



Council Member Motion For the COTW Meeting of March 13, 2025

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** March 04, 2025
From: Councillor Jeremy Caradonna
Subject: Mitigating the impacts of the projected multi-year interrupted service to Victoria's aquatics program and wellness centre

Background

In February of 2025, Victoria voters approved the Crystal Pool replacement project and associated borrowing amounts via referendum. In addition, as non-binding input to Council, voters overwhelmingly selected the "North" option, which is to knock down and rebuild the future facility on the same footprint as the current one. As a result of this decision, and assuming Council takes this clear direction from voters, it would result in multiple years of interrupted service to Victoria's only publicly managed pool and wellness centre. These disruptions will create challenges for hundreds of thousands of users who rely on these essential wellbeing services.

The intention of this motion is to begin working, very early on in the process, on mitigating the impacts of the projected facility closure, mainly through collaboration with key regional partners.

Recommendation

That, following the finalization of the Crystal Pool replacement project loan authorization bylaw and the decision on the location of the future facility,

1. Council directs staff, or Council members who are members of the Victoria Regional Transit Commission (VRTC), to advocate to the VRTC to consider options to alter transit routes, on a temporary basis, to accommodate current Crystal Pool users during periods of interrupted facility services.
2. Council directs staff to work with the staff from Esquimalt, Oak Bay, and Saanich to coordinate ways of mitigating the impacts on regional recreation centres of the Crystal Pool closure, and ensuring that Victorians have access to regional aquatics facilities throughout the redevelopment project.
3. Council directs the Mayor to advocate to Uvic to consider re-opening McKinnon Pool at least until the new Crystal Pool is completed, to accommodate the need for access to aquatic facilities from displaced Crystal Pool users.

4. Council directs staff to reach out to the operators of Victoria-based hotels with large pool amenities to discuss the possibility of increasing public access to one or more privately owned pools during periods of interrupted service at the Crystal Pool.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeremy L. Caradonna", is written over a horizontal line.

Councillor Jeremy Caradonna