

Saint John Common Council

November 19th 2018

Presentation by Nick Cameron, Fundy Regional Service Commission



The Fundy Region ICE Strategy



FundyRecycles.com

Executive Summary

The Strategy sets goals to:

- Avoid user fees
- Reduce barriers and improve accessibility at all Fundy Region arenas
- Collect baseline usage data for all arenas across the Fundy Region

Immediate Actions Required:

1. Collect and share usage data
2. Provide a mandate to continue this project

Recommended motions on page 12

Why do local and regional governments provide recreation services?

Recreation is a Public Benefit

- Quality of Life: happier, healthier, reduces crime
- Children Perform Better in School
- Higher Property Values
- Reduces Burden on Healthcare System
- Promotes Social Bonds : reduces isolation, unites families & cultures
- Mental Health: relieves stress, reduces depression, improves self-esteem

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/81-595-m/2008060/s12-eng.htm>

<https://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/795/files/benefits%20final%20online%20v6-1-05.pdf>



Community Rink in Westfield, built
by volunteers.

Regional Ice Strategy

Started Fall 2017: Research, Surveys, Workshops



Existing policies, plans and legislation



SAINT JOHN

[PlaySJ: Saint John
Parks & Recreation
Strategic Plan \(2012\)](#)

[Rothesay
Recreation
Master Plan \(2009\)](#)

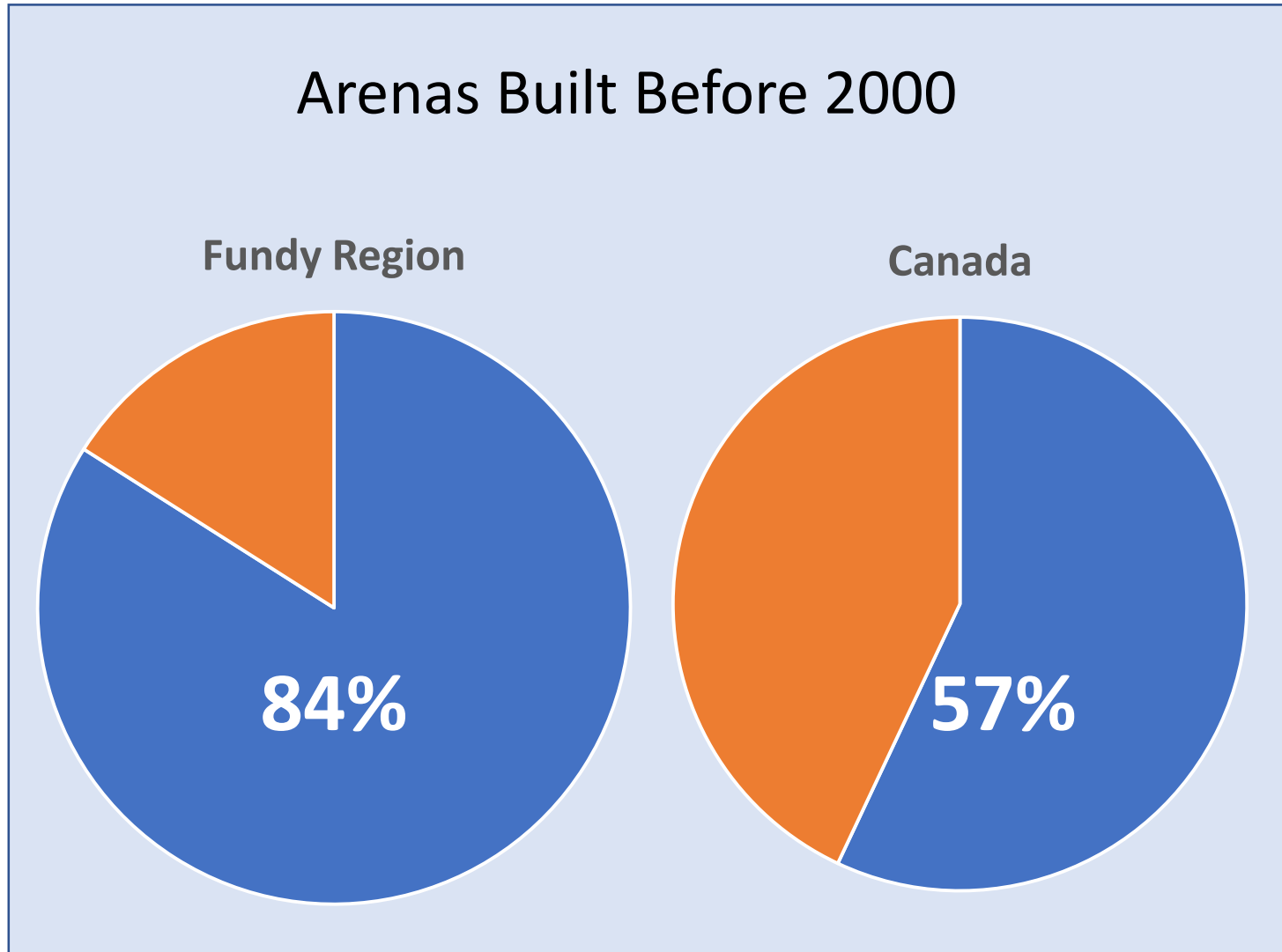


[Grand Bay-Westfield
Recreation Master
Plan \(2012\)](#)

Regional Service Delivery Act
Local Governance Act
Right to Information &
Privacy Protection Act

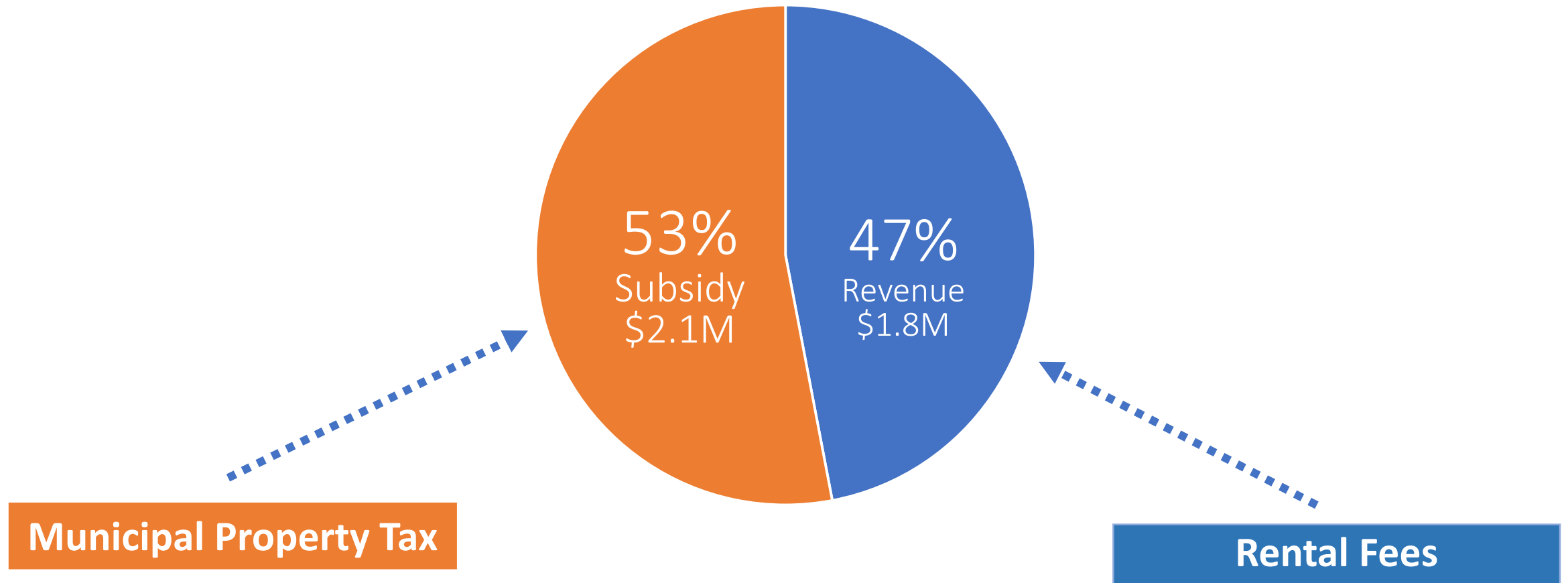


Arena Inventory



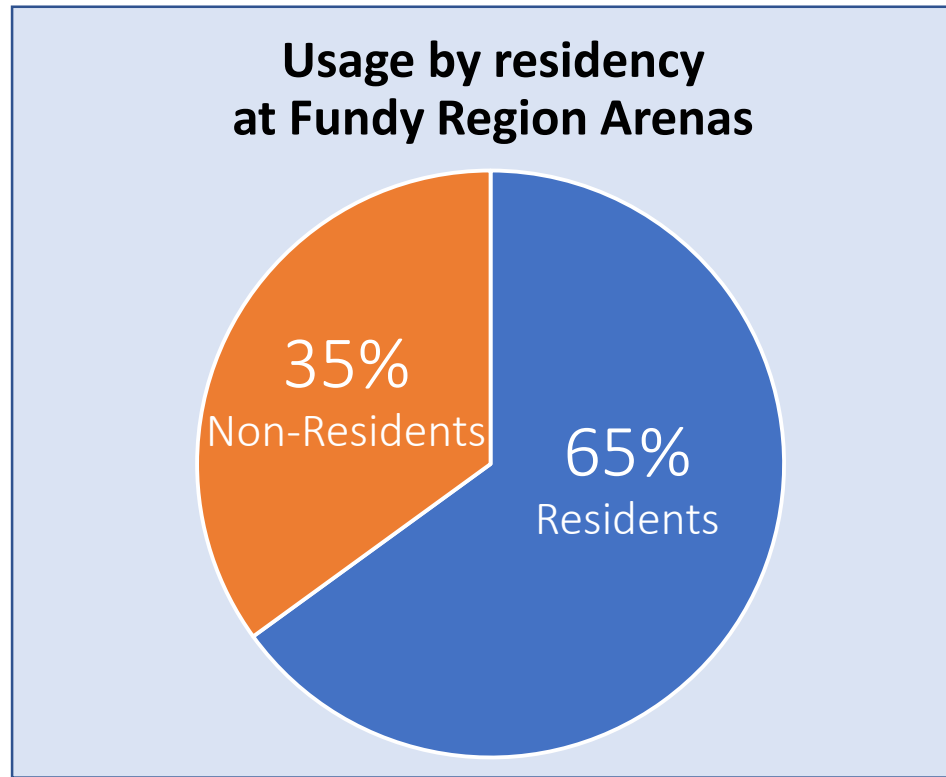
- There are 12 indoor arenas in the Fundy Region.
- 5 out of 12 arenas will reach their end-of-life within the next 5 years.

Cost Breakdown of Fundy Region Arenas



Avoiding Financial Barriers

Status Quo: Saint John will raise rental fees and partially rebate city residents only. (Plan B)



82%

Sports organizations said non-resident fees would negatively impact participation.

Preferred Alternative: Cooperatively develop a regional funding formula to support all arenas in the Fundy Region according to principles in Appendix A of the Strategy, slide #10 of this presentation. (Plan A)

The Strategy's 8 Goals

Immediate action required for goals #1 & #2

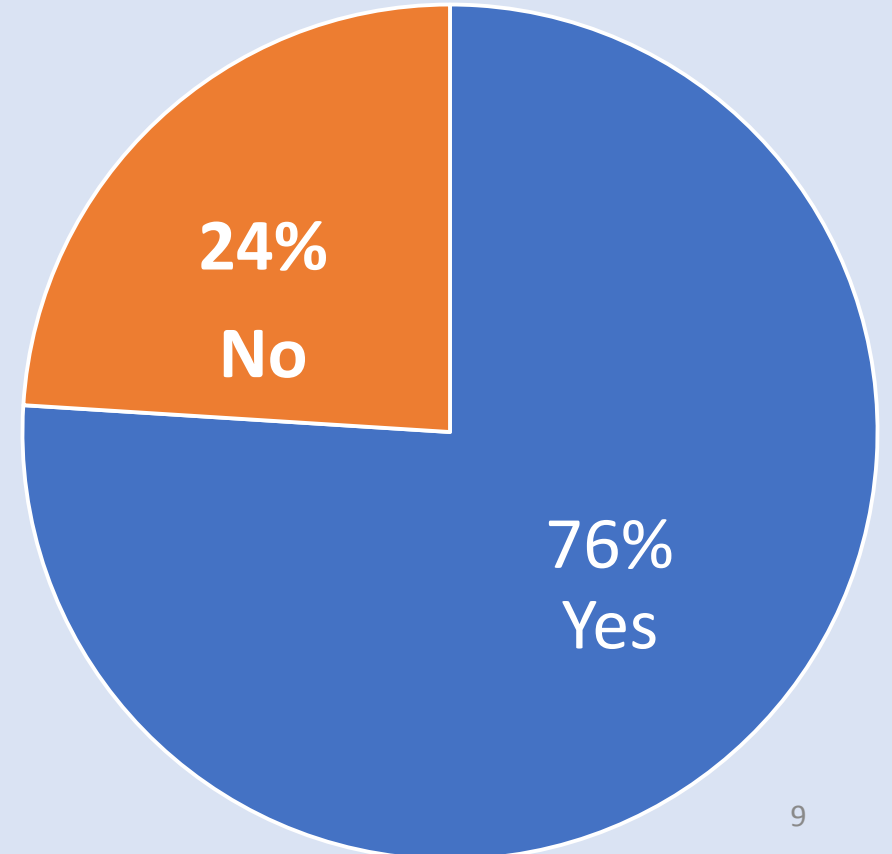
Full Report at www.FundyRecycles.com/ICE



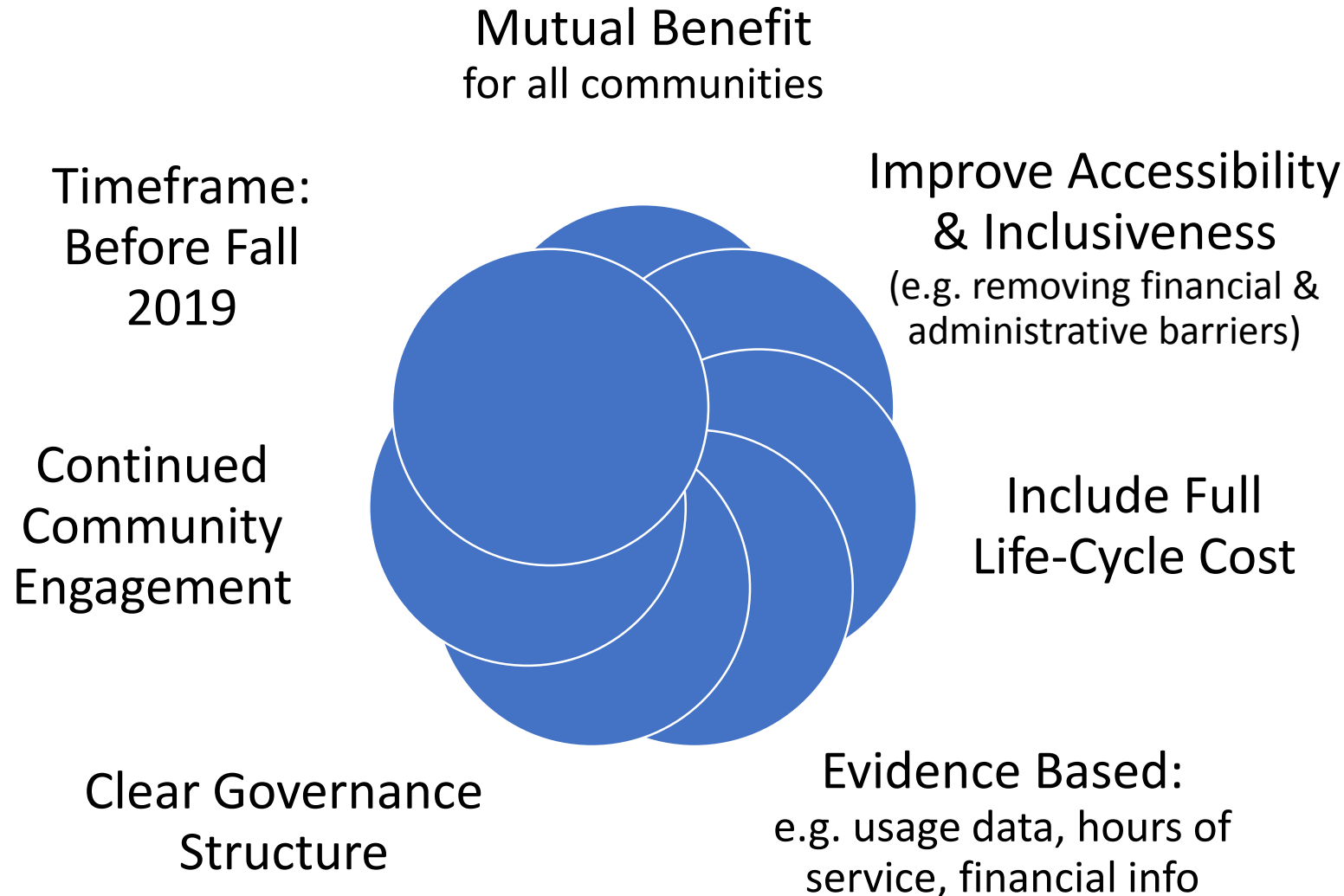
Goal #1: Collect & Share Usage Data

- Setting and measuring goals requires good local data.
- Collect & share postal codes of arena users
 - Major user groups only
 - No personal information

We asked sports organizations: will you provide arena operators with registration information?



Goal #2: Explore a Regional Funding Formula based on these principles



Developed from
feedback collected
at August workshops

Goals #3-8 (Long Term)

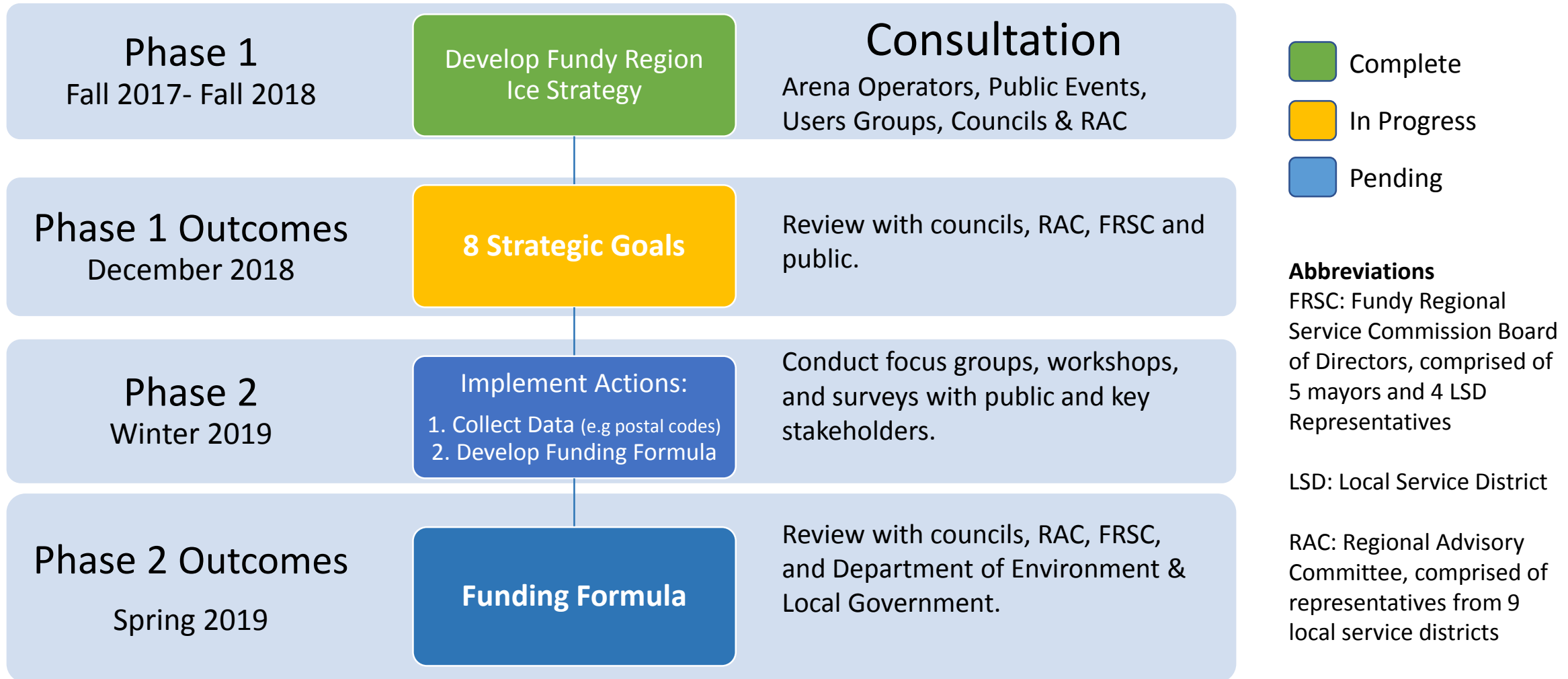
3. Develop a process to inform endorsement decisions by FRSC
4. Create a standing committee for continued collaboration
5. Improve accessibility of ice facilities, gender equity in ice-sports and development of ice-parasports.
6. Integrate facility policies when possible (e.g. code of conduct)
7. Investigate regional sponsorship opportunities
8. Investigate an online regional scheduling system. Start with a pilot.

Required Action:

Recommended Motions

1. That it be mandatory for organizations that use public arenas in the Fundy Region on a regular basis to provide postal codes of their participants in order to illustrate the crossflow of usage at arenas in the Fundy Region.
2. Continue to work in collaboration with Fundy Region members to explore the development of a regional funding formula according to the principles presented. Details of the formula would be presented before 2019-2020 ice season.

Project Timeline



Thank You to the Project Team

- Gary Clark/Kelly Goddard, Grand Bay-Westfield
- Charles Jensen, Rothesay
- Tim O'Reilly, Saint John
- Dana Purton Dickson, Quispamsis
- John Chatterton, St Martins
- Bill Tyler, Fairfield LSD
- Greg Evans, GNB Sports & Recreation Branch
- Brenda MacCallum, Fundy Regional Service Commission

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Full Report at www.FundyRecycles.com/ICE

Case Studies


- Sussex Recreation Rebate
- Fredericton Recreation Service Agreement 
- Nanaimo Region Recreation Service Agreement
- Hampton Multipurpose Complex
- Potash Civic Centre

Example: Fredericton Recreation Service Agreement

A family of four has two children. One child plays on a minor hockey team and the other is in a figure skating club. The family owns in a home assessed at \$100,000.

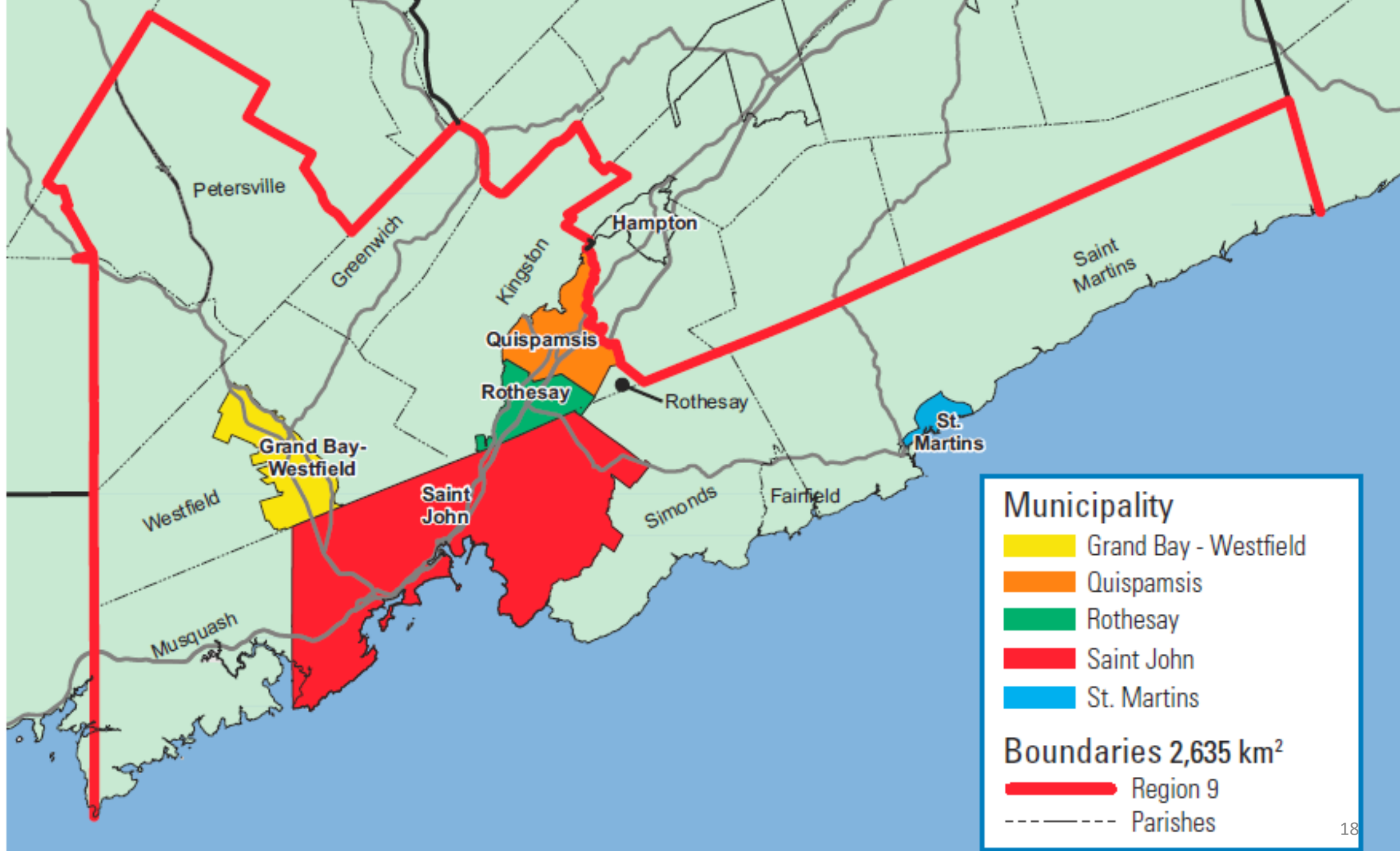
Maugerville LSD	Lincoln LSD
The LSD of Maugerville chose to participate in the agreement. The cost sharing formula determined they would pay \$0.03 per \$100 of assessed property value.	The LSD of Lincoln chose not to participate in the agreement. The family would pay a fee on-top of regular sports registration fees.
This family would pay the City of Fredericton \$30 per year through their property taxes.	This family would pay the City of Fredericton \$1780 per year (\$890 per child) when registering for ice-sports.

Case Studies

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- Potash Civic Centre

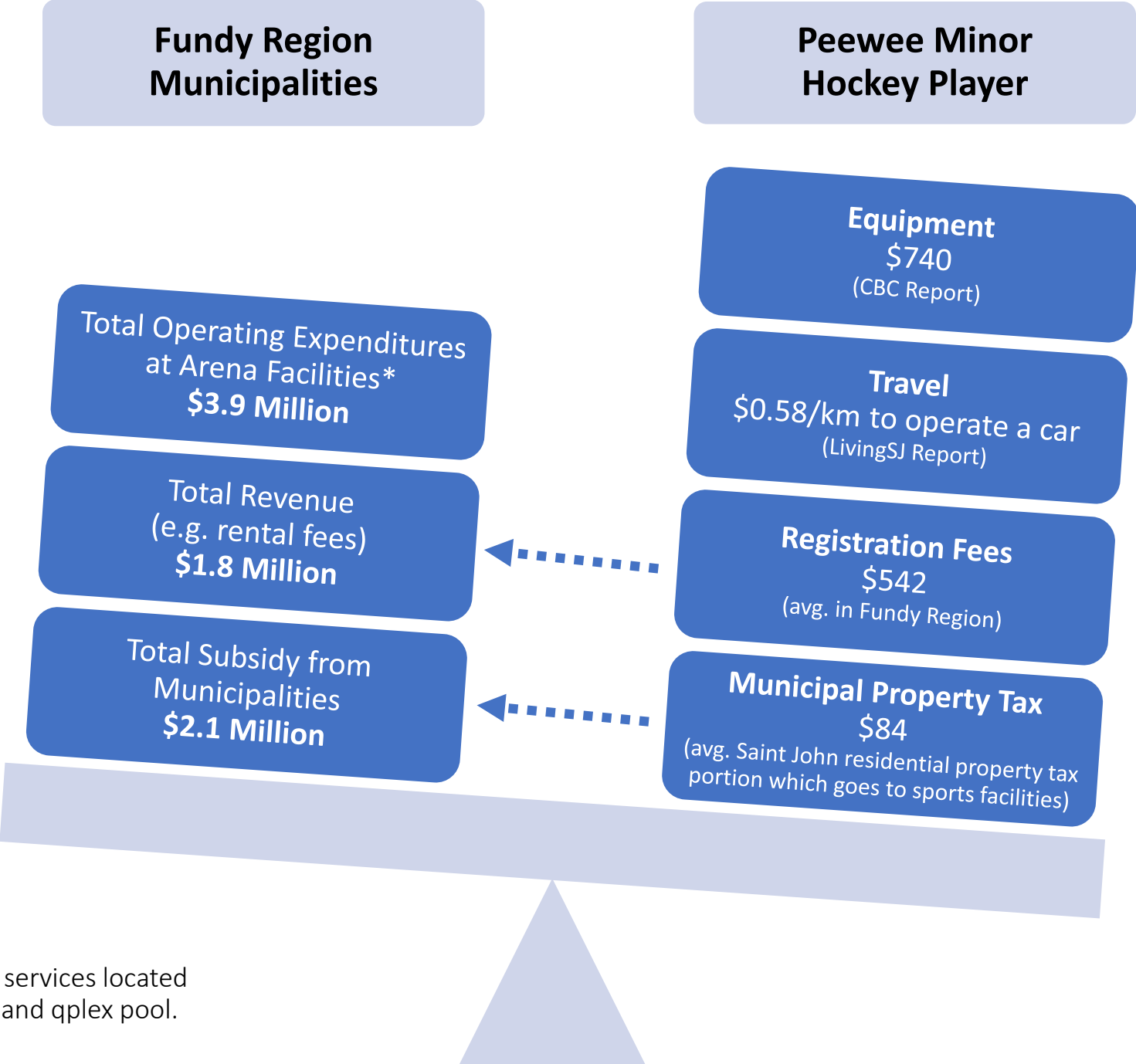
Example: Nanaimo Region Recreation Service Agreement

PARTICIPANT	'STATUS QUO' COST	NEW DISTRIBUTION	%
City of Nanaimo	\$882,950	\$764,958	85.0
Electoral Area 'A'	--	\$69,295	7.7
Electoral Area 'B'	\$8,000	\$3,600	0.4
Electoral Area 'C'	\$9,000	\$7,200	0.8
Electoral Area 'D'	--	\$54,897	6.1
Total amount contributed by Electoral Areas			\$134,992
Less: Revenue required to meet the Cost of Operation and Maintenance of Sports Fields in the Electoral Areas			(\$17,000)
Net payment due to the City of Nanaimo			\$117,993



Cost Breakdown

Example:
Peewee
Minor
Hockey

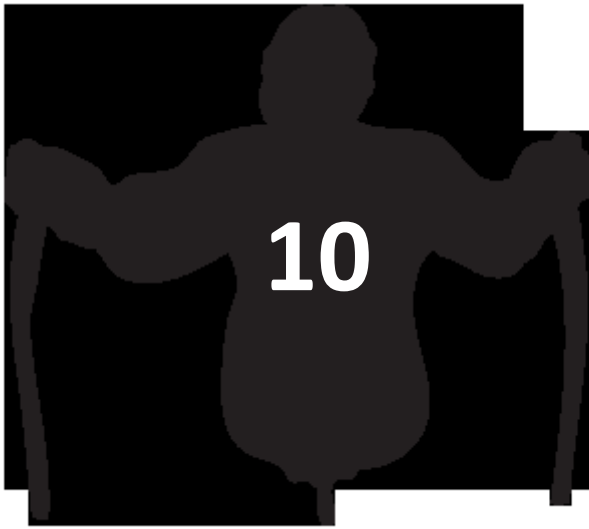


* Excluding Harbour Station and includes all services located at arena facilities such as community rooms and qplex pool.

Rental Rates Across Canada

Location	Arena	Adult Prime Rental Rate (GST/HST not included)
Fundy Region	Avg. of all arenas (excluding St Martins & RNS)	\$179.34
Hampton, NB	Hampton Community Centre	\$155.65
St Stephen, NB	Garcelon Civic Centre	\$173.91
Fredericton, NB	All municipal rinks	\$188.00
Moncton, NB	Superior Propane Centre	\$244.35
Charlottetown, PEI	MacLauchlan Arena	\$185.22
Dartmouth, NS	Dartmouth 4 Pad	\$240.00
St John's, NL	Bussey Arena	\$225.00
Sherbrooke, QC	Aréna Eugène-Lalonde	\$181.00
Kingston, ON	All municipal rinks	\$293.65
Brandon, MB	Keystone Centre	\$222.00
Regina, SK	All municipal rinks	\$250.91

Accessibility & Inclusiveness



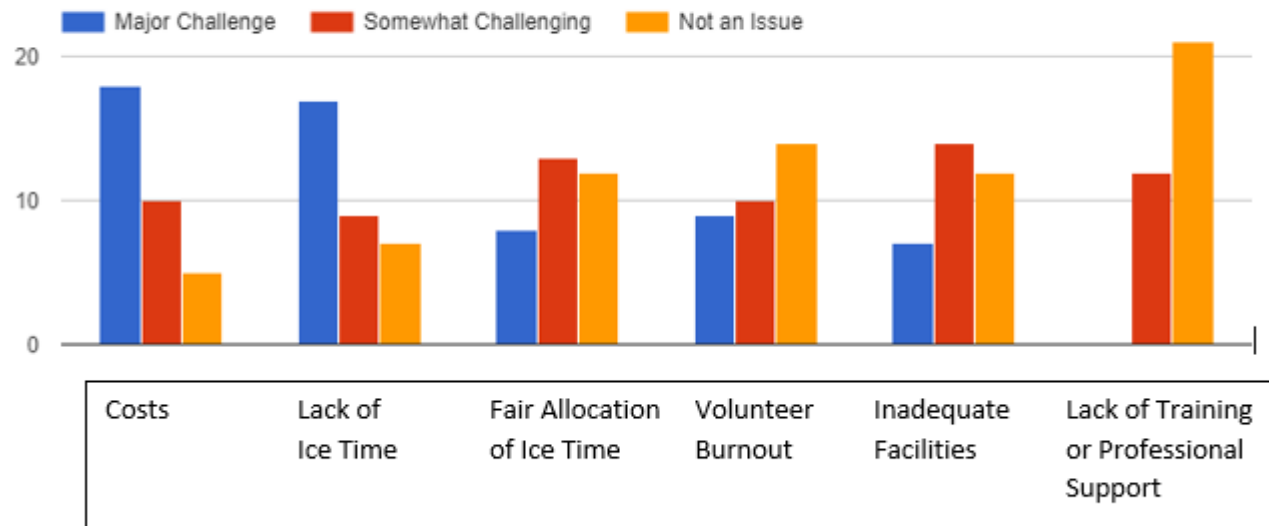
Number of Registered
Sledge Hockey Players
in New Brunswick



Growth Rate of female hockey in
New Brunswick from 2006-2017

Other Survey Responses

What are the greatest challenges facing your organization?



Are there any other challenges you would like to include?

“

- We need more ice available all months of the year.
- Half the teams we play are from outside Saint John. We also play on their ice times.
- Due to lack in ice-time we have many kids that have practises as early as 6am. This is hard on both kids and parents. Leaving the house at 5:15AM on a Tuesday morning and then getting kids ready for school and work is tough.
- We are challenged with offering tournament experiences. I wish we had facilities that were doubled up to be more efficient with games and volunteers.
- Need NEW RINKS, BADLY. Saint John so behind. 4-plex please
- Let the kids register where ever they want.
- Getting bumped out of our times for tournaments. Hard to explain to parents

Other Survey Responses (continued)

Do you have any other comments or concerns regarding arena services in the Fundy Region?

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- While collaboration and efficient use of resources is always a main goal of partially public funded programs, the reality of convenience individuals/families lives as well as comradery, relationships in sports will always strip the efficiency of equalizing supply/demand and economics in a large region. i.e. people play in rinks they do now not because of geographic location but almost 100% because that is the "place" they have built bonds, relationships, etc. both on and off the ice. No different than in gymnastics, cheerleading, soccer, etc. Rinks are no different.
- The female game has struggled for a number of years to obtain ice times that allow us to run manageable programs. In terms of ice allocation, we are finally to the point where we are in receipt of ice times that attract participants. Our program would not do well to have a reduction or change in time slots. In terms of user fee increases, I would submit that many people find hockey an expensive sport to the extent that many cannot currently afford to play. Our goal is to increase participation and membership. Any increase/application of user fees will deter new growth and significantly impact our ability to retain our current membership. Our programs use ice in both the city of Saint John and RVCC. Our users often travel more than 40 minutes to get to a facility depending on where they live. I would also suggest that in addition to looking at subsidies for ice arenas in their areas, municipalities need to consider the dollar impact of players/parents coming to their communities for ice sports; many of which stop and purchase gas, groceries and do general shopping while in the municipality.
- I would agree that a regional ice strategy is needed. our rinks are ageing and really are not up to standards for todays kids. Dressing rooms are small and, in some cases, unsafe. Due to the lack of ice sometimes there are as many as 40 kids on the ice at a time and with the small dressing rooms with 20+ kids crammed in it really is a safety issue. Sport is needed in the community and has many benefits. If we take away access to sport it is going to have effects on healthcare and other areas. Kids need good safe recreation access not less. Please feel free to reach out to me if you need anything further.
- Buildings need repairs and updates.
- Our group is all city employees. As long as we play pick up hockey as an organization, we will play within the City of Saint John. Thank you for the time and effort that goes into running sports arenas for our community.

Other Survey Responses (continued)

Do you have any other comments or concerns regarding arena services in the Fundy Region? (continued)

- A minimal increase in the tax base of LSD residents would greatly subsidize sports facilities. These residents receive adequate emergency services yet the larger towns and cities pay the majority of this expense in their taxes. Our facilities are inadequate in comparison to Moncton and Fredericton which makes it difficult to host tournaments which could bring a great revenue stream to our region
- The City of Saint John arenas are showing their age.
- The cost of ice time increases yearly but upgrades to rink equipment does not seem to happen. If families had to pay extra, a lot of kids would not get to play. RVCC does not charge this to SJ families. As an association we try to keep our registration fees as low as possible as it is a struggle for families to pay. Some have multiple children playing hockey and are in other activities as well. We as volunteers put all this time in for the children to stay active and keep them off the streets and out of trouble and I think this needs to be the focus of the City as well.
- Build new ARENAS. A 4 rink would be cheaper to run. Don't keep fixing old out-dated rinks. They are so bad and small ice. Saint John needs to get with the times. Thank you.
- We need to see more regional cooperation. Quispamsis and Rothesay for example should partner on a duplex to cut costs while still providing good services to residents
- I live outside the area of Saint John but work in Saint John. We shop in Saint John for the most part and my tax dollars go there. These extra fees are unfair
- Water ice quality and consistency. Equipment storage for our safety board pads could be more adequate.

Deal Breakers

The following deal breakers for the work going forward were expressed by municipal and LSD leaders at workshops held in August:

- All communities deserve a fair shot at renewing their infrastructure. One municipality cannot be favoured for regional, provincial and federal funding.
- If the strategy only focuses on Saint John.
- Overbuilding: More funding should not lead to building more infrastructure than what is needed.
- No mutual benefit. There should be value for all communities in the region.
- Not considering the full life cycle cost of these assets (e.g. operating, maintenance and capital)
- All-In: not worth it unless all communities are committed to a solution
- Being forced into something the community doesn't want
- Equalization grants need to be considered or adjusted
- The model cannot be prohibitively expensive for families
- Must include capital costs
- Opting-out
- If a community only has a few ice sports participants, it's not worth it
- Need to have a conversation about the benefits of recreation first
- There cannot be just one-way flow of money and participation into Saint John; there must also be flow of money and participation out into the surrounding municipalities.