

Notes from RFABC Arena Focus Group meeting April 23, 2020

Recently, RFABC hosted an Arena Programming Focus Group meeting with regional contacts around the province. The intent of the first meeting was to get a general briefing from an arena program perspective and start to share ideas around future topics that RFABC can support the industry with. At the same time, participants identified creative ways they are reaching out to their respective communities, during these stay-at-home orders.

How can RFABC help.....

The overarching theme that was clearly articulated by all the participants was they would like to have support with “operating best practices” as the doors open to the public.

At RFABC, we completely understand the recovery phase will start with clear directives from the Provincial/Regional Health agencies. Municipalities that are developing recovery plans to gradually open indoor and outdoor facilities, must align with the Provincial/Regional orders.

Those municipal service level discussions are happening at the council and senior administrative level with critical input from staff at all levels of the organization.

RFABC has been and will continue to provide technical support around the Arena infrastructure components, we are also now looking at best practices around the topics we heard you need support with such as:

- **modified protocols for dressing rooms**
- **social distancing signage**
- **skate shop rentals**
- **programming on ice activities**
- **cleaning protocols and other related topics**

These documents will be made available via our RFABC online library in the coming weeks. We want to help you be operationally ready when it is time to open your doors.

What are some of the creative activities happening around the province.....

- Arena Dry floors possible space for Homeless
- Maintenance of facilities as emergency response and reception centres
- Developing learn to roller blade virtual sessions
- Wellness/meditation videos
- Community clean-ups
- Water safety videos

In summary, staff are doing what they can to safely continue to engage with their respective communities.

What are Arena staff working on around the province.....

- Staff are continuing to plan for modified summer camps programs and most likely speciality camps will not be offered to help manage social distancing and general camp staff participant ratios will decrease, we heard; 8:1 , 6;1 depending on the program.
- Most municipalities will not publish a hard copy of the summer brochures and just promote an online brochure, so they can modify the summer program as required.
- Fall programming is been worked on, but again that will depend on service levels, so various scenarios are being created.
- Dealing with multiple layoffs and redeployment of staff, so working extremely short-handed while preparing our facilities with maintenance and capital projects.

In closing, we are working with various provincial organizations, that impact our business.

- BC Hockey Association who is in direct contact with the Hockey Canada Special Covid -19 committee, reviewing hockey protocols.
- WorkSafeBC, managing worker safety in the new era.
- Technical Safety BC, on all refrigeration plant issues and staff certification and requirements.

These are just a few of our partners.

Please visit our website for more updates and Industry support. www.rfabc.com

Take care and stay safe,

Your friends at RFABC