



## Voice of The People

Your recent article regarding the cancellation of the Provincial Rink Revitalization Program has sparked considerable concern among arena operators and their volunteer boards across Nova Scotia. In the article there was no representation from the industry to portray the enormous benefits of the program.

The \$2,000,000 program allocated \$27,000 to each of 74 arenas across the Province for capital improvements. These improvements included new compressors, energy retro fits, repairs to rink boards, safety netting and the list goes on. For many arenas in NS, especially rural arenas, the money was a gift from heaven. What was particularly interesting about the program, was the way in which the money was allocated. It was given in a very nonpartisan manner, equal to each arena, independent of any political influence.

The program recognized the aging infrastructure of arenas in NS. It helped reduce capital costs and in many cases off set ongoing operating costs that would have had to be passed on to user groups like minor hockey, gentleman's hockey, figure skating, etc. The more we download things like capital improvements, increased energy costs and minimum wage increases, the less accessible our facilities become. We sincerely hope the new Government will recognize the value of the Rink Revitalization Program and reinstate it in the next fiscal year.

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