Facility, which would you choose?

- The top choices for respondents are dynamic movement gym (used for gymnastics, dance, martial arts and similar activities, plus a small climbing wall) (53%), one indoor gymnasium for team sports like basketball, volleyball, pickleball (50%) and more social space to relax/hang out (41%).
- Fewer than three-in-ten respondents included five other components on their “top three”: a fieldhouse with a full-sized indoor soccer pitch (28%), multipurpose room with kitchen for general uses (24%), a fieldhouse with a 2/3 size



indoor soccer pitch (for medium scale games of 7 players per side) (9%), a second indoor gymnasium for team sports like basketball, volleyball, pickleball (7%) and a fieldhouse with a 1/3 size indoor soccer pitch (for small scale games of 5 players per side) (5%).

In the first two rounds of community engagement, we heard that indoor play areas were important, but we want to understand what you would like to see for indoor play spaces. How important are each of these components of a future North Peace Leisure Facility to you and your family?

- More than three-in-five respondents say two of these components are “very important” or “moderately important” to them and their family: dynamic movement gym (used for gymnastics, dance, martial arts and similar activities) (65%) and indoor gymnasium for team sports like basketball, volleyball, pickleball (64%).
- Fewer respondents feel the same way about indoor play spaces for young children (e.g. play structure) (59%) and a multi-purpose room with kitchen for general uses like birthday parties (49%).

How likely are you, or someone in your household, to use a future North Peace Leisure Facility?

- Practically seven-in-ten respondents (69%) are “very likely” (41%) or “moderately likely” (28%) to use a future facility.



How concerned are you about each of the following when thinking of a future North Peace Leisure Facility?

- More than four-in-five respondents (82%) are “very concerned” or “moderately concerned” about the overall impact on taxpayers.
- Majorities are also concerned about the timing of the project and current cost of living (64%), whether construction can be completed on budget (61%) and the user fees for families to access the facility (52%).

The PRRD is exploring grant funding and is also interested in pursuing other funding to offset costs to lessen the financial burden on taxpayers for this project. Do you support or oppose each of the following options?

- More than four-in-five respondents support each of the four funding options tested: corporate sponsorships – general contributions (90%), private sponsorships – general contributions (87%), corporate sponsorships – naming rights for the new facility (86%) and other partnerships to share the cost (85%).

The mix of amenities at the new facility directly affects the cost, and the options all involve a larger facility to reflect the need for more capacity. All things considered, what is your level of support for each of the following facility options:

- Two options enjoy majority support from respondents: aquatics only, with two, 25-metre lap pools, a leisure pool with water slide, and a hot tub, steam room and sauna for about \$136 million (63%) and aquatics with two, 25-metre lap



pools a leisure pool with water slide, and a hot tub, steam room and sauna and a mix of three or four indoor recreation amenities for about \$216 million (53%).

- Support is lower for aquatics facility with two, 25-metre lap pools a leisure pool with water slide, and a hot tub, steam room and sauna and eight indoor recreation amenities for about \$280 million (43%) and aquatics only with a 50-metre Olympic-sized competition lap pool, a leisure pool with water slide, and a hot tub, steam room and sauna for about \$284 million (39%).

All things considered, how comfortable would you be if you paid these amounts each month, in tax, to cover the cost of the future North Peace Leisure Facility?

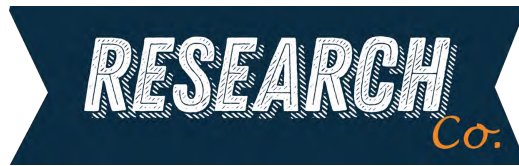
- More than half of respondents (54%) say they would be “very comfortable” or “moderately comfortable” at a level of \$30-40/month in tax.
- (54%).
- Significantly fewer respondents would be comfortable with all of the other levels tested: \$50-60/month (29%), \$70-80/month (9%), \$80-90/month (3%) and \$90-100/month (also 3%).

==30==



3 Research Co. online survey report

An online survey was conducted by Research Co. from May 6 to May 28, 2024. In total, 452 adults across Fort St. John, the District of Taylor, PRRD Electoral Area B and Electoral Area C completed the survey.



Research Factum | Peace River North

Methodology:

Results are based on an online survey conducted from May 6 to May 28, 2024, among 452 adults in Fort St. John, the District of Taylor, Electoral Area B and Electoral Area C.

HCMA, the Peace River Regional District, the City of Fort St. John and the District of Taylor

Over the past year, have you (or anyone else in your household) used the North Peace Leisure Pool located in the City of Fort St. John?

- More than three-in-five respondents (62%) have used the facility in the past year.

Thinking specifically about the lap pool option for the base aquatic facility, which of these options would you prefer?

- Just over half of respondents (52%) express a preference for two, 25-metre lap pools – 3 lanes with warmer water for swim lessons, aquafit, water walking for older adults and accessible entry ramp, and 6 lanes of cooler water for fitness swimming, swim training and regional competitions.
- Fewer than one-in-five respondents (17%) would rather have one, 50-metre lap pool – 10 lanes with cooler water, providing an Olympic-size, competition focused pool for fitness swimming, swim training and provincial competitions, and would also be used for swim lessons.
- Just under one-in-four respondents (23%) select neither and 8% are undecided.

Thinking about how you would use a new facility, how important are each of these components of a future North Peace Leisure Facility to you and your family?

- More than half of respondents say two components are “very important” or “moderately important” to them and their family: one indoor gymnasium for team sports like basketball, volleyball, pickleball (57%) and a

dynamic movement gym (used for gymnastics, dance, martial arts and similar activities, plus a small climbing wall) (55%).

- Fewer respondents deem six other components as “very important” or “moderately important” to them and their family: a fieldhouse with a full-sized indoor soccer pitch (37%), a second indoor gymnasium for team sports like basketball, volleyball, pickleball (also 37%), more social space to relax/hang out (36%), a multipurpose room with kitchen for general uses (also 36%), a fieldhouse with a 2/3 size indoor soccer pitch (for medium scale games of 7 players per side) (28%) and a fieldhouse with a 1/3 size indoor soccer pitch (for small scale games of 5 players per side) (22%).

If you could have only three of these components at a future North Peace Leisure Facility, which would you choose?

- The top choices for respondents are one indoor gymnasium for team sports like basketball, volleyball, pickleball (59%) and dynamic movement gym (used for gymnastics, dance, martial arts and similar activities, plus a small climbing wall) (50%),
- Fewer than three-in-ten respondents included six other components on their “top three”: a fieldhouse with a full-sized indoor soccer pitch (27%), multipurpose room with kitchen for general uses (21%), a second indoor gymnasium for team sports like basketball, volleyball, pickleball (also 21%), more social space to



relax/hang out (19%), a fieldhouse with a 2/3 size indoor soccer pitch (for medium scale games of 7 players per side) (9%) and a fieldhouse with a 1/3 size indoor soccer pitch (for small scale games of 5 players per side) (6%).

- One-in-five respondents (20%) selected none of the above.

In the first two rounds of community engagement, we heard that indoor play areas were important, but we want to understand what you would like to see for indoor play spaces. How important are each of these components of a future North Peace Leisure Facility to you and your family?

- More than half of respondents say three of these components are “very important” or “moderately important” to them and their family: indoor play spaces for young children (e.g. play structure) (64%), indoor gymnasium for team sports like basketball, volleyball, pickleball (59%) and dynamic movement gym (used for gymnastics, dance, martial arts and similar activities) (54%).
- Fewer respondents feel the same way about a multi-purpose room with kitchen for general uses like birthday parties (39%).

How likely are you, or someone in your household, to use a future North Peace Leisure Facility?

- More than seven-in-ten respondents (72%) are “very likely” (58%) or “moderately likely” (14%) to use a future facility.



How concerned are you about each of the following when thinking of a future North Peace Leisure Facility?

- More than two thirds of respondents are “very concerned” or “moderately concerned” about four issues: whether construction can be completed on budget (91%), the overall impact on taxpayers (82%), the timing of the project and current cost of living (also 82%) and the user fees for families to access the facility (67%).

The PRRD is exploring grant funding and is also interested in pursuing other funding to offset costs to lessen the financial burden on taxpayers for this project. Do you support or oppose each of the following options?

- More than four-in-five respondents support each of the four funding options tested: corporate sponsorships – general contributions (91%), other partnerships to share the cost (90%), corporate sponsorships – naming rights for the new facility (89%) and private sponsorships – general contributions (88%).

The mix of amenities at the new facility directly affects the cost, and the options all involve a larger facility to reflect the need for more capacity. All things considered, what is your level of support for each of the following facility options:

- One option enjoys majority support from respondents: aquatics with two, 25-metre lap pools a leisure pool with water slide, and a hot tub, steam room and sauna and a mix of three



- or four indoor recreation amenities for about \$216 million (55%).
- Support is lower for aquatics only, with two, 25-metre lap pools, a leisure pool with water slide, and a hot tub, steam room and sauna for about \$136 million (45%), aquatics facility with two, 25-metre lap pools a leisure pool with water slide, and a hot tub, steam room and sauna and eight indoor recreation amenities for about \$280 million (40%) and aquatics only with a 50-metre Olympic-sized competition lap pool, a leisure pool with water slide, and a hot tub, steam room and sauna for about \$284 million (22%).

All things considered, how comfortable would you be if you paid these amounts each month, in tax, to cover the cost of the future North Peace Leisure Facility?

- Just over two thirds of respondents (67%) say they would be “very comfortable” or “moderately comfortable” at a level of \$30-40/month in tax.
- Fewer respondents would be comfortable with all of the other levels tested: \$50-60/month (48%), \$70-80/month (28%), \$80-90/month (15%) and \$90-100/month (11%).

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