



The VCC has responded to this challenge by launching a grassroots campaign to raise \$850,000 for a brand new ice-plant, including new electric upgrades and installation. The ice-plant will cost \$650,000, and an additional \$200,000 is needed for design, consultation, electrical upgrades and building modification. The new ice-plant will ensure the VCC remains a hub for curling in Victoria, and that workers and members will be not harmed by toxic ammonia gas. Their plan is to order and install equipment in Summer 2026, so that members can resume curling in Fall 2026. Failure to replace it immediately would end curling at VCC and terminate the club's community programs and partnerships.

### ***City Support***

There are a few key reasons why City support is warranted:

- 1) **Municipal Partnership:** The VCC and City of Victoria have a very longstanding and close relationship. The land under the VCC is owned by the City of Victoria, and the two organisations have worked together for seventy-five years to support curling. Across Canada, many curling rinks are municipally owned, so when new equipment is needed, the municipality simply pays for required updates.
- 2) **Safety of Residents:** The VCC is currently using an ammonia ice-plant, which creates serious safety risk for members, staff and residents. If there is a leak, or an earthquake, there could be increased risk to residents. A new ice-plant removes these risks.
- 3) **Fundraising:** VCC members have already stepped and raised \$600,000. This impressive grassroots campaign shows that members have done their part, and the club is fully committed to this important project. With internal fundraising slowing, it's a good fit for the municipality to help them get to the finish line.
- 4) **Timing:** The VCC needs to order the equipment in Spring 2026, to allow time for the supplier to deliver the equipment, and installers to upgrade electric and install the ice-plant. It's critical this work happens in Summer 2026, so curling can resume in Fall 2026.

### ***Rebuild Our House and Support for the North Park Community***

The Victoria Curling Club is a cornerstone of the North Park community. The Club has a long-term modernization vision for the facility, and a City grant, paired with matching funds from the VCC, will keep the building's doors open.

This investment would also act as the catalyst for the VCC's broader [Rebuild Our House](#) campaign, which seeks the public, corporate, and government support necessary to complete the building upgrades required for the long term continuation of community programming. The VCC is prepared to leverage this momentum by exploring diverse revenue streams including potential naming rights and corporate sponsorships. By authorizing the ice plant matching fund grant now, the City will help provide the stability required for the VCC to attract the philanthropic partners needed to complete its big picture fundraising goals.

Securing the building's operational future also provides a timely, strategic solution to a neighborhood crisis. The North Park Neighbourhood Association (NPNA) is currently facing displacement from its home at United Commons, threatening the continuity of its vital food hamper program and general meeting space for their operations. The VCC's lower level offers an ideal, centrally located alternative for the NPNA. To unlock this space for the community and meet modern inclusivity standards, approximately \$110,000 in accessibility upgrades are required, including a commercial lift for lower-floor access (\$40,000), necessary electrical and site preparation (\$25,000), and an accessible washroom retrofit (\$20,000).

To attempt to ensure this accessibility goal is realized, Councillor Loughton will champion the Club's fundraising efforts, bridging the gap between recreational needs and essential community services. Her vision is that beyond the core money required for the ice plant, an additional \$85,000 can be raised to support the current crisis for the NPNA. This effort will welcome diverse contributions, including potential in-kind labor and professional donations.

Should Council adopt this motion on April 2nd, it will initiate a four-week fundraising drive to stabilize the VCC by April 30, 2026. The landing page for the fundraising campaign is here: [Victoria Curling Club - Rebuild Our House - Our Ice. Our Future.](#)

## RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council authorize a one-time grant of \$175,000 to the Victoria Curling Club for the replacement of its ice-making plant, with funds to be drawn from the 2026 Contingency Budget;

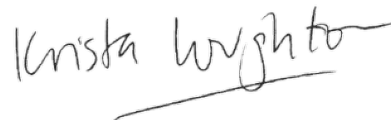
AND THAT the disbursement of these funds be subject to the Victoria Curling Club providing proof of secured matching funds in the amount of \$75,000;

AND THAT this motion be forwarded to the April 2<sup>nd</sup> Council meeting, for same day ratification.

Respectfully submitted,



Councillor Matt Dell



Councillor Krista Loughton