



WSP PROJECT NO.: 151-05627-00

INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES ASSESSMENT & GAP ANALYSIS TOWN OF WOLFVILLE

FINAL REPORT

DECEMBER 2015

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
1	INTRODUCTION AND STUDY OVERVIEW	2
1.1	Study Process	2
1.2	Report Presentation	2
2	PLANNING CONTEXT SUMMARY	3
2.1	Summary of Population and Socio-Demographic Context	3
2.2	Summary of Findings From Background Documents	4
2.3	Summary of Trends	5
2.4	Summary of Indoor Recreation Facilities and Service Context	6
3	CONSULTATION SUMMARY	7
3.1	Key Informant Interviews Summary	7
3.2	Request for Briefs Summary	8
3.3	Focus Group Meetings Summary	9
3.4	User Group Survey Summary	10
3.5	Community Household Survey Summary	10
4	GAP ANALYSIS & RECOMMENDATIONS	12
4.1	Arena Discussion and Recommendations	13
4.2	Aquatic Facility Discussion and Recommendations	14
4.3	Gymnasias Discussion and Recommendations	17
4.4	Fitness Centre Discussion and Recommendations	18
4.5	Multipurpose Space and Meeting Space	19

4.5.1	Multipurpose Space Discussion	19
4.5.2	Meeting Space Discussion	19
4.5.3	Multipurpose and Meeting Space Recommendations	20
4.6	Banquet Facilities Discussion and Recommendations	20
4.7	Performance Art Space Discussion and Recommendations	20
4.8	Library Discussion and Recommendations	21
4.9	General Recommendations	23
5	IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	27

APPENDICES

A	Planning Context
B	Community Consultation
C	Facility Condition Evaluation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Town of Wolfville engaged WSP Canada Inc. along with Architecture49 to conduct an assessment of the existing indoor recreation facilities within Wolfville – those owned and operated by the Town, as well as Acadia University, non-profit community groups and community organizations. This study also identifies gaps in the indoor recreation facility inventory and provides recommendations with regards to these gaps.

The Facilities Assessment and Gap Analysis also provides a series of recommendations. Some recommendations are facility specific, while others are general to indoor recreation facility services. One of the key recommendations is the need to establish a formalized partnership agreement between Acadia University and the Town of Wolfville. Another key recommendation is the need for a Regional Recreation Facility Plan. Chapters 4 and 5 of this report include the full set of recommendations. An implementation plan discusses general timeframes, key individuals involved and the partnerships needed to implement the recommendations (see Chapter 5).

It is important to note that many of the facilities utilized by Town residents for indoor recreation within the Town are not Town owned or operated. A partnership, with clear agreements, will be critical to provide secure, viable and predictable indoor recreation facility inventory for the Town.

The Gap Analysis also provides a facility condition evaluation tool that can be updated and used by Town Staff and Council for ongoing monitoring of indoor recreation facility condition to aid in future decision making (see Appendix C).

Champions of the study should be acknowledged. Acadia Athletics Staff have been active participants in the process. As well, the study has benefited from a willing and open Acadia administration. Planning and Recreation Staff with the Town were also active and engaged in the study process, as well as numerous community groups and Town residents. Moving forward, these champions will continue to play a vital role through the implementation of the recommendations. Town of Wolfville Council, as well as Councils and Staff from the region's municipalities, also have a key role to play in the success of implementation.

1 INTRODUCTION AND STUDY OVERVIEW

1.1 STUDY PROCESS

The Indoor Recreation Facilities Assessment and Gap Analysis incorporated two phases:

- **Phase One – Existing Conditions Review & Community Consultation**
- **Phase Two – Analysis & Final Report**

This study was facilitated by the Town of Wolfville with assistance of a Task Force comprised of individuals from Town Council, Town Staff, community residents, and Acadia University. A workshop took place with the Task Force to discuss the facility recommendations and implementation. Wendy Donovan, Principal of dmA Planning & Management Services Inc. located in Wolfville, acted as a volunteer advisor providing input to the study. The assessment began in May 2015 with a final report delivered to Council in December 2015.

The Task Force included: Councillor Mercedes Brian; Councillor David Mangle; Chrystal Fuller, Director of Community Development, Town of Wolfville; Shannon Read, Recreation Coordinator, Town of Wolfville; Kevin Dickie, Director of Acadia Athletics; Rich Johnson, Acadia Athletics Complex Facility / Operations Coordinator; Dr. Susan Markham-Starr and Mike Townsend, community residents.

1.2 REPORT PRESENTATION

The Indoor Recreation Facilities Assessment and Gap Analysis Report is presented in five chapters:

- **Chapter 1.0 – Introduction and Study Overview**
- **Chapter 2.0 – Planning Context Summary**
- **Chapter 3.0 – Consultation Summary**
- **Chapter 4.0 – Gap Analysis and Recommendations**
- **Chapter 5.0 – Implementation Strategy**

Appendices to the report comprise the majority of the study investigation and analysis. The appendices should be reviewed to fully inform the summary sections and recommendations in the main body of the report.

2 PLANNING CONTEXT SUMMARY

Indoor recreation facilities operate within a broad community context: they must respond to population and socio-demographic realities of the areas they serve and be consistent with current and anticipated service trends and the operational environment. The operational environment includes both the organizational and financial circumstances of those who may build and maintain these facilities. Together these elements are referred to as the “planning context”, a critical factor in determining both need and viability of the recommended directions. A complete review of the operational environment and programming needs was not part of the scope of this current assessment. This should be examined through future studies to help fully inform infrastructure needs. This chapter summarizes the Town’s population and socio-demographic characteristics, as well as the existing indoor facilities inventory and service trends.

The full Planning Context information for this study can be found in Appendix A.

2.1 SUMMARY OF POPULATION AND SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CONTEXT

The following points summarize key population and socio-demographic characteristics of the Town of Wolfville:

- Wolfville has experienced population growth over the past 10 years with a large increase of permanent residents (+13.6%) between the years 2006-2011.
- Wolfville has a higher than provincial average of residents in the 20-24 years of age cohort. The presence of students in attendance at Acadia University further contributes to this high population proportion for the duration of the academic year (approx. 8 months) as well as during the summer months.
- Wolfville has a slightly higher population proportion of those 65 years and older compared to Kings County and to the Province as a whole. This may reflect the popularity of the Town as a retirement destination including the population of retired former staff and faculty of Acadia.
- Wolfville attracts a higher proportion of families compared to the Province as a whole (between 2006 and 2011, there was a 4% increase in families in Wolfville compared to 1% increase in the Province as a whole).

- The average economic family income¹ in the Town is shown to be much higher compared to Kings County and Nova Scotia as a whole. However, the median household income² in the Town (which would include single residents living alone) is less than Kings County and the Province; and Wolfville also has a much higher prevalence of low income individuals (which is represented in both single and multi-person households) compared to the County and Province as a whole.

2.2 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FROM BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

The following bullet points summarize general themes relating to indoor recreation facilities that emerged from a review of background documents:

- Recreation facility assessment and improvement is heavily supported in a number of Town plans and strategies and has been identified as a topic of interest through public consultation previously conducted.
- Wolfville's *Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS)*, *The Council Strategic Plan*, and *The Physical Activity Strategy* state that creating partnerships with external organizations is an important step when looking to improve upon facility quality and capacity.
- Wolfville's MPS notes that partnerships with Acadia University should be actively pursued as they provide for and maintain many of the recreation facilities for the residents of Wolfville.
- Wolfville's MPS states that improvements to facility infrastructure and capacity must be done so in a sustainable and equitable³ manner.
- *The Town of Wolfville Economic Action Plan (2012)* expresses that facility improvement will support the Town of Wolfville's Tourism Sector as well as stimulate economic growth in the region.
- *Acadia Athletics' Strategic Plan* primarily focuses on University sport and recreation development, but also discusses community recreation – identifying events and camps as part of their core business. The Plan also identifies recreation / fitness customers and fans as key stakeholders. Opportunities in the Plan include potential improvements to aging facilities. One of the Goals of the

¹ Economic family refers to a group of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law, adoption or a foster relationship. Economic family income refers to the sum of all incomes per economic family.

² Households refer to the number of usual residents in a private household. This is inclusive of all household sizes ranging from one usual resident to multiple usual residents of a single private household. Household income is defined as the total income of a household, or the sum of all incomes for usual residents of that private household.

³ To provide 'equitably' means to provide in an unbiased, fair, impartial manner. It is not synonymous with "equal".

Plan is to ensure long-term viability of Acadia facilities and improve service levels for Athletics, students, and the community. The Vision established in the Plan is *an unparalleled Canadian university athletic program, delivering a uniquely personalized high performance Athletic, Academic, and Community enriching experience*. Community in this Vision statement refers to the broader community as a whole and speaks to the reason that Acadia Athletics' Staff are members of the Task Force for the Indoor Recreation Facility Assessment and Gap Analysis study.

- Acadia University's usage policy prioritizes access by (1) Kinesiology / Community Development Classes (2) Intercollegiate Athletic Practices and Games (3) Intramurals (4) School of Kinesiology and Department of Community Development Student Leadership Programs (5) Sport Clubs (6) Other Campus Recreation Programs (7) Other University classes and programs (8) Open recreation time (University students, faculty, and staff, their families and the community) (9) Rentals.⁴ Based on this, residents of Wolfville who are not categorized under the first seven groups have 8th – 9th priority access to utilize recreation and sport facilities at Acadia.

2.3 SUMMARY OF TRENDS⁵

Trends and best practices that influence sport and recreation demand are Provincial, National, and even international in scope and typically reflect societal shifts in recreation provision culture. dmA reviewed national trends for facility development, institutional recreation facility sharing and recreation participation relevant to the Town of Wolfville. The following points summarize current recreation facility trends and best practices:

- Recreation facilities often serve as community hubs that facilitate social gatherings and other non-recreation services (e.g., health services, libraries, cultural spaces, etc.), in addition to their more apparent sport and recreation uses.
- The prevalence of sustainable development increasingly engages communities in "greening projects". While awareness and expectation for green technology enhances community appreciation for environmental sustainability, it has impacts on capital and operation costs, programming, and facility development.
- Through new municipal infrastructure projects, urban planners and designers have emphasized the importance of public spaces through the incorporation of place-making designs and concepts. These ancillary spaces provide a sense of identity for residents, which is important for community building.

⁴ Acadia University Policies and Procedures, Policy Number R-1: Recreation Facilities Usage, January 1, 1999. Some departments have since changed names and these changes are reflected in the body of the text.

⁵ Information in the Summary of Trends section was provided by and is the work of dmA Planning & Management Services Inc.

- Co-location / shared facilities (recreation uses with libraries, cultural spaces, public health services, etc.) has been shown to not only heighten opportunities for increased use through an increase in casual drop-in rates, they also have the potential to decrease capital cost sharing for the municipality.
- Public use of facilities belonging to non-public institutions (e.g., universities, colleges and federal military bases) is fairly common. However, along with the opportunities these facilities provide, there are also challenges. Particularly in smaller communities, sport and recreation facilities associated with institutions of higher learning and military bases, are considerably more elaborate than would be affordable by the municipalities on their own. However, these facilities are often not built with the public as a priority, thereby resulting in a more restricted level of access than what would be in the case of truly public facilities.
- On a national level, recreation participation trends have altered based on changes in demographics and personal preference of activity type. While there have been increases in personal “wellness” based activities (such as yoga, Pilates, and other mind / body practices), a decline in youth population numbers correlate with decreased participation rates in some team-based sports.

2.4 SUMMARY OF INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES AND SERVICE CONTEXT

The consultants created a detailed inventory of the indoor recreation facilities within the Town of Wolfville. This inventory was based on site visits, information provided by local key informants, as well as desktop research. While not a primary component of the study, the consultants also reviewed recreational programming brochures provided by Town Staff to understand the types of programs currently housed in indoor recreation facilities within the Town. Key observations regarding the indoor facility inventory and programming services are provided below:

- The Town relies heavily on Acadia University’s sport and recreation amenities with all major (and some minor) indoor facilities belonging to the non-municipal institution.
- The recreation facilities within the Town accommodate users associated with sport-based activities (e.g., ice arena, swimming pool, fitness facilities, indoor courts, dance / fitness studios and gymnasia), community service groups (e.g., meeting and multi-purpose rooms, banquet facilities) as well as those associated with creative or cultural-based activities (e.g., performing arts theatres).
- The Town residents have access to a range of programming options either through the Town’s own internal programming services, through community / regional groups, or through private providers and Acadia University. Programs range in activity types (sport and physical activity, creative / artistic activities, and social activities for special interest groups) as well as age-specific programming (pre-school / children, youth, adults and seniors). Based on the limited review of recreational programming provided in the Town, there appears to be a lack of Town or community group programs offering material or performing arts activities to children.

3 CONSULTATION SUMMARY

The following chapter outlines the consultation activities conducted as part of this study, and summarizes the primary themes arising from these consultations.

The full consultation information is presented in Appendix B. Appendices to this report also include the lists of individuals and organizations involved in the consultation activities.

Please note: the opinions and views expressed in Chapter 3.0 and Appendix B are those of the individuals interviewed and surveyed for this study process and not those of the consultants. The purpose of this section is to record and summarize input and submissions. Input from different sources can be contradictory.

3.1 KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS SUMMARY

Key Informant interviews were conducted to identify issues, obstacles and opportunities for the current study. Interviews were conducted either in person or by telephone with senior staff of the Town and Acadia University. Recreation service providers for the Town of Kentville and Kings County were also contacted, but calls were not returned in time to arrange interviews to be included in this study. Additional follow up with these organizations is recommended in order to conduct discussions around regional partnerships and the possibility of conducting a Regional Recreation Facility Plan. Common themes and, as appropriate, specific points of information relevant to this study as provided by key informants were the following:

- Town Staff have heard from groups that they have difficulty booking the specific times they want to access indoor facilities (e.g., basketball and badminton with regards to school access).
- Town Staff have heard from newly formed groups that they have difficulty booking time at indoor facilities as established groups get time first based on the previous year's schedule.
- Town Staff note that an easier way for groups to 'release' booked time that they end up not needing will help other groups utilize the time.
- The Town is currently looking to have community access to the Acadia Athletics Complex earlier in the morning.
- Regular meetings occur between Town Staff and organizations such as the Wolfville School and Acadia University to discuss the possibility of securing times for community groups.

- There is a lack of formal agreements or formal process / regularity of facility booking procedures and fees (e.g., school bookings, community use of Acadia's Indoor Track). There are also currently no known formal agreements in place between the Town of Wolfville and facilities in neighbouring communities.
- Town Staff note that event tourism seems to focus on theatre / performance space and outdoor facilities (rather than indoor sport facilities).
- Strengthening partnerships with organizations that run the indoor recreation facilities is important to community recreation services.
- Partnerships between Acadia University and the Town have been noted by both organizations as a key component in providing services and planning for future recreation facility needs.
- Although our requests to the recreation staff of the Municipality of Kings and the Town of Kentville were not returned in time to be included in the current study, it is our understanding that there has been discussion regarding preparing a needs assessment for an indoor recreation facility in Kentville. The Town of Kentville is also in discussions to replace their library in the short term and has been in conversation with the Municipality of Kings regarding a possible partnership. It is therefore possible that at some point in the future these two municipalities will proceed further to assess a multipurpose community recreation facility. To our knowledge, no discussions have involved doing this in concert with the library, although this would be the model used in recent years by many municipalities in Nova Scotia and elsewhere.

3.2 REQUEST FOR BRIEFS SUMMARY

There are certain groups within the community that are not regular (i.e. weekly) user groups of recreation facilities, but do play an important part in recreation services for the community. Also, there are certain groups that operate their own space, rather than renting space from others. Instead of being sent the detailed user group survey, these groups were sent a shorter "Request for Brief" to provide them with an opportunity for give input and comments with regards to assessing indoor facility needs within the Town. Twenty-eight groups were sent Request for Briefs with seven groups responding. A list of groups is found in Appendix B. A summary of the findings from the Request for Briefs is as follows:

- L'Arche Homefires is currently renovating their own hall to become more accessible and emphasized the importance of making current and future facilities accessible.
- The Wolfville Curling Centre expressed the need for more multi-purpose space as the increasing demand for their space has resulted in the group having to turn renters away.

- Mud Creek Rotary Club also indicated that they too needed more space to host their events and to better serve the community's needs. They expressed interest in creating partnerships with other organizations to establish a shared space that would give the Town more options for meetings / events holding 50+ people.
- Fundy Film Society uses the Al Whittle Theatre twice a week from September to June. They expressed that the facility is adequate for their needs.
- The Wolfville Baptist Church representative indicated that they would like to see more support from the Town of Wolfville as they currently offer meeting space to a number of groups in the community free of charge. They expressed that their facility needs repairs and upgrades and that the Town should focus on investing in current infrastructure rather than building new.
- Deep Roots and Wolfville Scouts generally expressed satisfaction with the Town's current facilities.

3.3 FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS SUMMARY

Focus group meetings were conducted with user group representatives that were identified by Town Staff. In total, three focus groups were conducted over one day at the Acadia Athletics Complex with 13 groups represented. Focus group members represented team-based sports, community programming (seniors, youth and children), and artistic groups. A full list of groups invited and those who attended is provided in Appendix B. Common themes and key points discussed by the focus groups are as follows:

- Focus group members largely expressed concerns with the current state and availability of Acadia's swimming pool. Focus group members indicated that the pool was too small / scheduling times for use were difficult due to competing demands (e.g., Acadia's Varsity team, Wolfville Swim Club, seniors and youth groups, as well as the general public).
- Cost of the pool was also an issue for user groups. Groups stated that rental fees are directly passed over to club participants, which results in expensive programming for families and residents.
- Focus group members indicated that they rely heavily on Acadia's indoor facilities including the pool, arena, gymnasium and indoor running track. Some groups suggested that future upgrades should be directed towards improving the University's current facilities instead of building new facilities elsewhere since they currently function as regional facilities.
- Focus group members felt that Acadia's facilities needed improved accessibility measures to enable residents of all ages and abilities to comfortably access and use the recreation amenities.
- Focus group members were generally satisfied with the overall availability of the performing arts facilities within the Town – but did mention occasional scheduling conflicts with University events.

- Some focus group members felt that it was difficult to find a facility that meets all of their needs (e.g. acoustics, large gathering spaces that would fit 50+ people and large musical instruments).
- Group representatives felt that rental costs for performance arts facilities were too high.

3.4 USER GROUP SURVEY SUMMARY

Town of Wolfville staff identified 17 volunteer sport, general recreation and community organizations that currently use indoor sport and recreation facilities in the Town on a regular basis. A representative from each group was sent an email inviting them to participate in an online survey. Information requested in the survey included a description and details about the types of programs and services the groups provide, membership trends, use of and satisfaction with facilities and anticipated future demand for additional or new facilities. In total, nine organizations responded to the survey, each with diverse needs for indoor facilities. All user groups contacted and those who responded to the survey are listed in Appendix B. A summary of the complete responses can also be found in Appendix B. The major points of interest identified in the survey that relate to the Indoor Facility Assessment and Gap Analysis are:

- Acadia University's amenities were heavily relied upon by respondents, particularly the arena and swimming pool.
- Primary concerns with Wolfville's current indoor facilities were the lack of available booking time as well as the cost to rent them.
- Five of the nine user groups felt that upgraded or new facilities within the Town would benefit the community (as well as their organization) and although most were not in the position to contribute financially to new development, many indicated they could help through other indirect methods such as fundraising and volunteer work.
- Eight of the nine user groups did not own their own facility. Only two of these groups indicated that they could handle a rental increase if an upgraded space were provided to them.

3.5 COMMUNITY HOUSEHOLD SURVEY SUMMARY

An on-line community household survey was available to residents via a link on the Town of Wolfville's website. The on-line community survey is not statistically valid, as it does not represent a random sample. Nonetheless the online survey does represent an opportunity for those interested in making their opinions known to do so. Respondents were asked a variety of questions regarding their current use of facilities. Respondents were also asked to identify their recreational needs and the best ways to provide for those needs. The full community household survey results summary can be found in Appendix B.

The main findings and key points of the community household surveys are:

- A total of 187 households responded to the community household survey with approximately 70% of respondents living within the Town of Wolfville's boundaries and a quarter of respondents living elsewhere in King's County (3% were from outside of King's County).
- 50% of respondents indicated that their household uses indoor facilities within the Town of Wolfville at least once a week with the top three highest used amenities being the Wolfville Farmer's Market, the Wolfville Library and Acadia's pool.
- Those surveyed indicated that the University's pool should be the highest priority for facility upgrades as it currently does not meet the demand for booking time, nor does it meet the quality expected by its users.
- 70% of respondents said that they would be willing to contribute to the cost of upgrading indoor facilities within the Town through annual local taxes.
- When asked how operating costs of new facilities should be supported, respondents said a combination of 50% user fees and 50% local taxes would be best.

4 GAP ANALYSIS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Recreation service delivery begins with programs and activities – those for which stakeholders express interest, as well as activities identified by professional recreation staff as important to the community’s well-being. There is an inherent problem in this “ideal” manner of determining facility needs, in that the lifetime of facilities is usually far longer than program trends. For example, most ice arenas built before the 90s did not anticipate the growth of sledge hockey and before the 1980s, the growth of women’s hockey. Also pre 1980s aquatic facilities did not anticipate the use of pools as therapeutic and leisure facilities, and the short-lived leisure pool phase of the 1990s ignored the emergence of fitness and competitive aquatics in the general population.

The Facility Assessment process provided the community and stakeholders with an opportunity to indicate program and facility needs through: an online community survey, a stakeholder survey, and several focus group meetings. However, this assessment was neither a full or extensive assessment of community recreation needs and interests. The Assessment was undertaken to address a number of immediate issues related to the availability of space for general programming⁶, to consider short term opportunities, and the need and opportunity for partnerships. The Gap Analysis and Assessment must be understood within this context.

A population the size of Wolfville would rarely afford the level of recreation facilities without the presence of Acadia University.⁷ This creates considerable opportunities for Town residents. Acadia in turn benefits from funds brought in through public memberships and program fees. Notwithstanding these benefits to both organizations, there are challenges. The University’s facilities require financial investment to maintain the infrastructure and to respond to changing recreational and sport interests. While the community has access to these facilities they do not own them, and community use is considered after the needs of the University have been met. A major consideration for the Town, and Acadia, is the willingness to pursue a more formal partnership for facility maintenance and access. We understand that this issue must be resolved before many of the recommendations in this chapter can be addressed. Subsection 4.9 discusses the issue of partnership development in greater detail, including related recommendations.

The following subsections assess gaps in specific recreation facility types. Please note that while each type of facility is assessed as a separate facility component, some facilities are actually a collection of multiple facility components within one building.

The analysis and recommendations noted in this section are largely for facilities not owned by the Town. Certainly, Acadia and the other facility owners / operators can take these recommendations under advisement, as they feel appropriate. It is however, acknowledged

⁶ It is our understanding that a trigger of this study was the absence of completing a full recreation master plan and the temporary loss of community access to the Wolfville School gymnasium due to the redevelopment process.

⁷ This is not an uncommon situation in small one-industry towns where the industry (a mine or other major employer) recognizes that such facilities help to attract and retain employees.

that these are not Town facilities and that without a more formal partnership agreement the Town has limited opportunity to influence the degree to which any of the recommendations can be undertaken. It is strongly recommended that the points outlined in Chapter 5.0 be taken as initial steps by the Town.

4.1 ARENA DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the consultants' visual review, generally the arena appears to be in good condition with regard to the physical state, maintenance, amenities available, and overall accessibility. The arena has undergone some recent renovations. Its Olympic sized ice surface is surrounded by spectator seating suitable for a University athletics facility. It is an exceptional resource for a community of Wolfville's size. While the arena change rooms have been recently renovated, there were some limitations noted by Acadia Staff. This included the absence of a dedicated first-aid room and having only one dedicated female change room.

The facility is largely used by Varsity teams, Acadia Student use and Acadia Minor Hockey. Based on the 2014 – 2015 arena schedules, the rink is at capacity from September to April, with only limited non-prime and weekend time occasionally available. Throughout May the arena typically hosts hockey camps, graduation, banquets and championships (e.g., the Provincial Cheerleading Championship were held in May, 2015); in June, when the ice is removed, the arena is used for ball hockey games; and from July – August the arena is used from approximately 6:30am – 11:00pm for hockey camps. When taking into account community groups and community involvement in activities (such as hockey camps, and Acadia Minor Hockey which is operated by the University), it is estimated that 55% arena usage is by the general community. There are approximately ten hours through the weekday and two hours on the weekend for general public drop-in to the arena (not including time booked by community groups), however no evening times are available for the 2015 fall schedule for open skates.

It was noted by user groups and key informants that the facility is heavily used with limited ice-time available for new start-up groups. Existing groups also have expressed issues securing preferred ice-times. Both Acadia University and the Town's Recreation Department are being approached by groups that cannot get ice-time. This includes ringette, sledge hockey and speed skating. Acadia Minor Hockey expressed that currently their teams share ice times for some practices and there is little opportunity to gain additional ice time. Their organization serves 700 children and youth within the region (20% Wolfville residents and 80% residents outside of Wolfville); they do not anticipate growth in membership in the near future. They currently book approximately 12 hours per week and indicated that additional time was not required. The organization utilizes the Kentville Centennial and Glooscap arenas in addition to the Acadia Athletics Complex arena.

Cost did not appear to be a barrier to use for most groups. User groups expressed that generally the fees for ice time are appropriately priced compared to other arenas in the Province. Additionally, the general public did not identify fees for drop-in skating to be a concern.

The service ratio for the region is 1:9,000⁸, which is greater than the high level service provision “standard” (1:12,000); meaning, from a service standard perspective, the area is adequately served. However, based on feedback from arena operators, user groups and demonstrated demand through waitlists, it appears that, regionally, King’s County may be in need of an additional ice pad. Based on the potential synergies, it would be most logical to build onto an existing facility to have a twin-pad rather than building a single-pad facility to meet needs. A study should be conducted to determine the regional need for an additional ice-pad. This should be part of a Regional Recreation Facility Plan and subsequent detailed analysis through a feasibility study that includes investigation of an additional ice-surface.

Recommendation 1.1: While there is public drop-in use scheduled during the day and on weekends, the option of having an evening timeslot should be investigated to provide a greater variation in public drop-in times.

Recommendation 1.2: Focus should be made to support new community groups who may be looking to gain ice-time.

Recommendation 1.3: Through a Regional Recreation Facility Plan, the need for an additional ice surface within King’s County should be more fully analyzed.

4.2 AQUATIC FACILITY DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Indoor aquatic facilities provide year-round indoor sport and recreation activities that serve all ages, all abilities / disabilities, sport, recreation and health related needs. However, they are typically the most expensive of all the sport / recreation facilities to operate. It is unlikely that these facilities can be operated without a significant annual deficit, and they are best provided through co-location with other facilities with greater revenue positive potential (e.g., twin pad arena facilities).

Notwithstanding the significant annual operating deficit indoor aquatic facilities accrue, they have the greatest opportunity of all indoor recreation / sport facilities to serve a universal population. The opportunities provided by an indoor aquatic facility are extensive and can include the following:

- Pre and post-natal exercise classes
- Infant water programs
- Learn to swim classes aimed at lifetime safety
- Competitive aquatic programs
- Post cardiac exercise activities
- Older adult exercise
- Fitness and fun
- Play alone or as part of a family activity
- Sport and visitor tourism attraction

⁸ Estimates a current population of 4,270 residents plus approximately 3,500 students when Acadia University is fully operational equaling 7,770 individuals.

Modern aquatic facilities differ in many ways from those built in the past, such as the Acadia indoor pool. As a traditional facility, the existing pool is most useful to fitness, intermediate to advanced instructional programs, and competitive swimming programs; however the narrow deck is less conducive to competitive activities. It may not have sufficient depth through a broad enough area to fully accommodate synchronized swimming, deep water diving, or water polo. Its shallow end is too deep to accommodate (in the most ideal fashion) early learn to swim programs, or Aquafit. It is also not fully functional for all therapeutic programs.

To accommodate the full range of aquatic activities, modern indoor aquatic facilities should include:

- At least two tanks including:
 - A 25 metre (in larger centres occasionally 50 metre) rectangular lane tank (6 – 8 lanes) with cooler water for fitness and competitive use, a much wider deck area for team mustering, dryland training, etc.
 - A free form leisure tank with 0-depth entry and warmer water suitable for Aquafit to accommodate up to 30 individuals, play areas (e.g., Tarzan bridges, slides etc.) and learn to swim for young children.
 - Some facilities include special tanks for full therapeutic use including lifts, ramps and even movable floors; and deep-water tanks for diving, synchro and water polo, and/or a warm water hydro pool.

The presence of an aquatic facility can be seen as a community ‘selling’ feature for individuals looking to relocate to a new community. An example of the importance of an aquatic facility is the case of the Pictou County Wellness Centre. It is our understanding that this facility had a pool added through financial contributions by Sobeys as they viewed this as an important factor to attract management level employees and their families to relocate to Pictou County.

The Acadia aquatic facility was built in the 1960s to serve a university population with a focus on competitive and recreational use. The University has indicated that, if considering such a facility today, they might not operate an indoor aquatic facility. The facility now serves a broad regional population and is reaching a point where more significant maintenance work is required. Required renovations may not be affordable to the University on its own, or with limited partners. While perhaps not as critical as it once was to the University population, the pool continues to support recruitment⁹. Therefore while Acadia Staff note that the pool itself is not a major attractor for enrollment, the programs it supports may be.

As the only indoor aquatic facility in a very large geographic region it provides aquatic services to the non-university public. The pool supports community activities for all ages during every stage of life, is essential for learning life-safety techniques, and supports the S.M.I.L.E. program, which is important to the community. The study’s Task Force members

⁹ It is our understanding that the S.M.I.L.E. program, which uses the aquatic facility, is a significant attractor for Acadia with some estimates putting the participation by Acadia Students as leaders in this program as high as 80% through their years at Acadia.

view the pool as very important to the community and stress that conversations need to happen regarding this key community resource.

The Acadia pool operates approximately 85 hours weekly. Approximately 58 hours are used by single groups (including public / drop-in swimming) and another 28.5 hours by two or more groups at a time. Varsity groups (University only groups) use 19 hours of dedicated and shared hours, or approximately 22% of the pool hours. The Triton Swim Club and Special Olympics use approximately 12% (11.5 hours of dedicated and shared hours). The public uses the remaining dedicated and shared hours, or 64% of the available pool hours (56.5 hours), for lane swim, parent and tot programs, aquafit, Zumba, swimming lessons, and the S.M.I.L.E. program. The University operates programs open to the public; staff from Acadia estimate that 90% of the users of the pool are members of the general public.

Of the total community use, almost 58% of pass holders reside in Wolfville (the number of pass holders who are also staff or faculty of Acadia has not been separated from the total numbers). Additionally, almost 27% of swim registrations are from Wolfville. Acadia staff and faculty access the facility at no cost to themselves through a negotiated contract benefit. Depending on the percent of those who are Acadia staff or faculty within the almost 60% community users from Wolfville, this could represent a significant reason for limited community based revenue.

Over the past several years, the University has invested almost \$500,000 in upgrades to its athletic complex as a whole, to the benefit of both non-university users and the public (from Wolfville and the surrounding region). Operators of the pool report that it runs operating deficits, as is the norm for an aquatic facility. That said, there are ways to generate additional revenues for the facility that would become more viable under a different operating model.

Dedicated community facilities, typically serve a population in the order of 30,000 to 40,000; a range that will reflect pool size and amenities, regional options and resources. The Acadia facility is not a dedicated community operated facility. There are two other institutional (non-community owned / non-community dedicated) recreation facilities within Kings County - Waterville Nova Scotia Youth Centre and Base Greenwood which provides some public access. Together these three facilities can roughly be equivalent to 1.5 dedicated community aquatic facilities. The next closest indoor public aquatic facilities are in Halifax, Truro, Bridgewater and Cornwallis, meaning that the three institutional pools could in fact be serving a regional population of approximately 80,000 when considering King's County and surrounding areas (which equates to a service ration of approximately 1:50,000).

In summary, the Acadia indoor aquatic facility is aging, requires significant resources to maintain, serves a large regional population (although receives no formal funding on an ongoing basis from these municipalities), and has potential to serve extensive needs and interests (although it is not consistent in design or operation to fully serve these needs).

The challenge of upgrading and/or replacing an aging facility, particularly one as costly to build and operate as an aquatic facility, is most likely beyond the reasonable scope of the University and the Town. This is a regional facility and should be considered in that context. If it is considered in a regional context both its operation and the other facility components that might be part of this consideration must also be assessed. It is the consultant's recommendation that this be done as part of a broader study of regional recreation needs.

The recommendations that follow are designed to prepare input to that recommendation, which is further discussed in subsection 4.9.

Recommendation 2.1: Gather detailed information to inform future discussions regarding regional pool needs and public usage, including but not limited to:

- Hours of use (both number of hours and when during day, week and season) by university and non-university population.
- Residency of non-university users by type of activity.
- Full costs related to operation of the pool (separated from other operational costs that would continue without the pool).
- Revenues associated with the pool.
- The degree to which the availability of the pool contributes to revenues and use of the track and fitness facility by non-university patrons.
- The degree to which the availability of the pool contributes to student recruitment and retention.

Recommendation 2.2: Undertake formal assessment of aquatic needs in the region (this should be included as part of a larger Regional Recreation Facility Plan). This assessment should include, but not be limited to:

- Assessment of the geographic reach / regional use of the Acadia Pool.
- Assessment of the range of needs and interests for Aquatic activities in the region.
- Assessment of operational capacity, and interest to operate this type of facility, by Acadia, regional municipalities, other private and not-for-profit operators including the YMCA.
- Assessment of location including but not limited to colocation with existing and planned recreation / sport facilities throughout the target region, operational capacity, locational draw, and confirmation of the most appropriate location with consideration to operational, financial, site availability, other complementary amenities, and user demand.
- Full business plan including operational costs, revenue projections, capital funding opportunities, policy requirements related to usage and operating deficit sharing, and impact on regional tax units.

4.3 GYMNASIA DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Gymnasia within Wolfville are located at the Wolfville School and the Acadia Athletics Complex. The current gymnasia in the Town are of superior quality, with one being a University caliber gymnasium and the other being a double gymnasium currently under renovation. There were, however, concerns expressed by user groups and the Town's Recreation Department regarding access due to limited availability and the facilities' mandate to provide for their primary users first (which are student sports and activities). Because the Wolfville School gymnasium is currently closed for renovations, it was expressed that this has placed strain on groups to find suitable space (including the Wolfville Children's Centre, which has since relocated to the Acadia University Student Union Building). The Acadia Athletics Complex gymnasium appears to be at capacity for usage

based on a review of the schedule and discussions with Acadia Staff. From September to March, there are only some morning times and some weekend times availability; in April, it is used for exams; and throughout the summer months (June to July), it is used primarily for sports camps. Staff with Wolfville's Recreation Department and Acadia Athletics expressed that there are waitlists for groups to secure time at gymnasium facilities.

The current space being used for the Fitness Centre at the Acadia Athletics Complex was previously used as a gymnasium ('Auxiliary gymnasium'). It is our understanding that the gymnasium floor still exists under the flooring of the Fitness Centre. Further to this, it was expressed by Acadia Staff that the Fitness Centre space was intended to be a temporary relocation. Based on this, the need expressed for more gymnasium / active multi-purpose space could potentially be met by re-establishing the former gymnasium at the Acadia Athletics Complex and relocating the Fitness Centre through renovations. Discussions should be held between Town Staff and Acadia Athletics Staff regarding the possibility of restoring the Auxiliary Gymnasium at the Acadia Athletics Complex and relocating the Fitness Centre. This could be undertaken following a regional assessment of needs.

As well, the Town, Acadia and Wolfville School should meet to consider if there are ways to make the availability and booking of these facilities easier to the public. As the gymnasium within the Town are not publically owned, formal agreements regarding public use should be investigated between the Town and Wolfville School and the Town and Acadia University and potentially other neighbouring jurisdictions to provide more secure hours for community use. This could also be explored further during an assessment of regional needs.

Several user groups and respondents to the community survey expressed interest in an indoor turf facility. The nearest indoor turf field is located in Kentville. The addition of another indoor turf field within the region would have to be considered carefully as not to affect the sustainability of the existing facility. The viability of a second indoor turf field in the region would need to be an item considered through a regional recreational facility plan and feasibility study.

Recommendation 3.1: Undertake formal assessment of regional need for additional gymnasium and indoor turf facility (this should be included as part of a larger Regional Recreation Facility Plan).

4.4 FITNESS CENTRE DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Acadia Athletics Complex includes a publically accessible fitness centre and weight room. This fitness centre appears in adequate condition and there have been recent upgrades to the HVAC system. There are accessibility issues with the heavy weight room as it is currently located in a former squash court. Survey respondents however, did not express concerns over access or cost. There were comments made that the condition of the change rooms is not adequate and needs upgrades. A family change room was recently added to the Acadia Athletics Complex through ACOA funding. It was expressed by several sources that, in general, the change rooms in the Acadia Athletics complex that serve the gymnasium, the fitness centre, the running track and the pool are in need of upgrades.

Acadia Staff noted that, currently, the Acadia Athletics Complex as a whole is operating at a loss; however, on its own, the Fitness Centre is considered a revenue generator. The fact that fitness centres can sometimes be run as revenue generators is a reason why some

municipalities choose to run public fitness facilities. Additionally, municipal (or non-privately run) fitness centres may also be viewed as more open and inviting than private fitness facilities, and have a broader / more flexible program offering. It is also not uncommon for communities to have privately run fitness centres. Some municipalities choose to not run fitness centres as public centres can be seen as competition with private business. There is currently one privately run commercial fitness facility operating in Wolfville. Maintaining community access to the Acadia Fitness Facility is important as there is only one private and no municipally run fitness facilities within Wolfville. For Acadia, having a University fitness centre is also an important student service that is offered.

Recommendation 4.1: The Town should consider options to support upgrading the Acadia Athletics Complex change rooms that serve the gymnasium, the fitness centre, the running track and the pool.

4.5 MULTIPURPOSE SPACE AND MEETING SPACE

4.5.1 MULTIPURPOSE SPACE DISCUSSION

There are more than 11 recreational multi-purpose spaces within Wolfville. Most are suitable for some level of fitness or creative space and many have kitchen access. However, user groups found that some spaces were not appropriate for all types of physical activity due to floor quality or size. As well, some spaces are not usable throughout the entire year (e.g. 'three-season' room at Wolfville's Recreation Centre). Some groups expressed difficulty in booking. Although cost can vary, groups generally did not express difficulties with rental fees, while some smaller groups did express that cost (and the potential of increased costs) can be a concern.

The Wolfville Recreation Centre is one of the few facilities owned by the Town, for which they have direct control over the investments and programming that takes place. A facility condition review is currently taking place to understand what maintenance is required. It is our understanding that the facility condition review will also look at the building's functionality. While there could be consideration made to extend the use of the facility by making it a year-round facility, this facility will likely still only function as a relatively small multi-purpose / meeting space and will not meet the need for increased gymnasium space or large multi-purpose space suitable for sport / active recreation.

4.5.2 MEETING SPACE DISCUSSION

There are approximately 30 rentable meeting spaces within Wolfville. These spaces range in size and some have access to kitchen facilities. Most facilities appear to be in good condition and are well maintained. Some facilities have issues with accessibility. Some facility operators also expressed the need for amenity upgrades (e.g., Wolfville Curling Club expressed the need for an upgraded kitchen). Many facility operators expressed that they have rental time available and are not operating at capacity. However, some user groups expressed difficulty in booking and finding space during the times they desire. Costs can vary, but generally groups did not express great difficulties with current rental fees; some facilities are even offered free of charge to non-profit groups.

4.5.3 MULTIPURPOSE AND MEETING SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the facility inventory there are a variety of multi-purpose spaces and meeting rooms within the Town that could accommodate a number of community recreation activities. Some of these facilities have limitations regarding physical accessibility (see General Recommendation 8.5), may need amenity upgrades (e.g., the Wolfville Curling Club) or are for seasonal use only (e.g., the Wolfville Recreation Centre). Some groups expressed difficulty finding space and securing time for multi-purposes activities. This includes the Wolfville Children's Centre who were displaced due to the renovations of the Wolfville School gymnasium, but recently secured a dedicated space in the Acadia Student Union Building.

There are, however, a number of multi-purpose and meeting spaces within the Town that have capacity and are available for public rentals, some of which are offered free to non-profit community groups. A centralized booking system or community calendar would benefit community groups looking for facility time that will accommodate their specific needs.

Recommendation 5.1: Improved advertising of meeting and multi-purpose space facilities should occur so that the general public and user groups are aware of facility availability.

Recommendation 5.2: A centralized community calendar for available meeting and multipurpose space, centralized link to individual facility calendars, or communication of availability to a central person who user groups and residents know to contact to assist with finding rental space should occur.

4.6 BANQUET FACILITIES DISSUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Banquet facilities include the lobby at the Acadia Festival Theatre, the Fountain Commons and Clarke Commons. The Acadia Festival Theatre Lobby appears to be in good condition. The Fountain Commons and Clarke Commons also appear to be in good condition and are very well maintained. University activities are priority, but groups and residents did not express concerns about access. Some groups expressed concerns about rental fees and catering costs.

There are no banquet facility recommendations as the supply appears acceptable and the facilities appeared well maintained.

4.7 PERFORMANCE ART SPACE DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Most communities that are comparable in size to Wolfville have limited (or no) access to a performance art theater within their community. Wolfville has two fairly large performance arts theatres and a smaller dedicated performance art space. There are also performance venues at Denton Hall, Wolfville Baptist Church and Horton High available to community groups for rentals and performances.

The Acadia Cinema Cooperative Staff (who run the AI Whittle and Studio Z theatres) noted that they typically have availability throughout the week and on some weekends for additional bookings. It was noted that the Acadia Festival Theatre is primarily used by the Acadia School of Music, although community groups do use the theatre for major

community events. Some user groups noted that, at times, they have difficulty securing their ideal rental times.

Groups commented that rental fees are expensive for performance arts facilities. Groups also expressed that they want to keep community theatre affordable and, at times, have not charged fees for attendance. Both theatre facilities are aging, but overall appear to be in generally good physical condition based on a limited visual review. There have been medium term needs expressed regarding aging sound and projection infrastructure. It is our understanding that Wolfville has a Community Partnership Policy, for grants up to \$5,000 per group that would be open to the Al Whittle Theatre and the Atlantic Festival Theatre for infrastructure upgrades. Community groups using the performance art facilities also receive annual grants from the Town to cover rental fees.

The quality of performance arts facilities within the Town are not typical for a town of comparable size and should be acknowledged as a significant attraction to residents and visitors (e.g., cultural tourism). Theatres provide the Town with the ability to host events such as the Deep Roots festival, and providing program space for community groups like WOW, Fezziwig, and the Acadia Performing Arts Series. The sustainability of these facilities is important to the Town as they provide important cultural programming opportunities for community members and tourists alike, and therefore the Town should play a role in their maintenance.

Recommendation 6.1: There is a need to address short to medium term needs such as upgrades to the sound system of the Acadia Festival Theatre and the projector system at the Al Whittle theatre. This type of minor capital could be addressed under the Town's existing grant program.

Recommendation 6.2: Improved community access to the Acadia Festival Theatre should be explored as part of the formalized partnership agreement between the Town and Acadia University.

4.8 LIBRARY DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The library is centrally located in downtown Wolfville and is housed in the historic train station. While the location is ideal for community access (and the community appreciates the retention and reuse of this historic building) the facility is aging and significant maintenance and ongoing repairs will likely be needed.

More importantly, due to the size of the building and the constraints imposed by repurposing a train station, the library does not have features commonly associated with contemporary libraries. The library would not meet guidelines for minimum size adopted by most library planners; there is minimal reading and working space; computer access and workstations for technology are limited; areas designed and committed for specific uses such as children's programming or a teens area are constrained or unavailable; there is virtually no display space; the public use areas are not fully accessible; there are no food service or private study space; and, it does not act as a "community hub" in the way that contemporary libraries achieve.

It should be emphasized that despite the limitations imposed by the building, the library staff do an excellent job serving the community. They do their best to work with the limitations of

the building, often with creative responses such as using the outdoor areas for programming during the summer season. The efforts of staff are reflected in the circulation and level of use by the Wolfville branch relative to other libraries in the Annapolis Valley Regional Library (AVRL) system. Furthermore, the limitations associated with the Wolfville branch are not uncommon among libraries in Nova Scotia. There are exceptions, such as the new Antigonish library, but many rural and small town branches suffer from the same constraints as the Wolfville branch. While not uncommon, and despite the commendable efforts of Wolfville library staff, there is little doubt that the Wolfville branch cannot meet the long term needs of the community for a contemporary library.

It is our understanding that consultants have been recently engaged by the Town to assess the physical structure, energy efficiency and functionality of several municipally owned buildings, including the Wolfville Library. To the best of our knowledge, the AVRL has not prepared a long term facility plan and does not have a plan outlining a future strategy and priorities for service delivery. While there is a need to explore options for improving and enhancing library services and facilities in Wolfville, this should be done in conjunction with the AVRL.

It is very difficult for libraries in small population centres to command sufficient space to provide the types of functional areas noted above that are not currently available in Wolfville. However, without these areas, libraries cannot meet the needs of current and future users. Partnerships are one response to this dilemma: increasingly public libraries are co-locating with other service providers to offer a broader range of community services from a single building and thereby share spaces (such as program and meeting rooms) that could not otherwise be provided.

In addition to justifying a larger physical space, these partnerships provide a much higher level of service to the community and can enhance a project's funding eligibility. The Antigonish Library is an example where a health service agency is co-located with the library. Other libraries have created partnerships with employment and training agencies, such as arts, cultural and heritage service providers, and centres for innovation and entrepreneurship. Partnerships with other municipal facilities, especially recreation, are very common in other communities and have proved quite successful (e.g., the new library in Bridgewater).

During the Task Force Workshop the idea of a Town and University combined library was discussed and supported. While there are some examples, public-university libraries are not common in North America, but partnerships among academic institutions are an established model, which may be a unique opportunity in Wolfville. This would be a very creative response to the community's library needs; and, if pursued in combination with other partnerships that would complement University initiatives – such as youth training and employment or technology based entrepreneurship – could be an innovative and mutually rewarding project.

Recommendation 7.1: In conjunction with the AVRL, undertake a comprehensive review of library service and facility requirements for the Wolfville area.

Recommendation 7.2: As part of the review of library service requirements in the Wolfville area, explore a wide range of possible partnerships, including a possible relationship with the University.

4.9 GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

There are currently no formal agreements, partnerships or policies to support fair and equitable access by residents to non-town indoor facilities.¹⁰ That is not to say that “non-members” are excluded from these facilities, but that access is neither guaranteed nor secure into the future. The development of policies and partnerships will be required to secure equitable access and ongoing viability of these facilities. Such policies and partnerships would almost certainly involve additional financial contribution on the part of Town of Wolfville taxpayers. The willingness of residents to pay increased taxes was not assessed in this review. It is important to note that Acadia staff on the Task Force identify that a partnership agreement desperately needs to happen and can be a “win-win” for the Town and Acadia.

Additional information on such things as (1) the desire of facility owners to enter into more formal financial and access agreement(s) with the Town and (2) willingness from Town of Wolfville Council to explore partnership (3) the interest and ability of Town taxpayers to contribute to operation of these facilities in return for secure and equitable access, need further discussion and assessment. These are ultimately policy questions to be decided on by the Town of Wolfville Council and the Acadia Board of Governors. Similarly, the Town could enter into policy / partnership arrangements with other groups (e.g., Wolfville Lions, the AVRSB, L’Arche, and Acadia Cinema Co-op) that provide facilities well used by the residents of the Town, and where the development of usage policies with these groups may benefit residents. However, because of the extent and range of sport and recreation facilities provided by Acadia, the consultants and Task Force members believe this formal partnership agreement is of key consideration.

Considerably more information than is provided by this review is needed to inform this discussion. The following recommendation, noted as a list of discussion points, is suggested as the next step in this process, and is necessary before most of the facility recommendations can be addressed. Some of these points are of a type that representatives from each organization can share and discuss; others (e.g., points 3 and 4) require further assessment such as community input to modeled information.

Recommendation 8.1: The Town of Wolfville and Acadia University begin a process to assess future shared use of Acadia facilities, using the following questions as a guide.

1. What does Acadia view as its long-term commitment to its facilities, with respect to their role in attraction and retention of students, faculty and staff? With that role in mind what will be its long-term financial commitment?
2. To what extent does revenue from participants who are not students, faculty or staff, factor into the facilities long-term viability?
3. How important, relative to other services provided by the Town, is ongoing access to Acadia sport and recreation facilities, and if important, what does that mean with respect to willingness to contribute financially?

¹⁰ There was an MOU between the Town of Wolfville and Acadia University (effective September 2010 through March 2013) for provision of time at Raymond field / track.

4. Are Acadia's sport and recreation facilities the most appropriate and financially viable facility option or are there other options, such as a municipal regional facility that may be considered?
5. What would a financial contribution / partnership for ongoing maintenance and operation of Acadia's facilities provide the Town with respect to input on marketing, fees, usage etc.?
6. What other opportunities for recreation sport and recreation facilities and programs could be an outcome of a more formal partnership between Acadia and the Town?

A policy of the Municipality of Kings and municipalities within its boundaries¹¹ provides financial support to municipalities to cover facility user fees of individuals not residing in a particular municipality. A 2007 review of that Policy¹² noted that there was no process in place to consider capital funding requests for facilities developed by a municipal unit or other provider but that clearly serve a regional market; the intent of the study was to identify a process and criteria by which these funding requests could be considered in the future. To our knowledge, that process has not yet been undertaken and currently use of Acadia University's facilities is not covered under this policy.

Recommendation 8.2: Review the Kings Partnership Policy with respect to whether this policy should be reassessed to provide financial support to Acadia for use of its facilities by residents of Kings County.

The study's Task Force noted that regional partnership agreements, regional 'buy-in' and conversations around recreation are recognized as of key importance. This could be achieved through something like a 'Regional Recreation Committee'. It was noted by Acadia Staff present at the Task Force Workshop that Acadia would like to play a role in the discussion of a regional recreation facility plan.

Recommendation 8.3: Begin discussions between Acadia and regional municipalities (not limited to the Town of Wolfville) regarding more formal cost sharing arrangements. This will require the information noted in the Recommendation 8.1 with the objective of creating a formal use and funding agreement.

Through the Task Force Workshop, discussions around a new regional facility also took place. Acadia Staff noted that a new regional facility may alleviate stress on Acadia facilities to allow more availability for students and student club use, but it is still very important for Acadia to maintain connection with the community. Community use is important for the viability of Acadia facilities and important to the business case of operating certain facilities (e.g., the pool). A choice may need to be made about an Acadia partnership or new Regional Municipal Facility (municipal partnership) (see Recommendation 8.1 Item 4). The Task Force expressed their priority as an Acadia / Town partnership for facilities before a regional partnership for a new regional facility.

¹¹ It is unclear at this time whether or not this policy continues in regular operation.

¹² Recreation Funding Models for the Kings County Partnership Steering Committee (October 2007); prepared on behalf of the Kings Partnership Steering Committee by dmA Planning & Management Services Inc.,

Recommendation 8.4: The Town of Wolfville, in conjunction with the regional municipalities and Acadia University, should create a Regional Recreation Facility Plan to assess regional needs for major facility development (approximate study budget of \$100k). This cost does not include assessment of existing infrastructure viability. Based on the findings of this current study, the facilities to review in this proposed study should include:

- Arena;
- Pool;
- Gymnasium;
- Indoor Track;
- Multi-purpose space; and
- Indoor Turf Field.

The study would cover eastern Kings County (Wolfville, Kentville, New Minas and the surrounding areas) and including the following aspects:

- Background summary (demographics; trends; and full regional inventory of recreation facilities);
- Regional consultation with community and user groups;
- Facility location and operation assessment;
- Preliminary facility layout; and
- Business plan and capital cost estimate.

As a number of the facilities within the Town were constructed prior to strict regulations around accessibility, many of the facilities in Wolfville remain in need of upgrades to make them accessible to all residents. This is more significant than ever with the significant aging of our provincial demographic.

Recommendation 8.5: Accessibility grants should be pursued to better provide for inclusion of all individuals. This should apply to all indoor recreation facilities frequently used by the general public, with those most used identified as a priority. Based on this current analysis we identify these buildings as being: the Wolfville Library, the Al Whittle and Studio-Z theatres and the heavy weight room at the Acadia Athletics Complex.

The results of the Gap Analysis do plan for anticipated short to medium term needs; they are however conceived within a static timeframe in Wolfville's facility history. As needs and facility condition are bound to change overtime, an evaluation tool that can be used to continuously monitor facility gaps is required.

Recommendation 8.6: The Town should use the evaluation criteria outlined in the Gap Analysis going forward to monitor the state of indoor recreation facilities within Wolfville.

Another item of importance brought up by the Task Force was the synergies between indoor space for outdoor programming and activity use needs. This type of space would be described as ancillary space or indoor amenities for outdoor activities. This typically includes this such as washrooms, change rooms and storage space (e.g. facilities at trail heads, Town's Recreation Centre). This can also extend to 'community hub' space which could be used as meeting places for groups before the engage in their activity outdoors. While this was outside of the scope of this current study, it is important to identify and explore this further in future community recreation studies.

5 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

A workshop with the Task Force was conducted to discuss the recommendations and consider steps and priorities for implementation. It was identified by the Task Force that the most pressing item is to consider establishing a formal agreement between the Town and Acadia University in thoughts that the agreement could involve terms for specific facilities. Establishing a strong and more formalized relationship between Acadia University and the Town of Wolfville will be a key driver in the implementation of the facility review.

Acadia University has been a strong collaborator during the Gap Analysis process and acknowledges that a formalized agreement would be mutually beneficial. A formal agreement will support facility sharing from both 'use' and 'cost' perspectives. The agreement will lay out the benefits for the Town as well as the benefits for the University. This could include benefits to the Town such as guaranteed access and visibility of sponsorship and benefits to the University in the form of established cost sharing. The Town and Acadia University currently collaborate and hold discussions through committees like the Town and Gown. The Task Force expressed that in their view the timing is good for a renewed partnership with regards to recreation facilities.

It was also thought by the Task Force that if Acadia and the Town are strong partners there will be a sense of urgency to other neighbouring municipalities to make decisions if they would like to be a part of a formal partnership agreement. The potential of a regional partnership will also be an important consideration.

The most pressing need for facilities appears to be the pool from a condition and capacity standpoint. Based on feedback from operators, arena supply and gymnasium supply are almost at capacity and the regional supply should be investigated further. It was noted by the Task Force, as well as some user groups and community household survey respondents, that adding to existing facilities is preferred rather than building new. Acadia Staff noted that there are opportunities (spatially) to add on to the existing Acadia Athletics Complex. This is, however, something that would need to be explored through more detailed analysis.

The following chart identifies the priority of recommendations (what can be done in the immediate, short and medium term to fix gaps); the organization(s) involved in implementation (e.g., what can Wolfville do on its own, what requires partnerships – University or regional partnerships, school board, library board); and next steps.

Table 1.1: Implementation Plan
Immediate (0-6 months); Short (within next 12 months); Medium (2 – 5 years)

Recommendation	Priority	Organization / Group Involved	Next Steps / Action
Recommendation 1.1: While there is public drop-in use scheduled during the day and on weekends, the option of having an evening timeslot should be investigated to provide a greater variation in public drop-in times.	Immediate	Town of Wolfville Recreation Staff and Acadia Athletics Complex Staff	Meet to discuss options and decide if schedule changes are viable in the immediate term or if this is an item that needs to be discussed through formal partnership agreement.
Recommendation 1.2: Focus should be made to support new community groups who may be looking to gain ice-time.	Immediate (or as groups express need)	Town of Wolfville Recreation Staff and Acadia Athletics Complex Staff	Meet to discuss options and decide if schedule changes are viable as new groups emerge or determine if this is an item that needs to be discussed through formal partnership agreement.
Recommendation 1.3: Through a Regional Recreation Facility Plan, the need for an additional ice surface within King's County should be more fully analyzed.	Medium	Town of Wolfville Staff and Acadia Staff as well as regional municipalities.	Item to be explored through regional recreation facility plan
Recommendation 2.1: Gather detailed information to inform future discussions regarding regional pool needs and public usage (see page 17 for full recommendation details).	Short	Town of Wolfville Recreation Staff and Acadia Athletics Complex Staff	Research to be carried out by Town of Wolfville Recreation Staff with assistance by Acadia Athletics Complex Staff
Recommendation 2.2: Undertake formal assessment of aquatic needs in the region (this should be included as part of a larger Regional Recreation Facility Plan) (see page 17 for full recommendation details).	Medium	Town of Wolfville Staff and Acadia Staff as well as regional municipalities	Item to be explored through regional recreation facility plan
Recommendation 3.1: Undertake formal assessment of regional need for additional gymnasium and indoor turf facility (this should be included as part of a larger Regional Recreation Facility Plan).	Medium	Town of Wolfville Staff and Acadia Staff as well as regional municipalities	Item to be explored through regional recreation facility plan
Recommendation 4.1: The Town should consider options to support upgrading the Acadia Athletics Complex change rooms that serve the gymnasium, the fitness centre, the running track and the pool.	Short	Acadia Staff with funding support decisions by Town Council	Acadia Staff to determine willingness to upgrade and Council to make decision regarding financial support for capital costs.
Recommendation 5.1: Improved advertising of meeting and multi-purpose space facilities should occur so that the general public and user groups are aware of facility availability.	Immediate	Town of Wolfville Staff and facility owners / operators	Town of Wolfville Staff to approach facility operators to discuss increased advertising and responsibility (organization or the Town).
Recommendation 5.2: A centralized community calendar for available meeting and multipurpose space, centralized link to individual facility calendars, or communication of availability to a central person who user groups and residents know to contact to assist with finding rental space should occur.	Immediate	Town of Wolfville Staff and facility owners / operators	Town of Wolfville Staff to approach meeting and multipurpose space facility operators to discuss options for centralization of booking information.
Recommendation 6.1: There is a need to address short to medium term needs such as upgrades to the sound system of the Acadia Festival Theatre and the projector system at the Al Whittle theatre. This type of minor capital could be addressed under the Town's existing grant program.	Medium (or as groups express need)	Town Council, Acadia University, Acadia Cinema Co-op	Town Council to make decision regarding funding support when technology upgrade needs are expressed by the operators.

Recommendation	Priority	Organization / Group Involved	Next Steps / Action
Recommendation 6.2: Improved community access to the Acadia Festival Theatre should be explored as part of the formalized partnership agreement between the Town and Acadia University.	Short to Medium	Acadia University, Town of Wolfville Staff, Town Council	Item to be explored through a formal partnership agreement.
Recommendation 7.1: In conjunction with the AVRIL, undertake a comprehensive review of library service and facility requirements for the Wolfville area.	Short	AVRIL Board and Town of Wolfville Staff	Town Staff to have discussion with AVRIL Board regarding creating Strategic Plan. Plan to be produced by Library Board regarding needs.
Recommendation 7.2: As part of the review of library service requirements in the Wolfville area, explore a wide range of possible partnerships, including a possible relationship with the University.	Short	Town of Wolfville Staff, AVRIL Board and Acadia University	Following Strategic Planning, Town Staff to Meet with Library Board. Following, Town Staff and Library Board to begin discussions with Acadia
Recommendation 8.1: The Town of Wolfville and Acadia University begin a process to assess future shared use of Acadia facilities (see pages 23 – 24 for full recommendation details).	Immediate	Town of Wolfville Staff and Acadia Staff	Meet to discuss points as outlined in the detailed recommendation.
Recommendation 8.2: Review the Kings Partnership Policy with respect to whether this policy should be reassessed to provide financial support to Acadia for use of its facilities by residents of Kings County.	Immediate	Town of Wolfville Staff and Acadia Staff	Town Staff review and meet with Acadia University Staff to discuss options.
Recommendation 8.3: Begin discussions between Acadia and regional municipalities (not limited to the Town of Wolfville) regarding more formal cost sharing arrangements. This will require the information noted in the Recommendation 8.1 with the objective of creating a formal use and funding agreement.	Short	Town of Wolfville Staff, Acadia Staff and Staff from regional municipalities as well as Councils	Acadia Staff and Town of Wolfville Staff approach Staff from neighbouring municipalities. Further Council decisions required to establish formal agreements.
Recommendation 8.4: The Town of Wolfville, in conjunction with the regional municipalities and Acadia University, should create a Regional Recreation Facility Plan to assess regional needs for major facility development (approximate study budget of \$100k). This cost does not include assessment of existing infrastructure viability. The study would cover eastern Kings County (Wolfville, Kentville, New Minas and the surrounding areas) (see page 25 for full recommendation details).	Medium	Town of Wolfville Staff, Acadia Staff and Staff from regional municipalities as well as Councils	Acadia Staff and Town of Wolfville Staff approach Staff from neighbouring municipalities. Further Council decisions required terms of reference and budget approval.
Recommendation 8.5: Accessibility grants should be pursued to better provide for inclusion of all individuals. This should apply to all indoor recreation facilities frequently used by the general public, with those most used identified as a priority. Based on this current analysis we identify these buildings as being: the Wolfville Library, the AI Whittle and Studio-Z theatres and the heavy weight room at the Acadia Athletics Complex.	Short	Town of Wolfville Staff and facility owners	Town Staff to support facility owners with grant applications.
Recommendation 8.6: The Town should use the evaluation criteria outlined in the Gap Analysis going forward to monitor the state of indoor recreation facilities within Wolfville.	Ongoing (when changes to inventory are known)	Town of Wolfville Staff and Council	Town Staff assess yearly or when there are known changes to the indoor recreation facility inventory. Report presented to Council with updated findings.

Appendix A

Planning Context

I. GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT

The Town of Wolfville (illustrated in Figure 1.1) is situated in central Nova Scotia and is located in Kings County. It covers approximately 6.45 square kilometers that is generally bounded by the shores of the Minas Basin (to the north), Highway 101 (to the south), Greenwich (to the west), and Lower Wolfville / Grand Pré (to the east). The Town has developed around the Trunk 1 Highway, which is co-designated as Main Street within the Town limits. It consists of a centrally located downtown core that abuts a Acadia University, with primarily residential streets emanating to the west, south, and east. Development north of Main Street is limited considerably by the dykelands along the Minas Basin and the Cornwallis River.

The Town’s population – owing to the presence of Acadia University – nearly doubles from 4,270 to approximately 7,770 when the campus is fully operational. Wolfville also expects to experience steady growth in the coming years. Wolfville has approximately 30 hectares of owned or leased lands that are dedicated for parkland, open spaces, playgrounds and sports fields accessible to its users, visitors and residents.

Figure 1.1: Map of the Town of Wolfville (Census Subdivision Map)



Source: Statistics Canada, 2014.

II. POPULATION AND SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CONTEXT

While data regarding population trends, median ages, family structure and mother tongue languages were obtained from Statistics Canada's 1996, 2001, 2006 and 2011 Census Profiles, the data pertaining to occupation and household income were gathered from the 2011 National Household Survey. It should be noted that although this survey is voluntary, response rates for each census (sub)division appear to be high enough to reflect a representation of each profile accounted for. Additionally, it is felt that this 2011 voluntary information provides a much more up-to-date set of data than the 2006 long-form Canadian Census does.

II.I POPULATION CHANGE

In the 2011 Canadian Census, the population of the Town of Wolfville was 4,270 individuals. With 6.45 square kilometres of total land area, Wolfville has a population density of 662 persons per square kilometre. Population changes and trends over a 15 year time period (1996-2011) have been displayed in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1: Town of Wolfville Population Change

Census Year	Total Population	Change (persons)	Change (%)	Trend
1996	3,833	-	-	-
2001	3,658	-175	-4.6%	↓
2006	3,770	112	3%	↑
2011	4,270	500	13.3%	↑

Source: Statistics Canada, 1996, 2001, 2006, and 2011 Census.

The population of Wolfville has seen an overall growth, particularly since 2006. While the Town had experienced a decline in residents from 1996 to 2001, a large population growth was experienced between the years 2006 and 2011.

II.II AGE DISTRIBUTION AND CHARACTERISTICS

An analysis of the age structure in the Town of Wolfville provides demographic trends that will affect delivery of services and market opportunities in the region. Table 2.2 summarizes 2006 and 2011 census population data for Wolfville, Kings County and the Province of Nova Scotia by 5-year age cohorts.

With a permanent population of 4,270 (2011 Census), Wolfville is the second most populated town in Kings County. During the academic term, the population of the Town nearly doubles to approximately 7,770 to include university students. The Town's population characteristics have marked differences relative to the County and Province. In 2011, the

proportion of the Town's population between the ages of 20 and 24 (15%) was more than double that of the County (6%) and Province (6%). Though it would seem that this is influenced heavily by the student population, Statistics Canada has indicated that many of the students who are not considered as permanent residents for the purposes of the Census are not captured in these statistics. Therefore, it is safe to assume the proportion of individuals' ages 20 – 24 regularly residing within the Town is even higher than what is shown.

Table 1.2: Change of Age Categories 2006 to 2011

Age	Town of Wolfville 2006		Town of Wolfville 2011		Kings County 2006		Kings County 2011		Nova Scotia 2006		Nova Scotia 2011	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
0 to 4 years	130	3%	145	3%	2,900	5%	2,915	5%	42,040	5%	43,985	5%
5 to 9 years	155	4%	135	3%	3,425	6%	3,045	5%	48,145	5%	44,425	5%
10 to 14 years	155	4%	170	4%	4,035	7%	3,530	6%	56,245	6%	49,810	5%
15 to 19 years	265	7%	320	7%	4,215	7%	4,060	7%	61,440	7%	57,440	6%
20 to 24 years	560	15%	630	15%	3,490	6%	3,710	6%	56,775	6%	59,620	6%
25 to 29 years	230	6%	260	6%	3,000	5%	2,990	5%	50,595	6%	51,920	6%
30 to 34 years	155	4%	185	4%	3,325	6%	3,180	5%	54,635	6%	51,545	6%
35 to 39 years	175	5%	180	4%	4,010	7%	3,440	6%	60,935	7%	56,380	6%
40 to 44 years	235	6%	195	5%	5,170	9%	4,015	7%	75,720	8%	62,115	7%
45 to 49 years	235	6%	295	7%	5,160	9%	5,040	8%	77,205	8%	75,275	8%
50 to 54 years	245	6%	260	6%	4,390	7%	5,195	9%	71,705	8%	77,465	8%
55 to 59 years	260	7%	265	6%	4,255	7%	4,445	7%	67,880	7%	70,960	8%
60 to 64 years	195	5%	295	7%	3,380	6%	4,360	7%	51,920	6%	66,425	7%
65 to 69 years	160	4%	250	6%	2,750	5%	3,295	5%	40,115	4%	48,920	5%
70 to 74 years	135	4%	185	4%	2,315	4%	2,580	4%	33,140	4%	36,395	4%
75 to 79 years	175	5%	145	3%	1,755	3%	2,045	3%	26,435	3%	27,655	3%
80 to 84 years	120	3%	145	3%	1,285	2%	1,390	2%	19,870	2%	20,015	2%
85 years & over	170	5%	215	5%	1,175	2%	1,365	2%	18,610	2%	20,385	2%
Total	3,770	100	4,270	100	60,035	100	60,585	100	913,460	100	921,727	100
Median Age	41.2		42.7		41.7		44.3		41.8		43.7	

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 and 2011 Census.

Note: Statistics Canada rounds to the nearest 5 persons causing discrepancies between population breakdown by age and total population.

II.III FAMILY STRUCTURE

In 2011, there were 1,025 families in Wolfville which is an increase of 4.0% from 2006. When compared to the Province (<1%), Wolfville appears to have had a higher attraction rate of families during this time period. Thirty three percent of families were couples with children living at home. This was lower than the Province's and the County's data whose couple families with children at home represented 38% and 37% of their total census families respectively. Of the census families in the Town of Wolfville, 17.5% were lone-parent (single parent) families which is on par with the Province's single parent family share (17.3%).

II.IV HOUSEHOLD INCOME

According to the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS), the 2010 median household income¹ for the Town of Wolfville was \$48,671 before tax. Kings County and the Province both recorded higher median household incomes than Wolfville's (for the year 2010), with median incomes for private households of \$51,850 and \$53,606 before tax respectively.

The NHS also records income based on economic family structure.² Median economic family before tax income for Wolfville significantly higher (\$74,745) than the median household income for the Town. Economic families in Wolfville also recorded higher before tax income levels than those in the County (\$63,344) as well as for the Province (\$68,102). For lone-parent economic families, Wolfville documented a higher median before tax income (\$53,125) than the lone-parent families for both Kings County (\$34,715) and the Province (\$38,487).

To track the prevalence of residents who are considered as low-income individuals, the NHS records the Low-Income Measure After-Taxes (LIM-AT)³. It should be noted that Wolfville has a noticeably higher prevalence of residents whose after-tax income falls below 50% of the national median adjusted⁴ household after-tax income for 2010. By this measure, 25% of Wolfville's residents are considered to be low-income individuals while residents from the County and the Province have 18.7% and 17.4% prevalence rate respectively.

II.V FIRST LANGUAGES

According to the 2011 Census, the majority of residents in the Town of Wolfville speak English as their mother tongue (87%) while 1.2% have specified that French is their mother tongue. Eleven percent of residents in the Town of Wolfville have indicated a non-official

¹ Households refer to the number of usual residents in a private household. This is inclusive of all household sizes ranging from one usual resident to multiple usual residents of a single private household. Household income is defined as the total income of a household, or the sum of all incomes for usual residents of that private household.

² Economic family refers to a group of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law, adoption or a foster relationship. Economic family income refers to the sum of all incomes per economic family.

³ LIM-AT is a measure used by the NHS to track low income. Individuals are defined as having low income if the after-tax income falls below 50% of the median adjusted after-tax income in 2010.

⁴ Adjustment for household sizes reflects the fact that a household's needs increase as the number of members increase, although not necessarily by the same proportion per additional member.

language as their mother tongue with Chinese, Arabic and German holding the highest proportions of mother tongues spoken among these individuals.

II.VI EMPLOYMENT

According to the 2011 NHS, almost one third of the labour force in Wolfville worked in education, law and social, and community and government occupations, while another 20% worked in the sales and services occupations. Table 1.3 provides a breakdown of employment by occupation in comparison to the Province. While occupations in education, law and social, and community and government occupations lead Wolfville's labour force, it appears to lack in the trades occupation (when compared to the Province). This trend could be the result of the presence and influence that Acadia University has on the community as it is expected to provide a large number of employment opportunities in education and other such related fields.

Table 1.3: Occupation Based on Percentage of Population

Occupation	Wolfville (%)	Nova Scotia (%)
Management occupations	11.3	9.9
Business; finance and administration occupations	8.6	14.5
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	7.3	5.8
Health occupations	8.6	6.9
Occupations in education; law and social; community and government services	27.7	12.7
Occupations in art; culture; recreation and sport	2.9	2.3
Sales and service occupations	20.1	24.0
Trades; transport and equipment operators and related occupations	5.7	14.2
Occupations unique to primary industry	4.7	3.8
Occupations unique to processing; manufacturing and utilities	2.1	3.7

Data Source: National Household Survey, 2011, Canada.

III. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

This section summarizes background documents provided by Town Staff which were identified as relevant to the Indoor Recreation Facilities Assessment & Gap Analysis. These documents were reviewed by the consultants to inform this study. The following sections provide a summary of the documents as they relate to the current study.

III.1 TOWN OF WOLFFVILLE MUNICIPAL PLANNING STRATEGY

Wolfville's *Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS)*, approved by Council in 2008 and amended as of 2013, provides a vision for the Town's recreational facilities. Note that the Town's MPS is currently under review and a new MPS is anticipated in 2016. In the current MPS, Council has produced a number of objectives to meet their short and long term vision to achieve a *viable, compact, self-sufficient community with a reduced ecological footprint, a vibrant local economy, diversified cultural and educational opportunities, strong social networks and a healthy environment*. Facilities have been identified as being an important component to meeting these goals as stated in the Strategy's listed objectives:

It shall be the intention of Council to:

- Enhance individual and community well-being and welfare through economic development that safeguards the welfare of future generations
- Maintain, improve and expand municipal services, facilities and programs subject to financial constraints
- Ensure that all public facilities provide access to all potential users, and encourage other organizations to follow the requirements of the National Building Code even when there is no legal requirement to do so
- Implement public capital aspects of the Municipal Planning Strategy through the annual capital budget and the long range capital investment plan where possible

Within the Parks, Open Space and Recreation section of the MPS, the Town of Wolfville has identified the importance of local facilities and programming. Partnerships with Acadia University, community groups and other organizations external to the Town have been described as important resources to support and enhance indoor recreation facilities as well as their programming in an equitable and sustainable way.

It shall be the intention of Council to:

- Work in co-operation with Acadia University to develop partnerships that provide greater public access to University recreation and cultural facilities
- Work in cooperation with community organizations such as Wolfville School and the Wolfville Rotary Club in the provision of recreation services and facilities
- Ensure, when constructing new facilities or improving existing facilities, that they are designed to be energy efficient and accessible to all segments of the population
- Encourage other organizations and private clubs to ensure that new facilities or improvements to existing facilities are designed to be energy efficient and accessible to all segments of the population
- Encourage, promote and assist community organizations in the delivery of direct programs to the public

- Work co-operatively with Wolfville Home and School Association in the provision of a Community School Coordinator and related recreation programs
- Develop and promote recreation programs and cultural opportunities that meets the needs and interests of all segments of the population of the Town of Wolfville
- Involve the public in the planning and delivery of program opportunities
- Work in co-operation with Acadia University and government bodies in the provision of recreation and cultural opportunities for Town residents

III.II TOWN OF WOLFVILLE STRATEGIC PLAN

The *Council Strategic Plan 2014-2017* will continue to be the driving factor for the Town of Wolfville over the next few years and determines priorities and charts a course of action for the Town. The following table expresses the *Strategic Direction, Future Characteristics, and Action Steps* Town Council has identified relating to recreational facilities.

Table 1.4: Wolfville Strategic Direction, Future Characteristics and Action Steps

Strategic Direction	Future Vision	Action Steps
Well Maintained and Sustainable Public Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Indoor public facility requirements are determined with a long-term plan for implementation ▪ Policies and processes guide funding and operating partnerships for significant recreation and cultural infrastructure ▪ There is an ongoing, fully funded infrastructure renewal and maintenance plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create a renewal plan for Town-owned facilities ▪ Develop policies to support community funding partnerships for recreation and cultural infrastructure ▪ Complete the Recreation Master Plan
A Growing Population Encompassing all Ages and Stages Who Live in Safe, Attractive, Cohesive Neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wolfville has developed a vision for recreation and has a recreation master plan ▪ Wolfville has developed partnerships that contribute to the celebration of culture in the community ▪ The Town is known for its public art installations ▪ There are significant festivals and community events through each season of the year ▪ There are a number of cultural and recreation operations in the Town that attract residents and visitors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Complete the Recreation Master Plan ▪ Work with Acadia to ensure that recreation facilities are suitable for both the community and the University and identify where further investment might be required ▪ Support and facilitate grass-roots activities that enhance social and cultural development ▪ Expand opportunities and partnerships that contribute to the celebration of culture in the community ▪ Enhance active living and learning opportunities for citizens of all ages

III.III TOWN OF WOLFVILLE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY (2013)

The Town of Wolfville's Physical Activity Strategy identifies the importance of residents becoming physically active. During public consultations, residents had raised issues with *recreation facilities user fees, scheduling consideration for all age groups, as well as concerns about the age and conditions of the Athletic Complex (which houses the only indoor swimming pool in the local area)*. Suggestions of how and where improvements to facilities are most needed were taken from the public with swimming facilities ranking as the most important new recreation service to provide for the Town.

To strengthen the current state of Wolfville's recreation facilities, the Physical Activity Strategy identifies five key result areas to focus on. *Building and enhancing leadership, partnerships and stable funding resources* is listed as one of the key objects and shows support to further promote the facilities in Wolfville.

Table 1.5: Wolfville Physical Activity Strategy – Objectives and Action Steps

Objective	Action Steps
To build the leadership, partnerships and stable funding required for implementing the physical activity strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage and facilitate new partnerships and innovations with cross sector community groups and agencies ▪ Strengthen relationships and formalize community use agreements with Acadia University ▪ Identify or coordinate opportunities for physical activity leadership, stewardship and capacity building
Conduct, participate in, or support research that advances the goals of the physical activity strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify gaps in programs and facility accessibility on an ongoing basis

The Physical Activity Strategy's implementation plan identifies projects that should be initiated in the next five years as well as possible lead agencies and partners that could assist with human resources, funding, facilities, expertise and advising. The lead agencies / partners that are identified that could also relate to indoor recreation facility initiatives are:

- Private Institutions – Acadia University
- Government Agencies – Town of Wolfville, Wolfville Business Development Commission, Annapolis Valley Health Authority, Annapolis Valley Regional School Board, Wolfville School, Horton Family of Schools, NS Department of Health & Wellness, Eastern Kings Memorial Community Health Centre, Horton High School, Municipality of Kings and other neighbouring municipalities
- Not-for-Profit – Heart & Stroke Foundation, Farmer's Market, Kings County Family Resource Centre, Wolfville Community Fund, other not-for-profit clubs / organizations
- Service Clubs – Wolfville Lions Club
- Private business and freelancers

III.IV TOWN OF WOLFVILLE ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN (2012)

In the *Town of Wolfville Economic Action Plan*, tourism is one of the primary sectors the Town has indicated it will focus on to improve overall economic activity and growth. To facilitate successful development within the Tourism Sector, the Town has identified one of its primary strategies to secure sporting events and utilize facilities and accommodations year round. To do this, the Economic Action Plan seeks to:

- *Partner with Valley Events and AVESTA to identify strategic events that will bring competitors and spectators to the area*
- *Target off peak times (spring)*
- *Identify facilities lacking and approach partners to assist in closing the gaps*
- *Develop an event toolkit to establish what can be provided by the Town and partners to potential event organizers*

Enhancing the Town's overall facility quality and capacity greatly supports the Economic Action Plan by creating amenities that are able to host such desired events.

III.V TOWN OF WOLFVILLE RECREATION VISION SESSION NOTES (2014)

The Town of Wolfville conducted a Visioning Session regarding recreation services in the community. It states:

- *Input indicates the Town will deliver its services through direct programming and community development with limited direct facility involvement except for outdoor space and smaller indoor spaces.*
- *For most spaces the Town would be a renter of space owned by some other organization.*

III.VI TOWN OF WOLFVILLE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM POLICY (2014)

Effective February 2014, the Town of Wolfville established a policy regarding the Community Partnership Program. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for reviewing and evaluating requests from organizations for financial assistance which is determined annually through the Town's budget process. One of the considerations is to provide limited financial assistance to facility operators whose facilities are available for use by the community.

III.VII ACADIA ATHLETICS STRATEGIC PLAN AND ACCESS PRIORITIES

The Acadia Athletics Strategic Plan (2012-2016) primarily focuses on university sport and recreation development, but does also discuss community recreation – identifying events

and camps as part of their core business. The plan also identifies recreation / fitness customers and fans as key stakeholders.

- Opportunities outlined in the Plan include *potential improvements to aging facilities*.
- One of the goals of the Plan is ensure long-term viability of Acadia facilities and improve service levels for Athletics, students, and the community.
- The Vision in the Plan is *an unparalleled Canadian university athletic program, delivering a uniquely personalized high performance Athletic, Academic, and Community enriching experience*.

Acadia University also has a policy procedure whereby facility access is prioritized by (1) Physical Education / Recreation Classes (now named Kinesiology / Community Development Classes) (2) Intercollegiate Athletic Practices and Games (3) Intramurals (4) School of Recreation Management & Kinesiology (now named the School of Kinesiology and Department of Community Development) Student Leadership Programs (5) Sport Clubs (6) Other Campus Recreation Programs (7) Other University classes and programs (8) Open recreation time (University students, faculty, and staff, their families and the community) (9) Rentals.⁵ Based on this, residents of Wolfville who are not categorized under the first seven groups have 8th – 9th priority access to utilize recreation and sport facilities at Acadia.

IV. SERVICE TRENDS AND BEST PRACTICES⁶

Trends and best practices that influence the demand for sport and recreation are provincial, national and even international in scope. Trends and practices reflect the broad societal considerations of their time. The specific relevance of these trends to the Town of Wolfville is considered in the context of other study activities in subsequent stages of the work program. Trends and practices reflect the broad societal considerations of their time. While the points that follow in this section speak to very specific “fashions” they emerge from:

1. Increased sensitivity on the part of persons and governments to **fairly and equitably addressing the needs** regardless of age, ability, and interest. This does not mean that all interests are accommodated but rather that to the degree reasonable, communities work to provide services equitably and not focused only on the largest or strongest interests.
2. A **changing operational landscape** including traditional and non-traditional partnerships for service delivery, much stronger consideration to environmental implications, heightened concern for risk management, and cost containment.
3. **Cost** – both initial and ongoing has become a major consideration in service delivery and as such is a key factor in service delivery.

⁵ Acadia University Policies and Procedures, Policy Number R-1: Recreation Facilities Usage, January 1, 1999.

⁶ This section was provided by and is the work of dmA Planning & Management Services Inc.

- 4. Purposeful social focus** – communities now understand the role its sport and recreation services play in furthering other elements of the public agenda such as health, social integration and economic development. Publicly supported facilities and programs are increasingly tied to these objectives.

Sections 2.4.1 through 2.4.3 highlight the way services are delivered, the type of facilities that are popular today, and the common and popular activity and participation trends. Trend information in the following sections comes from dmA's in house research which has been used in previous studies of a similar scope.

IV.I GENERAL SERVICE TRENDS

Recreation activities and the manner in which these services are delivered evolve fueled by changing technologies, community and societal concerns / values and challenges, available resources, and demographic realities. The following are general trends that influence all service areas of this study.

- **Reduction of Barriers to Participation** – Residents are demanding, and governments and social interests are supporting new practices, legislation and policies to reduce physical, financial and language barriers to participation. Programs such as Canadian Tire's JumpStart™ Program, as well as programs and funds specific to various provinces and communities (Wolfville's Mudley Fund modelled after the JumpStart™ Program), contribute to reduction in financial participation. Similar barrier reduction related to accessibility is seen in provincial and national legislation designed to remove physical barriers to access. For example, physical changes to arenas to support access and egress to the ice for sledge hockey, enlarged doors and washrooms to accommodate wheel chairs, etc. Facilities built prior to more recent legislative initiatives to reduce barriers to participation may not reflect or accommodate current thinking or policy.
- **Market Segmentation and Market Integration** – Two potentially conflicting trends are the growth in market segmentation and market integration. These two trends are evident in desire for “one-stop” locations that meet the needs of all age groups and concurrent demand for specialized spaces for different age groups:
 - Facilities built prior to the 1990s often included older adult specific facilities. In part this reflected available older adult specific capital funding programs targeted to a demographic that at the time had considerably less wealth than is the average for this generation today. While many older, older adults continue to prefer these age specific facilities, younger older adults now express a preference for integration within multi-age facilities. This reflects the recent growth in “newly retired” baby boomers. The emerging cohort of older adults is, on average, more financially well-off than either their parents or their children's generation.

- As with segmentation among children (e.g., preschoolers, school age, pre-teen, and youth) older adults are similarly segmented and one approach will not meet the needs of this potentially 30+ year age distribution.
- Significant concerns for a growing obesity problem and children and youth much less likely to participate in active and unstructured play than in generations past has helped fuel programs for this age group to become more active in situations that are age specific such as skate parks and plazas.
- **Decline in Volunteerism** – Particularly in larger urban communities there has been a significant decline in volunteerism, specifically for sport and recreation, over the past few decades. This reflects several developments including but not limited to: (i) fewer children per family and therefore a shorter participation period of parent volunteers (ii) dual working parents / single working parents (iii) increased concern for risk and liability. The implications for community services that rely on volunteers are clear, as is the need to find ways to retain this important segment of community service delivery.
- **Reduced Purposeful Social Interaction** – There are indications that the ubiquitous use of the Internet, social media and mobile technology is significantly reducing meaningful social interactions and potentially contributing to a sense of isolation. Add to that the fact that “Screen time” - time spent in front of a screen (TV, computer, tablet, etc.) is positively correlated with obesity and a major contributor to sedentary lifestyles, this societal trend is a concern to many community professionals. The term “screenagers” has been used to define young adults who spend much of their discretionary time “plugged-in” or “on-line”, these behaviours are likely to follow today’s youth as they age. At the same time people are craving social experience which is one thing that cannot be achieved through at-home entertainment.
- **Increased Alternative Service Provision** – Including partnerships among public, agency, and private providers to ensure cost effective services that address the needs of the whole community. This may be in the context of a formal and legal agreement or a less formal structure whereby community groups and the municipality jointly care for, plan and maintain facilities and services.
- **Reduction of Service Silos** – While there is still much to be done in this regard, there are positive indications that formerly segregated service providers (e.g., libraries separate from recreation facilities, health care providers separate from community health and fitness, etc.) are service sharing. This is in part due to financial realities; it also reflects a growing understanding of the synergies in these services.
- **Growing Attention to Customer Experience** – Rather than simply places to recreate, borrow a book, learn to paint etc., today’s community spaces are also understood to be community gathering places. In response, community facilities increasingly provide comfortable seating, public art, and landscaped areas for un-programmed use. Providers need to consider other factors that affect the experience (including ease of parking and proximity to complementary uses).

- **Demand for More Stimulation** – People, particularly younger individuals, have become accustomed to multi-sensory activities (watching, reading, and hearing at the same time). This has resulted in a higher satisfaction threshold and expectations for immediate rewards from the activity.

IV.II FACILITY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

- **Facilities as Community Hubs** – Recreation facilities are community social and gathering spaces, often incorporating many non-recreation services including health services, libraries, cultural spaces, and retail outlets, and are connected to the local neighbourhoods by alternate transportation options. Contemporary facilities incorporate a variety of components to support a wide range of interests and age groups.
- **Sustainable Building Practices** – Including new technology for arenas, use of new building materials for energy efficiency, etc. The heightened awareness in everything “green” has significant implications for all aspects of service delivery including maintenance, programming, facility development and design. Community engagement in “greening projects” and other environmental stewardship activities is becoming more common. Schoolyard plantings, parks clean-up days, and community gardening projects are examples of activities in support of this trend. Green development is also demonstrated in heat exchange technology in arenas and aquatic facilities, green roof design, etc.
- **Public Space as Social Environments** – Urban planners and designers are increasingly concerned with concepts of public space and their role in creating social environments that contribute to identity, attachment and a sense of place. Place-making and concepts of “third spaces” are important principles in community building.
- **Co-location of Facilities** – Opportunities for casual, drop-in use are expanded when users of recreation, library and cultural space are combined. Benefits include a potential for capital cost sharing and operating efficiencies, space sharing and cross-programming opportunities, and the increased convenience for users.

IV.III PUBLIC USE OF INSTITUTIONAL SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Public use of facilities belonging to non-public institutions (e.g., universities, colleges and federal military bases) is fairly common, albeit bringing challenges as well as opportunities. Particularly in smaller communities, sport and recreation facilities associated with institutions of higher learning and military basis are considerably more elaborate than would be affordable by the these municipalities on their own. The public benefits from access to facilities they would not otherwise have. On the other hand, these facilities were not built with the public in mind and access by the public is much more restricted than would be the case in a truly public facility. As these facilities age, and institutions increasingly rationalize their expenditures, the cost to upkeep and maintain these facilities becomes an issue for

their surrounding municipalities as well as for the institutions themselves. The following are some examples of this issue.

- **Public Use of Former Military Athletic Facilities:** With the closure of a number of Canadian Military Bases several communities, and in the case of NL at least one Province, assumed responsibility for these facilities, to maintain them in public use. This initiative, undertaken at the demand of the local public who traditionally had access to these facilities, has not been without financial consequences. These facilities age and become increasingly expensive to operate. Required knowledge to operate these major facilities is not always available at the local level in a small community. On the other hand they are often the only indoor sport and recreation facilities in a community. In the case of the former base facility in Cornwallis NS, an incorporated community organization managed the facility for a number of years, with financial support from the Municipalities of Annapolis and Digby Counties. Cost overruns and poor management became an increasing problem and in 2010 operation was assumed by the Fundy YMCA, with financial support from the Province and local municipalities. The Province of NL continues to operate three indoor aquatic facilities that were part of former military bases.
- **Public Use of Current Military Athletic Facilities:** Where military facilities continue as operating bases such facilities are open to the public through annual memberships and à la carte sessions. Federal policy does not allow these to be advertised, indicating concerns for the appearance of competition with private sector operators. As well military use takes precedence and as with use of school board facilities public use is often bumped for military use.
- **Public Use of Operating Post-Secondary Institutions:** Most post-secondary institutions make their sport and recreation facilities available to the public for a membership or à la carte fee. In a number of cases (e.g., UNB in Fredericton, University of Windsor, ON, Durham College/University of Ontario Institute of Technology and the City of Oshawa, Wilfred Laurier University, Ontario) there are formal cost sharing agreements for either development or ongoing operation of University Athletic Facilities. Each of these examples are relatively large municipalities. Consultation with several post-secondary institutions indicates that their sport and athletic facilities are necessary to attract students. On the other hand, and particularly with respect to indoor aquatic facilities, post-secondary institutions have questioned the ongoing financial viability of these facilities without the ongoing support of local municipalities. In all cases in our research of these partnerships we have found that, while non-institutional use has the highest numbers of users, institutional use has the bulk of time, and priority time. As with military and local school facilities these facilities still respond first to their institutional demand and secondly to public demand. Revenue from public use contributes green dollars to facility operation. In some cases e.g., the UNB Fredericton diving tank, municipal grants have contributed to ongoing maintenance costs enabling the dive tank

to remain open and available to local diving and synchro clubs, at a cost less than replacing this facility. Notwithstanding these examples, there is clearly a need to review and reconsider municipal/institutional funding partnerships in light of the increasing costs of these facilities. In reconsidering municipal financial contribution more formal consideration to access, consistent with those contributions by both the institution and the public, is needed.

IV.IV RECREATION PARTICIPATION TRENDS

- **Macro Trends for Recreation and Culture** – A trend document prepared for the 2011 National Recreation Summit noted the following macro trends⁷: (1) time available for leisure has not changed since the '80s when it was anticipated that Canadian Society would have more leisure time; (2) Expenditure on recreation and culture has increased; (3) Economic barriers to recreation and culture have increased; (4) Leisure behaviour is shifting to more informal, individual, self-directed activities; and (5) digital experiences and opportunities are having a significant impact on active leisure participation.
- **Initiatives Designed to Increase Healthy Activity** – These include provincial, national and local activity plans, active transportation plans, policies to increase healthy food and snack consumption, and the development of targets for health and wellness. This movement has led to significantly greater attention to the development of trails and walking infrastructure including indoor walking infrastructure and a general focus on overall wellness.
- **General Physical Activities** – The 2010 Canadian Community Health Survey found that walking, jogging, gardening and yard work, home exercises, swimming, bicycling, and weight training were among the ten most popular physical activities for Canadian adults. Nearly 70% of surveyed Canadians reported walking during their leisure time⁸.
 - Research has shown that men are more likely than women to partake in moderate physical activity, and that the proportion of individuals who are at least moderately active decreases with age.⁹
 - The trend towards increasing personal “wellness” has spurred growing participation in programs supporting holistic health such as yoga, Pilates, and other mind/body centered activities. While private facilities have capitalized on this trend in the past, it is increasingly common for public recreation centres to offer these activities in facilities once used primarily for dance, aerobics, and general fitness.

⁷ Balmer, Ken; ReThink Inc. (2011)

⁸ Physical Activity During Leisure Time. Statistics Canada. July 28, 2011.

⁹ Canadian Fitness & Lifestyle Recreation Institute (2009). 2008 Physical Activity Monitor: Physical activity levels of Canadians.

- **Team Sports** – The growth in individual sport and active living opportunities as well as the relative decline in the under 25 population have contributed to the decline in team sports in many communities. Sport participation is significantly influenced by age of participant with soccer and hockey the most popular sports among 18 to 24 year olds; hockey and baseball the most popular among those in the 24-44 age group; golf and hockey are the most popular sports played by those 45-64 years of age; and over 50% of individuals 65 years of age or older reported golf as being their sport of choice.¹⁰
- **Arena Sports and Activities** – have typically always held a strong presence in Canadian's recreation activities, however there are differences between sports. For example, national figure skating participation has been gradually declining due in part to the growing popularity of hockey for girls and women. Adult recreational hockey has experienced significant growth across Canada with league activity for 19-30 year olds and women's hockey experiencing the highest rates of growth in recent years. Sledge hockey, a sport designed for individuals with physical disabilities and sensory impairments, is increasing, partially due to the exposure of the events as a Paralympic sport.
- **Aquatic Sports and Activities** – typically appeal to a wide range of ages and ability levels. Recreational swimming continues to be one of the most popular leisure activities for all ages. As the population ages and older adults remain active well into their 80s and beyond, opportunities to participation in this mildly aerobic low impact activity will increase in demand. Instructional swimming programs continue to experience strong participation among children, whereas leadership and aquatic instructional participation has declined as the population of teenagers declines. Competitive swimming continues to be strong. Therapeutic swimming programs have also experienced growth as they continue to be recommended as a form of therapy for older adults and rehabilitation patients. Aquatic therapies often serve as a stepping-stone for patients to move onto land-based rehabilitation therapies. Competitive diving and synchronized swimming have both been relatively stable over the past few years. Participation in these programs is limited by the availability of facilities and trained coaches, and typically enjoys success as a result of Canadian athletes in international competition.
- **Gymnasium / Indoor Fieldhouse Activities** – Participation in activities such as basketball, volleyball and badminton continues to be popular, particularly among youth and young adults and where there are opportunities for unstructured or more flexible participation. Badminton continues to be a popular drop-in activity for young adult couples and seniors. Racquet sports (including indoor tennis, squash and racquetball) have declined nationally since their peak in the '80s. Squash participation has declined considerably nationally but continues to be popular among university-aged males. Indoor soccer on the other hand has experienced significant growth in association with the

¹⁰ CFLRI 2009 Physical Activity Monitor- "Sport Participation Rates of Canadian Adults"

growing popularity of soccer in Canada and specialized facilities for that purpose will continue to be requested.

- **Sport Tourism** – Facilities and services that support local recreational interests as well as sport tourism are increasingly popular. These initiatives raise a number of important considerations, including: (1) The substantial investment, the actual benefits and the merits of sport tourism relative to other economic development strategies; (2) Scheduling priorities when community use competes with tournaments serving non-residents; (3) The contribution of what are generally specialized facilities serving higher caliber athletes to physical activity and health objectives; and (4) The relative priority of these facilities in municipal recreation systems where resources are typically in short supply.

V. INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES AND SERVICE CONTEXT

The following is a summary of the indoor recreation facilities that are the subject of this assessment. The current state of facilities, when combined with demographics, trends, expressed and demonstrated participation, and services offered will form the basis of the gap analysis.

V.I SUMMARY OF EXISTING INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

The following table (Table 1.6) summarizes the indoor recreation facilities located in the Town of Wolfville. A detailed inventory of these facilities with information about capacity, user groups and condition can be found in section VI of Appendix A. The inventory information is based on facility tours conducted by the consultants and information provided by key informants / facility operators and gathered through desktop research.

Table 1.6 Town of Wolfville and Area¹¹ Indoor Facility Summary

Facilities	Details	Service Ratio – Town of Wolfville Only¹²	Service Ratio – Region	High Level Service Provision “Standard”
Arena	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1-pad rink with stadium seating in the Acadia Athletics Complex used by Varsity Teams, students and general public - Single pad arenas in Berwick, Kentville, Canning and Windsor for a total of 4 other ice facilities in Eastern Kings and Windsor 	1:7,770	1:9,000 ¹³	1:12,000
Indoor Pool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1-tank pool in the Acadia Athletics Complex used by Varsity Teams, students and general public - 1 2-tank pool at Base Greenwood - 1-tank pool at Waterville Nova Scotia Youth Centre <p><i>In total regionally, all three pools are the equivalent of 1.5 community dedicated pools when considering their amount of public access.</i></p>	1:7,770	1:50,000 ¹⁴	1:30,000
Public Fitness Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fitness centre and heavy weight room in the Acadia Athletics Complex open to University students and general public 	1:7,770	-	-
Indoor Courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Squash court and racquetball court at Acadia Athletics Complex 	1:7,770	-	-

¹¹ For arena and aquatic facilities both the regional (Eastern Kings and Windsor) supply and population have been used.

¹² Estimates a current population of 4,270 residents plus approximately 3,500 students when Acadia University is fully operational equaling 7,770 individuals.

¹³ Estimates a current regional population of approximately 45,000 from Windsor to Berwick, NS.

¹⁴ The next closest indoor pools in NS are in Truro, Bridgewater, Halifax and Cornwallis. Therefore a broad regional population of 80,000 is estimated as the potential users of these three institutional pools.

Facilities	Details	Service Ratio – Town of Wolfville Only ¹⁵	Service Ratio – Region	High Level Service Provision “Standard”
Gymnasias	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 gymnasium in the Acadia Athletics Complex open to Varsity Teams, students and general public - 1 gymnasium located at the Wolfville School (currently the school is undergoing extensive renovations, but it is anticipated that the gymnasium will be functional in early 2016). 	1:3,885	-	-
Theatres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acadia Theatre Co-op (Al Whittle Theatre (170 seats) and Studio-Z (27 seats)) - Acadia Festival Theatre (500 seats) 	1: 3,885	-	-
Fitness Space / Multi-purpose Rooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multi-purpose space at Clark Commons - Fitness / dance studio at Acadia Athletics Complex - Large multi-purpose space L’Arche Hall (will be under renovations in 2016 and unavailable during the winter) - Multi-purpose space (2 large halls broken up by firewall) with kitchen at Wolfville Farmer’s Market - Several rooms at Acadia Student Union Building - 1 large room at Lion’s Hall with kitchen / bar - Indoor room and indoor / outdoor room at Wolfville Recreation Centre - 1 large room at Manning Chapel - Rooms at the three local churches (Wolfville Baptist Church, St John’s Anglican Parish Hall and St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Rectory) 	<1:650	-	-

¹⁵ Estimates a current population of 4,270 residents plus approximately 3,500 students when Acadia University is fully operational equalling 7,770 individuals.

Facilities	Details	Service Ratio – Town of Wolfville Only ¹⁶	Service Ratio – Region	High Level Service Provision “Standard”
Meeting Rooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 rooms at Irving Centre - 2 rooms at Acadia Athletics Complex - Several rooms at Acadia Student Union Building - 1 room at Lion’s Hall - 2 rooms at Wu Centre (currently under renovations) - 1 community room in Wolfville Library - 6 meeting rooms at EKM Community Health Centre - 1 community room at Wolfville Fire Hall - 1 lounge / meeting room in the Beveridge Art Gallery - Room at the Masonic Hall 	<1:350	-	-
Banquet Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lobby at Acadia Festival Theatre used for banquets - 1 large banquet / meeting space in the Fountain Commons - 1 large banquet / meeting space in the Clarke Commons 	1:2,590	-	-
Other Indoor Recreation Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wolfville Curling Club - Wolfville Library - Wolfville Farmers Market - Running track in the Acadia Athletics Complex - Botanical Gardens and Conservatory / public lounge at the Irving Centre 	1:7,770	-	-

¹⁶ Estimates a current population of 4,270 residents plus approximately 3,500 students when Acadia University is fully operational equalling 7,770 individuals.

The following table provides an overview of the major indoor facilities available in the greater region.

Table 1.7 Summary of Major Indoor Facilities in the Greater Region

Facilities	Details
Arenas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kentville Centennial Arena (all seasons facility, hosts various events, such as hockey, figure skating, home shows, concerts, craft fairs or promotional events) - Single pad arenas in Berwick, Canning and Windsor
Pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 2-tank pool at Base Greenwood - 1-tank pool at Waterville Nova Scotia Youth Centre
Multi-purpose / Meeting Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kentville Recreation Centre – lower room accommodates 100 – 200 people; upper room accommodates 150 – 230 people - Woodville Community Centre - Louis Millett Community Complex (New Minas) - Port Williams Community Centre - Auditorium and multi-purpose room both with kitchen facilities and two meeting rooms (the Youth Room and Boardroom)
Publicly Available Fitness Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Woodville Community Fitness Room - Nova Scotia Community College Kingstec Campus (Kentville) - Louis Millett Community Complex (New Minas)
Gymnasias	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evangeline Middle School (New Minas) - King's County Academy (Kentville) - Nova Scotia Community College Kingstec Campus (Kentville) - Louis Millett Community Complex (New Minas) - Horton High School (Greenwich)
Indoor Turf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Valley Indoor Soccer & Events Centre (Kentville) - 120' X 220' turf playing surface
Performance Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Horton High School (Greenwich) (516 seats)

IV.1 RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Current programming frequently offered in the community is outlined in the following table by the age group served and the type of activity. The programs noted in Table 2.8 reflect a point in time and were taken from various brochures made available by the Town and some further research by the consultants. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of activities offered; rather the intention is to present a snapshot of program opportunities around the time of development of this report. It is anticipated that activities offered in the Town will change over time.

Table 1.8 Current Indoor Programming

Programs by Age	Town of Wolfville Program	Community / Regional Group Program	Private Provider
Pre-school program	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Babies and Books Drop In (Library) - Playful Pals (Kings County Family Resource Centre at Wolfville Recreation Centre) 	-
Child Material Arts (pottery, painting, etc.)	-	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Harvest Studio - Wool and Tart
Child Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - After School Programs - Kids Run Club (Acadia Athletics Complex) - March Break Camps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Books in the Nook (Library) - Wolfville Children's Centre 	-
Child active sport / fitness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Speed skating (Acadia Athletics Complex) - Fun Skills Fridays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acadia Athletic Complex (summer sport camps) - Wolfville Gymnastics Club - Little Rocks Curling - Wolfville Tritons Swim Club - Fencing 	-
Child Performing Arts (dance, drama, etc.)	-	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Private music instruction - First Position Dance Studio - Highland Dancing Studio
Youth Material Arts (pottery, painting, etc.)	-	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Harvest Studio - Wool and Tart
Youth Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - After School Programs - March Break Camps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Homework Club (Library) - Friday Youth Night (at Wolfville Curling Club) 	-
Youth active sport / fitness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teen Yoga (Wolfville School) - Youth Triathlon Training - Speed skating (Acadia Athletics Complex) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acadia Athletic Complex (summer sport camps) - Wolfville Gymnastics Club - Acadia Minor Basketball - Little Rocks Curling - Wolfville Tritons Swim Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Private Yoga Instruction - Zumba - Abs-o-lute Fitness

Programs by Age	Town of Wolfville Program	Community / Regional Group Program	Private Provider
Youth Performing Arts (dance, drama, etc.)	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - West African Drumming Workshop (Wolfville Baptist Church) - Wolfville Community Chorus (30 Wickwire Ave.) - New Horizons Band 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Private music instruction - First Position Dance Studio - Highland Dancing Studio - Acadia Summer Band Club
Adult Material Arts (pottery, painting, etc.)	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Painting Morning with Evangeline Artist Cooperative (Wolfville Recreation Centre) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Harvest Studio - Wool and Tart
Adult Recreation	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social Group for Adults with an Autism Spectrum Disorder - Wolfville and Area Newcomers Club (Wolfville Farmer's Market) - Toastmasters (Irving Centre) 	-
Adult active sport / fitness	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acadia Athletic Complex - Blomidon Multisport Club - Wolfville Gymnastics Club - Chair Yoga 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bike Shop Classes - Private Yoga Instruction - Zumba - Abs-o-lute Fitness
Adult Performing Arts (dance, drama, etc.)	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - West African Drumming Workshop (Wolfville Baptist Church) - Wolfville Community Chorus (30 Wickwire Ave.) - New Horizons Band 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Private music instruction
Seniors Material Arts (pottery, painting, etc.)	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Painting Morning with Evangeline Artist Cooperative (Wolfville Recreation Centre) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Harvest Studio - Wool and Tart
Seniors Recreation	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seniors Afternoon Out - Silver and Gold Club - Toastmasters (Irving Centre) 	-
Seniors active sport / fitness	- Fit as a Fiddle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acadia Athletic Complex - Walk and Roll (Athletic Centre) - Chair Yoga - Seniors Fitness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Private Yoga Instruction - Zumba - Abs-o-lute Fitness

Programs by Age	Town of Wolfville Program	Community / Regional Group Program	Private Provider
<p>Seniors Performing Arts (dance, drama, etc.)</p>	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - West African Drumming Workshop (Wolfville Baptist Church) - Wolfville Community Chorus (30 Wickwire Ave.) - New Horizons Band 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Private music instruction - First Position Dance Studio - Highland Dancing Studio
<p>Family / All ages</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kettlebell Krushers & Wolfville Recreation (Acadia Dance Studio – Athletic Complex) - Free community swim (Acadia Pool) - Free community skate (Acadia) - Free walk at Acadia Athletic Complex 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Yoga (Dance Studio at Old SUB) - Late afternoon yoga (Wolfville School) - Insight (Vipassana) Meditation (Manning Memorial Chapel) - Board Game Night (Library) - Tai Chi (L'Arche Hall) - Chaoyi Fanhuan Qigong (CFQ) Practice Group (St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Rectory) - Acadia Athletic Complex - Wolfville Skating Club - Eastern Kings Badminton Club - Wolfville Tennis Club - Valley Athletics - Deep Roots Music Festival - Devour! The food Film Festival - Wolfville Christmas Market - Ping pong (school based) - Racquetball - Ringette - Volleyball - Spin class (Acadia) - Fitness Classes (Acadia) - Zumba (Acadia and non-profit) - Youth and Family Indoor Triathlon Challenge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Martial Arts - Clayground

VI. INDOOR RECREATION FACILITY INVENTORY

Town of Wolfville, NS INDOOR FACILITY INVENTORY

Name of Facility: Acadia Cinema (Al Whittle Theatre and Studio-Z)

Location of Facility: 450 Main Street, Wolfville PID: 55279053

Ownership (M = Municipal; B = School board; P = Private; O = Other): Acadia Theatre Co-op, Non-profit (P)

Type of Facility(ies) & Number of Facility Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dressing / green room / small theatre (Studio-Z) - Large theatre (Al Whittle Theatre) - Parking and loading at back of building - Just Us Café at ground floor and entry - Jack's Gallery at theatre lobby
Market Area Served	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional, lots of valley users, some from Halifax - Mostly used by people who live between Berwick and Windsor - Devour Film festival (5 days) brings people from all over
Primary Users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Theatre and Film (in large) - Movies & PowerPoints (in small) - Fundy Film Society is primary film user (every Sunday & Wednesday) - Small theatre groups - Note: the theatre is owned and run by a Co-op (~ 700 members)
Primary User Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not for profit theatre co-op - Acadia cinema co-op - Rentals, birthday parties - Meetings - Night kitchen (1st Saturday each month) - Concerts / Christmas concerts
Capacity / Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shared spaces between users - \$25 / hour includes equipment (DVD & projector) - Films are balanced in attendance, some well attended, some less - Used 2 - 3 Fridays & Saturdays per month - Currently empty on Mondays and Tuesdays
Description / Comments on facility components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some difficult coordination issues with scheduling - Technology: lights, audio, projector, acoustic panels - Moveable walls for dressing or back stage area - Studio-Z (27 seats) – 65 OCC - Al Whittle Theatre (160 seats + 10 barrier free) - Grants – receive funding from Province as well as Town - Property tax reduction from the Town - Co-op sells shares in the facility
Description / Comments on recent upgrades to the facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Was an old opera house, movie theatre in 30s or 40s, was divided into 3 screens, in 2002 was purchased by Acadia Cinema Co-op and spent 2 years turning it back into a single screen. - Digital projector is close to 10 years old – planning for future potential costs to upgrade - Replaced 6 old fresnels lights with 3 LED - Future: would love proper dressing and green room with offices above

**Town of Wolfville, NS
INDOOR FACILITY INVENTORY**

Name of Facility: Acadia Cinema (Al Whittle Theatre and Studio-Z)

Location of Facility: 450 Main Street, Wolfville PID: 55279053

Ownership (M = Municipal; B = School board; P = Private; O = Other): Acadia Theatre Co-op, Non-profit (P)

<p>Description / Comments on facility limitations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 35mm from ~2004 – 2011, now digital but projector is 10 years old - Studio-Z is not barrier free, no elevator, Al Whittle theatre is only barrier free in the back row, have to use a portable ramp to get onto the stage - Studio can get quite hot; fan creates a lot of noise - Al Whittle is generally cool in temperature
<p>Additional Comments / Information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Master booking information is available - Acadia Cinema Co-op receives property tax reductions for their property at 450 Main Street.

**Town of Wolfville, NS
INDOOR FACILITY INVENTORY**

Name of Facility: Irving Centre

Location of Facility: Acadia Campus, 32 University Ave, Wolfville PID: 55387583

Ownership (M = Municipal; B = School board; P = Private; O = Other): Acadia University (P)

Type of Facility(ies) & Number of Facility Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental sciences school - Botanical gardens and conservatory - Lounge space (garden room) - 4 meeting rooms, academic rooms
Market Area Served	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acadia University, Town of Wolfville
Primary Users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students, staff and community - Lounge space (Garden room) – open to the community at all times (even during rentals) - Conservatory is also open to the public for drop-in - A lot of weddings (available to ‘Acadia family’ only for rentals)
Primary User Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students, community organizations (meeting rooms)
Capacity / Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting rooms are heavily used
Description / Comments on facility components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Constructed 2002 - Large garden room (used for receptions, events, open space for study) rentable space but its mandate is that people cannot be turned away so it remains public. - Garden used for receptions and can be licensed - Meeting rooms (Acadia room – 32 seat boardroom; Meeting room – 12 seats; Seminar room – 12 seats; Library room)
Description / Comments on recent upgrades to the facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leaks were repaired in past year
Description / Comments on facility limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technology is old and heavily used

**Town of Wolfville, NS
INDOOR FACILITY INVENTORY**

Name of Facility: Clark Commons

Location of Facility: Acadia Campus, 15 University Ave, Wolfville PID: 55271332

Ownership (M = Municipal; B = School board; P = Private; O = Other): Acadia University (P)

Type of Facility(ies) & Number of Facility Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting room (capacity up to 50 people or 75 people with theatre seating) - Fitness area downstairs used for yoga and martial arts
Market Area Served	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acadia University
Primary Users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students
Primary User Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting Groups - Banquets
Capacity / Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting room for up to 50 people - Under capacity (available often)
Description / Comments on facility components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small kitchen - Furnished - Washrooms
Description / Comments on recent upgrades to the facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building is 8 – 9 years old
Description / Comments on facility limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Occasional heating issues - No elevator - Washrooms do not appear to have accessibility buttons - Stairs to get to facility (terraced), but door is at grade - Accessibility buttons at main entrance - Acoustics in building not good

**Town of Wolfville, NS
INDOOR FACILITY INVENTORY**

Name of Facility: Acadia Athletics Complex

Location of Facility: Acadia Campus, 550 Main Street, Wolfville PID: 55281489

Ownership (M = Municipal; B = School board; P = Private; O = Other): Acadia University (P)

<p>Type of Facility(ies) & Number of Facility Components</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arena - Indoor running track - Fitness room - Heavy lifting room - 1 squash court - 1 racquetball court - Swimming pool - Fitness / dance studio - Fitness centre - Gymnasium - 2 meeting rooms
<p>Market Area Served</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acadia University, Wolfville residents, Town of Wolfville, residents from Kings County region
<p>Primary Users</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primarily students and staff - Members - Public (non-members) have access during some hours
<p>Primary User Groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dance groups in dance studio(can be booked by community to hold classes) - Acadia Minor hockey, Wolfville Skating Club in arena - Triton Swim club - Public swimming lessons - Triathlon - Varsity teams - Acadia Intramural teams - General public – membership and fitness passes available - Public has access to running track during certain hours as well as open swims and skates

Town of Wolfville, NS INDOOR FACILITY INVENTORY

Name of Facility: Acadia Athletics Complex

Location of Facility: Acadia Campus, 550 Main Street, Wolfville PID: 55281489

Ownership (M = Municipal; B = School board; P = Private; O = Other): Acadia University (P)

Capacity / Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arena: 2,100 capacity, 1,800+ seats, typically near capacity - Pool: typically at capacity - Fitness Centre: lots of use - 750,000 annual visits made to the Acadia Athletics Complex highlighted by varsity sports events, fitness centre and classes, outdoor field and pool. - Acadia Staff note the following with respect to community use of the facility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 57.7% of facility pass holders reside in Wolfville. Kings County residents make up 16% while 13.6% come from Kentville and 8.1% from New Minas. - 63.9% of fitness class attendees are from Wolfville. Kentville and New Minas combined represents 11.5%. - 90% of pool users are community groups and individuals. This averages out to 2,000+ community based visitors on a weekly basis. - 45% of fitness centre users are community based during school months. During non-school months, community usage is close to 100%. - 26.7% of swim registrations each year are from Wolfville residents. 25.7% come from Kentville. - 55% of arena and field usage is community based annually.
Description / Comments on facility components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arena originally built in 1988 and the rest of the athletics complex is older (Pool is 60s / 70s). This pool also has a salt water filtration system which has brought its own special requirements and implications to maintenance (and the cost of it. - Updated Olympic sized rink (great for varsity) – with 1,900 seats and 200 standing spots; want to attract international games) - Ice is taken out of arena for 6 weeks - Fitness centre was adapted from a gymnasium that overlooked the pool and the main floor gymnasium - The fitness area change rooms are not updated and need upgrades - Pool was built in the 1960s - 6 lane 25m t-shaped competition pool - Running track was added through a grant from the Town

**Town of Wolfville, NS
INDOOR FACILITY INVENTORY**

Name of Facility: Acadia Athletics Complex

Location of Facility: Acadia Campus, 550 Main Street, Wolfville PID: 55281489

Ownership (M = Municipal; B = School board; P = Private; O = Other): Acadia University (P)

<p>Description / Comments on recent upgrades to the facility</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lighting upgrades last year - Walking track used by public added last year - Arena fully renovated last year - Arena wall paneling - Ice plant upgrades - Readapted squash courts for heavy lifting (potential future cycling room) - Asbestos tile was removed in pool (ceiling upgrades required where this occurred) - New lighting in the pool - New air conditioner in the gym. It is our understanding that the Town provided a contribution towards this.
<p>Description / Comments on facility limitations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In arena there are only 4 dressing rooms + 1 re-adapted female room & 1 officials room - No first aid room in arena - Bleachers in gymnasium do not retract well – planned to be replaced soon - Air circulation / conditioning issues - Salt water pool - issues with town water, corroding equipment, barrier free lift which needs improvements.
<p>Comments and Additional Information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over the past two years, Acadia University reports to had spent \$462,000 on projects that positively impact the community. This includes arena locker room upgrades, fitness centre, family change room, pool, security measures and HVAC system for the gym and fitness centre. - The <i>Acadia Athletics Strategic Plan (2012-2016)</i> primarily focuses on university sport and recreation development, but does also discuss community recreation – identifying events and camps as part of their core business. The plan also identifies recreation/fitness customers and fans as key stakeholders. Opportunities include potential improvements to aging facilities. The vision is <i>an unparalleled Canadian university athletic program, delivering a uniquely personalized high performance Athletic, Academic, and Community enriching experience. Goals: Ensure long-term viability of Acadia facilities and improve service levels for Athletics, students, and the community.</i>

**Town of Wolfville, NS
INDOOR FACILITY INVENTORY**

Name of Facility: L'Arche Hall

Location of Facility: 341 Main Street, Wolfville PID: 55275150

Ownership (M = Municipal; B = School board; P = Private; O = Other): L'Arche, non-profit (P)

<p>Type of Facility(ies) & Number of Facility Components</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This facility will undergo a renovation in the near future (currently undergoing capital campaign) - Kitchen is currently not used by outside groups because it is a commercial kitchen. It was not confirmed if it will be a commercial kitchen in the future after the building renovations. - Existing parish hall in new L'Arche building will be available for community bookings following renovations - New weaving room will be private, but open to the community to view
<p>Market Area Served</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primarily used by the L'Arche community - Some community bookings likely will be available - Currently charge \$20 / hour (doesn't cover room use and likely with renovations will need to charge more)
<p>Primary Users</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - L'Arche programs – support for people with developmental disabilities - user groups: SMILE, fitness, creative arts, jewelry sale (no regular bookings currently) - Boardroom in future may or may not be available to rental - Applewicks: Weaving, Candle making, Seaming
<p>Primary User Groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - L'Arche community - L'Arche community prayer and suppers available to all - Was open to public 75% of the time outside of L'Arche events through summer and shoulder seasons. Hall not rented in the winter currently because of heating issues and cost. The parish hall will be available to the community follow renovations and at this time it is unknown the amount of time that will be available to the community
<p>Capacity / Usage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under capacity - Mostly requested now for evenings and weekends - Not open during winter months and will not be open during renovations

**Town of Wolfville, NS
INDOOR FACILITY INVENTORY**

Name of Facility: L'Arche Hall

Location of Facility: 341 Main Street, Wolfville PID: 55275150

Ownership (M = Municipal; B = School board; P = Private; O = Other): L'Arche, non-profit (P)

Description / Comments on facility components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can hold about 100 people seated in the meeting hall - Future building will have multipurpose rooms, kitchen, boardroom, offices, retail area, arts and crafts rooms and weaving studios. New facility size is planned to be 12,862 s.f. mostly for use by L'Arche Community office and workshop space - Weaving and other equipment will be in their dedicated spaces - The current facility only has two functioning washrooms, the new will have four accessible washrooms
Description / Comments on recent upgrades to the facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Future renovations will include expansion and other major upgrades, and will include elevator (accessibility) - L'Arche has a Buildings Committee and Board of Directors overseeing renovations
Description / Comments on facility limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not marketed as available to community users (bookings are by word-of-mouth) - Don't run space in the winter currently
Additional Comments / Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wolfville L'Arche Homefires Society is tax exempted for their new facility at 341 Main Street while the facility is under renovation and unavailable for programming. During this time the society needs to retain their existing facility for programming. - The volunteer Board of Directors of Wolfville L'Arche Homefires Society has made a commitment to raise \$2 Million to renovate the property.

Town of Wolfville, NS INDOOR FACILITY INVENTORY

Name of Facility: Wolfville Farmer's Market

Location of Facility: 24 Elm Ave, Wolfville PID: 55279327

Ownership (M = Municipal; B = School board; P = Private; O = Other): Acadia University (P), leased by the Market

Type of Facility(ies) & Number of Facility Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kitchen - Multipurpose (2 halls broken up by firewall) – 1 community space, 1 market space)
Market Area Served	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wolfville and surrounding region, special events (i.e. Devour) reach to other areas in the province - Mainly Wolfville groups, some Valley wide groups
Primary Users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seniors, Adults - Most programs are not specifically recreational or for kids - Community use is growing
Primary User Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Market vendors - Cooking classes (run by market) - Town runs cooking classes with kids - Yoga classes, kettle bells, belly dance (private) - Good food hub kitchen - Food Matters mixer (market) - Kitchen mostly used by renters / vendors - Belly dancing (1 / week): use is growing - Wolfville Newcomers Club (1 / month) - Refresh (1 / month) - Contra-dance (6 / year)
Capacity / Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Used frequently, but there is capacity for more use
Description / Comments on facility components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Old turn of the century building with recent upgrades. - Long large building with low ceilings - Single washroom bank (female, male and gender neutral) - The building has original wood columns and beams, wood floors and wood paneling ceilings. - Offices and storage - Kitchen is important, has increased use - 300 capacity for assembly
Description / Comments on recent upgrades to the facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A firewall with fire shutters was added to meet the local fire requirements. A sprinkler system was added to the building, though not initially required by AHJ, it was added in order to rent out the back half of the building. - Building has undergone facility exterior & interior upgrades and an addition of W/C's entrance and an office - Acoustic panels throughout to absorb sound - Kitchen - Insulated basement recently - Installed barn curtain to help store booths during events - A storage curtain was added at the perimeter to help hide booth and furniture and open up the space for events such as weddings

**Town of Wolfville, NS
INDOOR FACILITY INVENTORY**

Name of Facility: Wolfville Farmer's Market

Location of Facility: 24 Elm Ave, Wolfville PID: 55279327

Ownership (M = Municipal; B = School board; P = Private; O = Other): Acadia University (P), leased by the Market

Description / Comments on
facility limitations

- The building is heated by an oil burning furnace which has had at least one maintenance issue when it shut down
- Can be cold in winter for sit-down meetings
- Used for informal events, not formal occasions
- Overall occupant load 300, limited currently by the washroom count. The occupant load of 300 is a good number for the current building uses.
- Floor gets a lot of use – some concerns by fitness groups
- Not enough storage (using furniture)
- Not enough seating during market
- Parking is an issue
- Potential development for building adjacent lands
- Other wants: bike racks, outdoor dining, landscaping

Town of Wolfville, NS INDOOR FACILITY INVENTORY

Name of Facility: Acadia Student Union Building

Location of Facility: Acadia Campus, 30 Highland Ave., Wolfville PID: 55280770

Ownership (M = Municipal; B = School board; P = Private; O = Other): Acadia University (P)

Type of Facility(ies) & Number of Facility Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Student Union Building - Offices, multipurpose rooms, event rooms, meeting rooms, retail and food services, yoga and dance studios
Market Area Served	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acadia University and some Wolfville community groups
Primary Users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students - Some community use
Primary User Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dance (Acadia Dance Community Club) and yoga - Student Conference Center - Event room (McKeen Room) - Fairs in main hall - Lounge (town hall meetings) - Forums - Room dedicated to Wolfville Children's Centre – after school program - Main level used to have Winter Farmer's Market
Capacity / Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 – 10 pm: dance every day - Some availability during day and mornings - Student Conference Center: availability
Description / Comments on facility components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Older building, old (60s) new (70s) - McKeen has a stage - McKeen: 140 people for events - Student Conference Center: 35 people for events - Ward: 12 people
Description / Comments on recent upgrades to the facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Floor renovations in McKeen Room - Wolfville children's centre has temporarily moved into the SUB.
Description / Comments on facility limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Well maintained - No A/C – too warm in summer months - Building is accessible at Horton Avenue (street-level doors with accessibility buttons. - Lacking interior accessibility - there is no elevator, only stairs will take you to the McKeen Room. - Way-finding is poor

Town of Wolfville, NS INDOOR FACILITY INVENTORY

Name of Facility: Lions Hall

Location of Facility: 36 Elm Ave., Wolfville PID: 55289375

Ownership (M = Municipal; B = School board; P = Private; O = Other): Wolfville and District Lions Club, non-profit (P)

<p>Type of Facility(ies) & Number of Facility Components</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multipurpose Room - Meeting room / board room - Bar / kitchen (large with propane stove) - Office - Storage - Reasonable amount of parking
<p>Market Area Served</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional groups (outside Wolfville, e.g., schools - Avonport, Gaspereau) - Rentals from out of town - Well situated in downtown Wolfville
<p>Primary Users</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seniors, Adults
<p>Primary User Groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pancake breakfast every 3rd Saturday - Fiddlers group twice a month (40 – 50 members) - Private rentals (including fundraisers - partner) - School fundraisers - Town meetings - Prayer groups (students) - Seniors cards on Tuesdays in the winter (15 – 20, but group is declining) - Seniors exercise club twice a week (busy – wait lists) - Book sale - Mud Creek Rotary Club (4 days a week) - Church (Lambs Way on Sunday - \$800 / month fee) - Other community / private rentals (mainly groups that are from outside of Wolfville) - It was noted that sometimes regular community groups can be 'bumped' for larger rentals
<p>Capacity / Usage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multipurpose areas are at capacity, not going after new events because the Lions won't always be available to facilitate the event. Some availability in the summertime. - The boardroom is used quite a bit (near capacity) - Very well used building
<p>Description / Comments on facility components</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multipurpose Room – used for larger meetings - Large kitchen for use of community groups or they can bring in their own caterer - Fully accessible facility - Boardroom to suit meeting groups around a table (smaller meetings) - Lots of parking available for the facility at the site and in municipal lots

**Town of Wolfville, NS
INDOOR FACILITY INVENTORY**

Name of Facility: Lions Hall

Location of Facility: 36 Elm Ave., Wolfville PID: 55289375

Ownership (M = Municipal; B = School board; P = Private; O = Other): Wolfville and District Lions Club, non-profit (P)

<p>Description / Comments on recent upgrades to the facility</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The mechanical equipment is loud so the facility would benefit from acoustic panels - 1998 – major renovations - Recent upgrades have been minor and include painting (interior and exterior) and a new dishwasher (\$10K) - The hall receives a grant from Town that goes to maintenance - Town grants received for re-capitalization
<p>Description / Comments on facility limitations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Older building, but appears to be in relatively good shape - Building is situated in a flood plain - Building needs new roof, parking lot paving. Some members of the Lion’s would rather collaborate with other grounds to build one shared multi-purpose building - As membership is declining and getting older (hold membership of 27 – 30 members for past 20 years), some members would prefer to lease a space, but others have concern that they would not have enough space - Capacity for upstairs renovations to expand - The acoustics are not good for large gatherings and certain activities - Air circulation and AC not up to date and provides users with a less comfortable space
<p>Additional Comments / Information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hall rental costs information available.

Town of Wolfville, NS INDOOR FACILITY INVENTORY

Name of Facility: Acadia Festival Theatre

Location of Facility: Acadia Campus, 504 Main Street, Wolfville PIDs: 55524128; 55524136; 55524144

Ownership (M = Municipal; B = School board; P = Private; O = Other): Acadia University (P)

Type of Facility(ies) & Number of Facility Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 500 seat theatre - Lobby
Market Area Served	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acadia University, Wolfville and surrounding communities
Primary Users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primarily Students and Acadia staff - Community has some access / can book times around student use - Primarily used by adults
Primary User Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acadia School of Music - Theatre, Acadia's Performing Arts Series, other theatre groups - Festivals (i.e. Deep Roots) - Launches (i.e. Town Re-Branding) - Lobby is used for banquets and receptions
Capacity / Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Used heavily by Acadia's School of Music - Cost approx. \$985 for general use; \$1,300 for Professional use
Description / Comments on facility components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Large rooms - Carpeted lobby with bar and seating - Air Conditioned - Comfortable seats - Washrooms - Great acoustics - Dressing rooms and green room - Reception in lobby - Box office - Offices - Practice rooms - Lots of parking - Good loading dock - Wheelchair spots
Description / Comments on recent upgrades to the facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Readapted in early 90's from arena - No current plans for more upgrades
Description / Comments on facility limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Someone from Acadia University needs to be in the facility when it is booked - Accessible only from ground floor - Some systems are getting old (i.e. sound)

Town of Wolfville, NS INDOOR FACILITY INVENTORY

Name of Facility: Wolfville Recreation Centre

Location of Facility: 7 Victoria Ave, Wolfville (Rotary Field) PIDs: 55503239; 55275648

Ownership (M = Municipal; B = School board; P = Private; O = Other): Town of Wolfville (M)

Type of Facility(ies) & Number of Facility Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multi-purpose space with kitchenette - Office space - Storage areas - Washrooms - Three-seasons space (outdoor / indoor space) – three-bay garage - Soccer field, playground, tennis courts (exterior)
Market Area Served	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Town and county
Primary Users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All ages
Primary User Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wolfville Tennis Club (have an MOU with the Town) - Summer camps - Minimal after school programming during shoulder seasons - Yoga, Zumba – can be challenging in the room, small class sizes - Evangeline Artists Co-op (Monday mornings) - Soccer – have permanent locked space for equipment - Kings County Family Resource Centre has used facility - Recreation department (used for storage) - Snowshoe rentals
Capacity / Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under capacity (through school year only rented 4 times a week – 2 mornings, 2 evenings) - Building is really only usable during summer and shoulder seasons (not typically used by groups during winter months).
Description / Comments on facility components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multi-purpose space with kitchenette - Cement block building - Storage areas - Washrooms - Three-seasons space (outdoor / indoor space) – three-bay garage with glass on both ends and one side, cement floor - Office space (for cycling, camp leaders, soccer) – 3 – 8 staff sometimes use this space. Very tight and can get loud. No private meeting space for staff. - The tennis club originally thought office space would be a lounge space - In floor heating and air exchange system - Located at Rotary Field, which is a multi-use recreational park that includes sports fields, tennis courts, playground structures
Description / Comments on recent upgrades to the facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building was originally built for a canteen and storage - Renovations to current state sometime after 2000

**Town of Wolfville, NS
INDOOR FACILITY INVENTORY**

Name of Facility: Wolfville Recreation Centre

Location of Facility: 7 Victoria Ave, Wolfville (Rotary Field) PIDs: 55503239; 55275648

Ownership (M = Municipal; B = School board; P = Private; O = Other): Town of Wolfville (M)

Description / Comments on
facility limitations

- Limitations with regards to use based on nature of facility
– cement floor can be difficult for programming.
- Only really usable as a three-season space (use to use
for office space for four seasons, but is rather isolated)
- Cold in later seasons and hot in summer
- Three-bay garage space can be noisy
- Access doors not accessible
- More storage needed for recreation department / summer
camp equipment (currently have 2 sheds that are both
full)

**Town of Wolfville, NS
INDOOR FACILITY INVENTORY**

Name of Facility: Wu Building

Location of Facility: Acadia Campus, 512 Main Street, Wolfville PID: 55279418

Ownership (M = Municipal; B = School board; P = Private; O = Other): Acadia University (P)

Type of Facility(ies) & Number of Facility Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting rooms - Currently being renovated
Market Area Served	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acadia and local area (rentals)
Primary Users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acadia University
Primary User Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acadia University - Community group rentals of meeting rooms
Capacity / Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unknown – currently under renovations, but it is anticipated that facility will have availability for community rentals
Description / Comments on facility components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two meeting rooms. Larger room will have capacity for 60 people. Bookings will be through Acadia Events Department.
Description / Comments on recent upgrades to the facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Currently being renovated
Description / Comments on facility limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unknown, currently being renovated

Town of Wolfville, NS INDOOR FACILITY INVENTORY

Name of Facility: Wolfville Library

Location of Facility: 21 Elm Ave., Wolfville PID: 55279244

Ownership (M = Municipal; B = School board; P = Private; O = Other): Town of Wolfville (M)

Type of Facility(ies) & Number of Facility Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Library spaces - Community room upstairs
Market Area Served	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wolfville residents - Building is centrally located in the Town's downtown
Primary Users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All ages
Primary User Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A lot of children's programs - Community programs - 2 – 3 regular community meetings a week - Computer programs (CAP site is busy) - Patio is used for summer concerts
Capacity / Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under capacity – time is available for rentals
Description / Comments on facility components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - - Computers - Library space has capacity for 45 people to gather - Upstairs community room – large / medium space - Small kitchen facility - Storage upstairs
Description / Comments on recent upgrades to the facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heritage building that was originally the Town's train station - Re-pointed brick 2 years ago - Added accessibility buttons to doors 4 years ago, at grade entrance for accessibility
Description / Comments on facility limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cold in winter and hot in summer – thinking of changing to heat pump system - Roof needs to be redone however there are plans to replace within the year. - Older windows should be replaced - No elevator – rooms upstairs are not accessible - Older building is challenging to modernize facility (small compared to newer facilities).

**Town of Wolfville, NS
INDOOR FACILITY INVENTORY**

Name of Facility: Fountain Commons

Location of Facility: Acadia Campus, 15 University Ave., Wolfville PID: 55271332

Ownership (M = Municipal; B = School board; P = Private; O = Other): Acadia University (P)

Type of Facility(ies) & Number of Facility Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Banquet / meeting space
Market Area Served	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - University - Local / regional groups
Primary Users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acadia University - Some community rentals
Primary User Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Used for convocation receptions (last 5 – 6 years) - Annapolis Valley Health Authority and Annapolis Valley School Board has booked the space - Used for Devour reception - Weddings - Town hall style meetings / info sessions
Capacity / Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Availability for rentals
Description / Comments on facility components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building is over 40 years old, well maintained (used to be a dining hall) - Renovated in 2000 - Can accommodate 220 for banquet, maximum room capacity is 500 - No air conditioning, but the building has an air exchanger - Acoustics are okay, good sound system for speaking events - Elevator
Description / Comments on recent upgrades to the facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appears to be well maintained
Description / Comments on facility limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Catering exclusive to the University's provider - Not aware of any needs for upgrades

Town of Wolfville, NS INDOOR FACILITY INVENTORY

Facilities within Wolfville which are used by community, but were not toured
(information is based on consultant knowledge of facilities, key informants and desktop review)

Ownership (M = Municipal; B = School board; P = Private; O = Other)

<p>Manning Chapel Acadia Campus, 15 University Ave., Wolfville PID: 55271332 Ownership: Acadia University (P)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Type of Facility(ies) & Number of Facility Components: Chapel basement can be booked by community groups, facility also has a library space - Market Area Served / Primary Users: Acadia Staff / students, Wolfville community groups - Primary User Groups: Yoga, community lunches, variety of activities - Capacity / Usage: Frequently used
<p>Wolfville School 19 Acadia Street, Wolfville PID: 55273130 Ownership: Annapolis Valley Regional School Board (AVRSB) (B)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indoor recreation facilities consists of a double-gymnasium - It is our understanding that the gymnasium will be out of commission until early 2016 due to school renovation. - When open the gymnasium is heavily used by community groups, however the typically 'bumping' situation can occur as school use comes first. - The gymnasium is not available during the school day and if school closes because of winter storms, it will remain closed all evening even when the weather clears.
<p>Wolfville Curling Club 3819 Elm Ave., Wolfville PID: 55279335 Ownership: Non-profit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The facility is available for use on a rental basis and the public can be a member of the curling club. - The club completed a Request for Brief which provided additional information.
<p>Denton Hall Acadia Campus, 15 University Ave., Wolfville PID: 55271332 Ownership: Acadia University (P)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Used by University; not really used for community rentals / bookings often - Occasionally used by community for performances - No parking around building
<p>Beveridge Art Gallery Acadia Campus, 10 Highland Ave., Wolfville PID: 55280671 Ownership: Acadia University (P)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primarily used by University - Gallery is viewed as a public space - Lounge - Facility has a lounge / meeting room for approximately 20 people. Space has a lot of glass. - Unsure of amount of community bookings
<p>Wolfville Fire Department 355 Main Street, Wolfville PID: 55274989 Ownership: Town of Wolfville (M)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community room within the Fire Hall - Primarily used by the Fire Department - With rare exceptions, this space is not available to the public
<p>Wolfville Baptist Church 487 Main Street, Wolfville PID: 55272975 Ownership: Private</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primarily used for Church programming - Typically used for yoga and other community activities (such as performances) - Not used by the Town for programming

**Town of Wolfville, NS
INDOOR FACILITY INVENTORY**

Facilities within Wolfville which are used by community, but were not toured
(information is based on consultant knowledge of facilities, key informants and desktop review)

<p>St John's Anglican Parish Hall 341 Main Street, Wolfville PID: 55275150 Ownership: Private</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primarily used for Church programming - Typically used for yoga and other community activities - Not used by the Town for programming
<p>St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Rectory 118 Main Street, Wolfville PID: 55278337 Ownership: Private</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primarily used for Church programming - Typically used for yoga and other community activities - Not used by the Town for programming
<p>Masonic Hall 42 Gaspereau Ave., Wolfville PID: 55278337 Ownership: Non-profit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is our understanding that this facility is currently not well used by community groups - One of the oldest Masonic Halls in Nova Scotia

Appendix B

Community Consultation

I. REQUEST FOR BRIEF INVITEES AND RESPONDENTS

Groups invited and Responded to Request for Brief:

- Deep Roots Music Co-op
- Fundy Film Society
- L'Arche Homefires
- Mud Creek Rotary Club
- Wolfville Baptist Church
- Wolfville and Area Foodbank
- Wolfville Curling Club
- Wolfville Scouts

Groups invited but did not submit a completed Request for Brief:

- Alexander Society for Special Needs
- Anglican Rectory
- Annapolis Valley Honour Choir
- Blomidon Naturalists
- Canadian Federation of University Women
- Djembes & Duns Drumming
- Evangeline Artists Co-operative
- Fezziwig
- Fit As A Fiddle
- Kings Family Resource Centre Playgroup
- New Horizons Band
- Open Acadia
- Peacemakers
- Seniors WNCS Physio NSHA
- Social Group for Adults with Autism
- Valley Cardiac Rehab
- Wolfville & District Lion's Club
- Wolfville Newcomer's Club
- Wolfville Rotary Club
- Women of Wolfville (WOW)

II. FOCUS GROUP INVITEES AND PARTICIPANTS

Groups in attendance to the Focus Groups:

Group 1

- Acadia Minor Hockey
- Blomidon Multi-Sport Club
- East Kings Badminton Club
- Wolfville Tennis Club

Group 2

- Acadia S.M.I.L.E. Program
- Seniors WNCS Physio NSHA
- Valley Cardia Rehab
- Wolfville Children's Centre
- Wolfville Tritons Swim Club

Group 3

- Evangeline Artists Co-op
- Fezziwig
- Women of Wolfville (WOW)

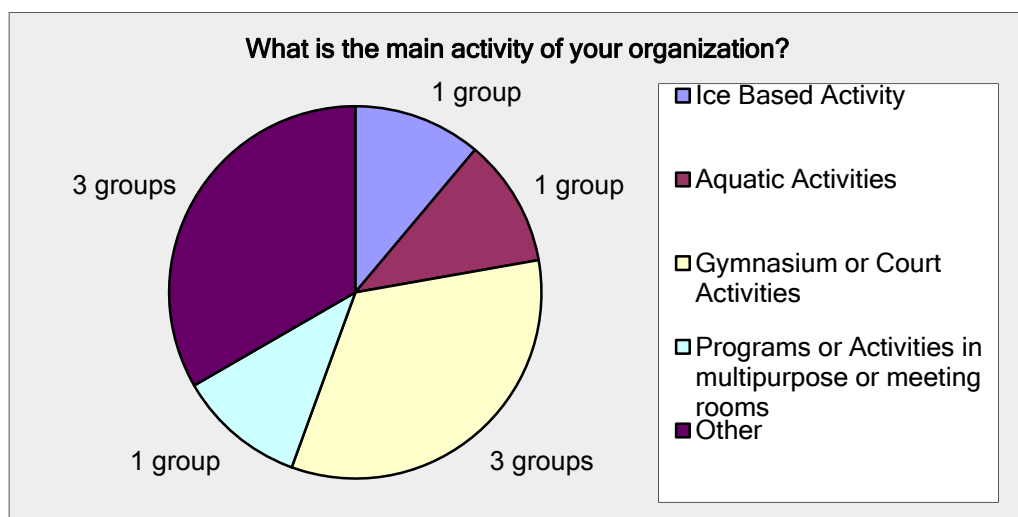
Organizations invited to Focus Groups but did not attend:

- Acadia Dance Community Club
- Acadia Minor Basketball
- Community Yoga
- Edalene Theatre
- Kinderskills
- Valley Athletics
- Wolfville Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and Beavers
- Wolfville Curling Club
- Wolfville Skating Club
- Wolfville Soccer Club

III. USER GROUP SURVEY RESULTS

III.1 ORGANIZATION DETAILS

User Groups who completed the survey were primarily involved in gymnasium or court activities. There was also a representative respondent from both ice-based and aquatic activities categories as well as a respondent whose group relied on multi-purpose rooms / meeting rooms. The other user groups (located in the 'Other' category) who responded to the survey represented organizations using yoga studio facilities, tennis courts (and storage), as well as child care (and special needs care) facilities for working parents.



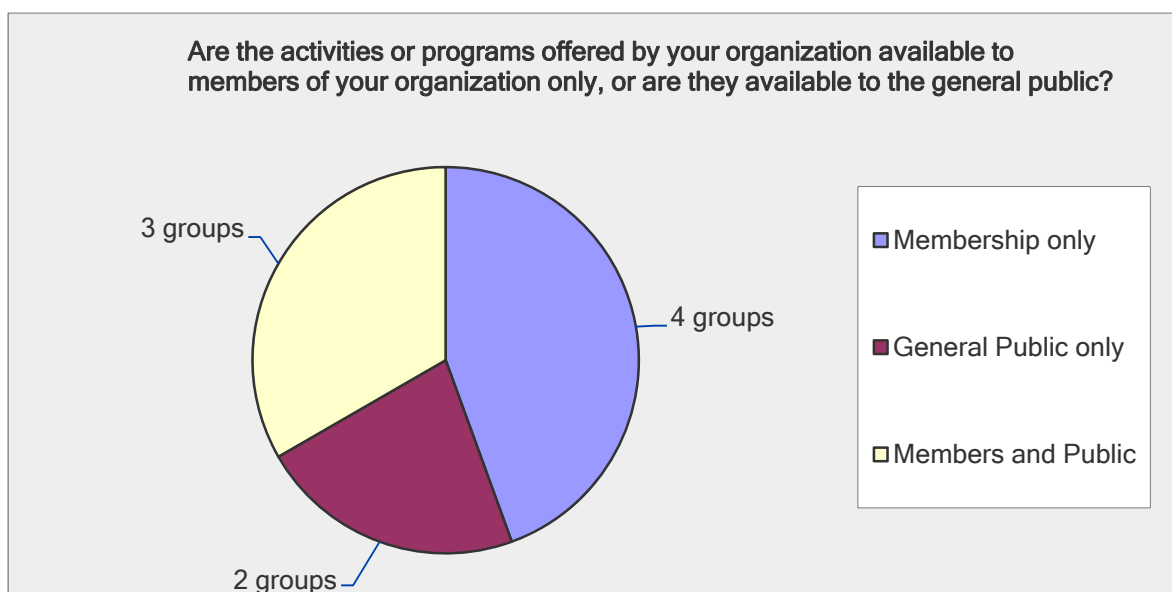
Four of the nine responding groups said that they had between 25-50 active participants in their group. Two groups indicated that they had a considerable number of active participants within the 100-250 member range.

How many participants are currently active in your organization during a typical year?	
Answer Options	Response Count
0 - 25	0
25 - 50	4
50 - 100	3
100 - 250	2
250 - 500	0
More than 500	0
<i>answered question</i>	9
<i>skipped question</i>	0

While three of the user groups expected the number of participants to increase in the next five years, all three felt like it would be an increase of less than 10%. Four of the user groups felt that their group would more than likely remain the same. Groups felt that the contributors to potential growth would rely on improved marketing and advertising practices as well as an increase of interest for their given activity.

Do you expect the number of participants to increase, decrease or remain the same over the next five years?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Increase	33.3%	3
Decrease	11.1%	1
Remain the same	44.4%	4
I don't know	11.1%	1
<i>answered question</i>		9
<i>skipped question</i>		0

Four of the nine groups indicated that they offer their activities and programs through a membership system. Three groups indicated they were accessible to the general public and two answered that they offered their activities and programs to the general public as well as through a membership system.



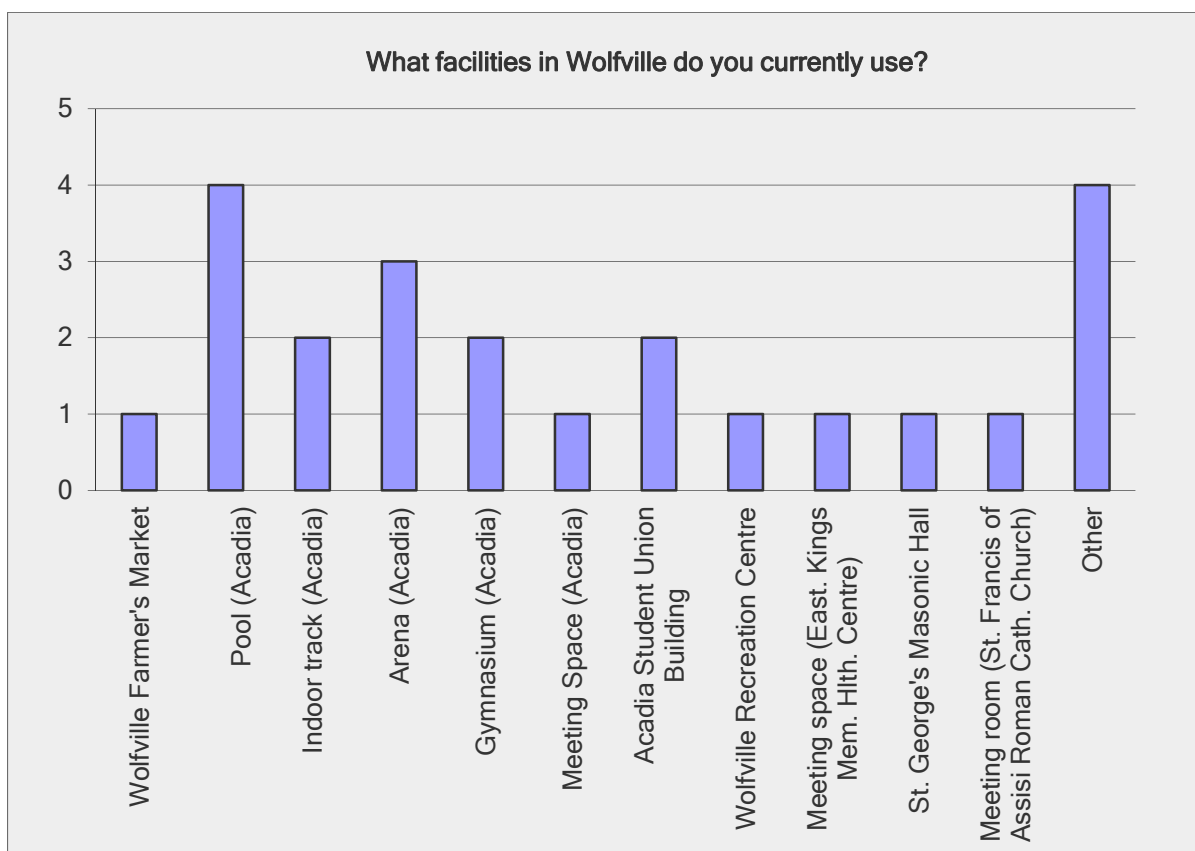
When considering the groups collectively, the majority of them are primarily focused on serving users who are at the elementary school age (5-14 years). The second most served age cohort were the middle aged users (35-59 years) with very few offering services to users 75 years and older.

When asked where members of the user groups resided, there appeared to be an almost equal split of those who live within the boundaries of Wolfville and those who live out of the area. Although some user groups do predominately have members from one location or another, when considered collectively, active members of these groups appear to have an

equal representation of those who reside in the Town and those who come from outside of the boundaries.

III.II FACILITY USE

User groups showed to have a heavy reliance on Acadia University's facilities, particularly for the school's pool and the arena amenities. Although the groups indicated a heavy reliance on the University's pool, many have made the comment that there is not enough booking time available for organizations (internal and external to the University) as well as time slots for open and lane swims for public use. The Wolfville School Gymnasium was also used regularly by these user groups.



Current issues and needs that these user groups had noted for Wolfville's indoor facilities were various however the lack of available booking time during preferred hours, as well as the rental fees associated with them were flagged as primary concerns. Other issues the user groups identified were lack of space, poor quality of the spaces provided, not accessible enough, a lack of specialized equipment, as well as a lack of regulation sized facilities.

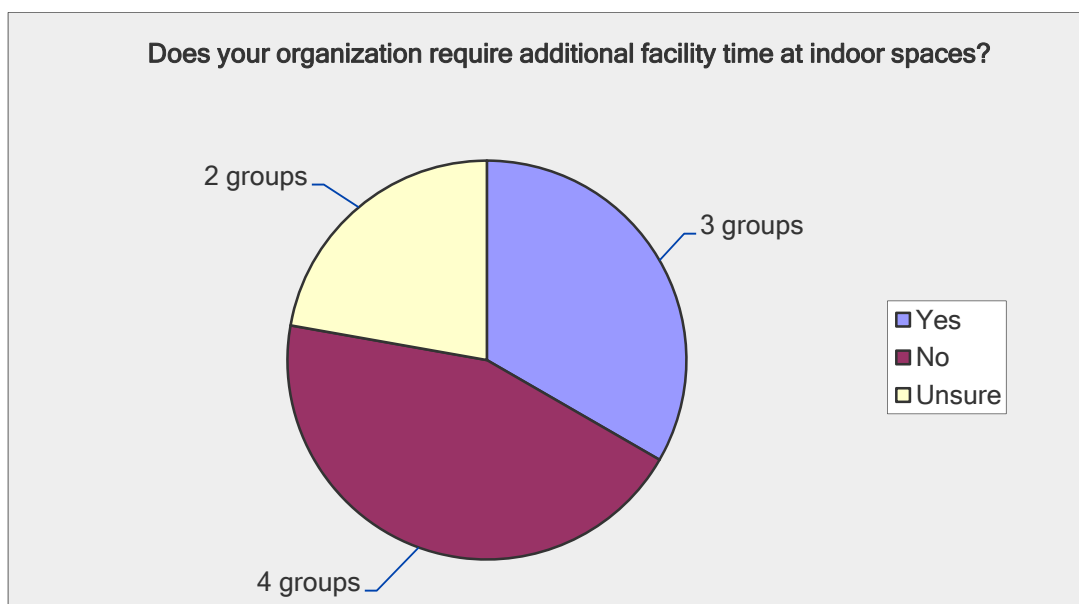
When asked what amenities user groups would like to see enhanced as a priority, many of the respondents indicated that the pool was in need of an upgrade. User groups felt that a 50 metre pool would best suit the community and allow Wolfville to host swim meets at all levels. Upgrades to the Wolfville School gymnasium were also communicated as being

important. Respondents felt that more equipment and larger spaces would accommodate community members, particularly younger children.

When asked to indicate how many hours a week each group used each facility type, gymnasiums, indoor pools and meeting rooms prove to be the most heavily utilized. A summary of facility utilization times (per week) is displayed in the table below.

Current Utilization of Facilities	
	Hours per Week*
Gymnasium/ Court Facilities	19
Indoor Pool	16
Meeting Rooms	15
Arena (ice time)	4
Multipurpose Space	2
Other	2
Indoor Running/ Walking Track	1
Arena (non-ice time)	1
Fitness Centre	0
Performance Space	0
Banquets or Special Events Space	0

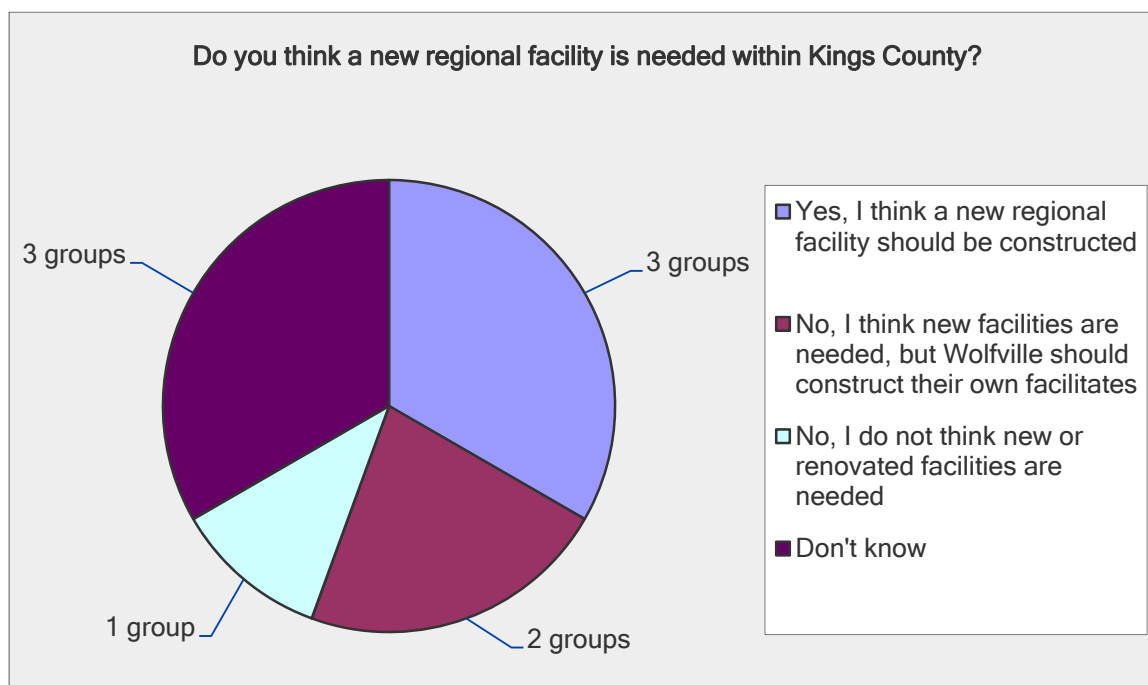
While the user groups had previously indicated that more facility booking time would benefit the community (including their own user group), 4 of the 9 respondents felt that their groups did not need additional facility time. Three groups however, did feel that they needed more booking time at indoor facilities. These groups included Acadia Minor Basket Ball, Wolfville Tritons Swim Club and Blomidon Multisport Club (pool use).



When asked whether or not user groups used facilities located outside of the Town, four of the nine user groups said that they did. Reasons for doing so were provided by these four and they include:

- Unable to access the facility(ies) in Wolfville for the time needed
- The facility(ies) needed are less expensive outside of the Town
- The facility(ies) located outside of Wolfville are more accessible for users
- Required to locate outside of the Town due to renovations on their regular facility(ies) in Wolfville

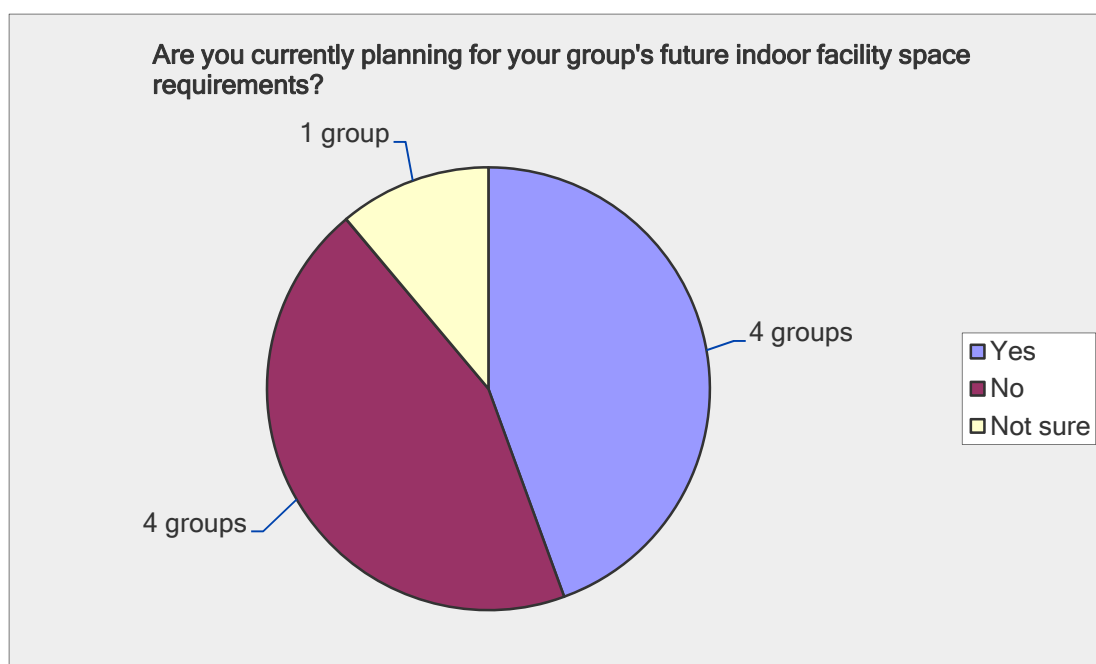
According to 5 of the 9 user groups, new or improved facilities would better meet their organization's needs. When asked about the need of a new regional facility within Kings County, 3 of the 9 respondents felt that such a facility would be appropriate however 2 of the 9 groups thought that new facilities should be kept at the local level, within the boundaries of Wolfville.



III.III PLANNING FOR FUTURE NEEDS

When asked if user groups are currently planning for their organizations' indoor facility space needs, respondents were split between 'yes they were', and 'no they weren't'. Those that answered 'yes' indicated the steps they were taking to plan for future needs included:

- Ability to fundraise for future costs
- Collecting donations from alumni member of their user group
- Collecting registration fees at the beginning of the school year (September)
- Putting on community classes with drop in donation fees



Although all groups depend on the facilities within the Town of Wolfville, and 5 of the 9 user groups indicated that new facilities would better meet their organization's needs, many of the respondents expressed that they are not in the position to directly contribute to such upgrades financially. Many of the groups did show willingness however, to help gain funding through other means such as fundraising, the transfer of grant money, volunteering their time and labour, as well as entering into a joint agreement with other organizations to help finance the construction of new or improved facilities. One group commented that they would be willing to contribute, but only for the construction or renovation for a 50 metre swimming pool.

In what way might your group be willing and able to contribute to capital construction costs for a facility that would better meet your needs?	
Answer Options	Response Count
Not in a position to contribute	6
Through fundraising	4
Through volunteer labour in construction	1
Through direct injection of capital in consideration for certain user rights	1
We will finance the total cost of new construction and assume control and operation	0
We will turn over grant monies that we are eligible to apply for	3
We would be willing to enter into a joint agreement with other organization(s) to finance construction and jointly operate	1
Other comments or clarification / explanation.	1
<i>answered question</i>	9
<i>skipped question</i>	0

Eight of the nine user groups do not own their own facility. Four of these eight “non-owners” indicated that they rent facilities on an hourly or per-use basis (four others indicated that they rent facilities through other terms or agreements).

When asked if their user group would be in a position to pay an increase in rental fees if their requirements were met, 5 of the 8 renting groups said they were not. Of those 2 groups that said they could handle a rent increase, one said they could handle a 10% increase or more while the other said they were in a position to handle a 50% or more increase in rental fees. Those who indicated that they could not handle an increase in rent stated that their current fees are already too expensive as they currently are.

Would your organization be in a position to pay increased rental or user fees if your requirements were better met?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	25.0%	2
No	62.5%	5
Unsure	12.5%	1
<i>answered question</i>		8
<i>skipped question</i>		1

Finally, groups were asked what new activities they would like to see happen if a new or expanded indoor recreational facility space were developed. Answers were as follows:

- Larger spaces for bikes for indoor training
- More opportunities to work with local schools
- More access to free use of swimming, skating and gym time
- Indoor tennis facilities
- Additional skill development camps and clinics as well as the ability to host tournaments and expose children to court sports such as basketball
- Additional studio space for classes such as yoga

III.IV USER GROUP SURVEY INVITEES AND PARTICIPANTS

Groups invited and responded to User Group Survey:

- Acadia Minor Basketball
- Acadia Minor Hockey (completed the survey after the summary was completed, however, their response was taken into consideration in the overall report).
- Blomidon Multisport Club
- Community Yoga
- Eastern Kings Badminton Club
- Kinderskills
- Wolfville Children's Centre
- Wolfville Skating Club
- Wolfville Tennis Club
- Wolfville Tritons Swim Club

Groups invited but did not submit a completed User Group Survey:

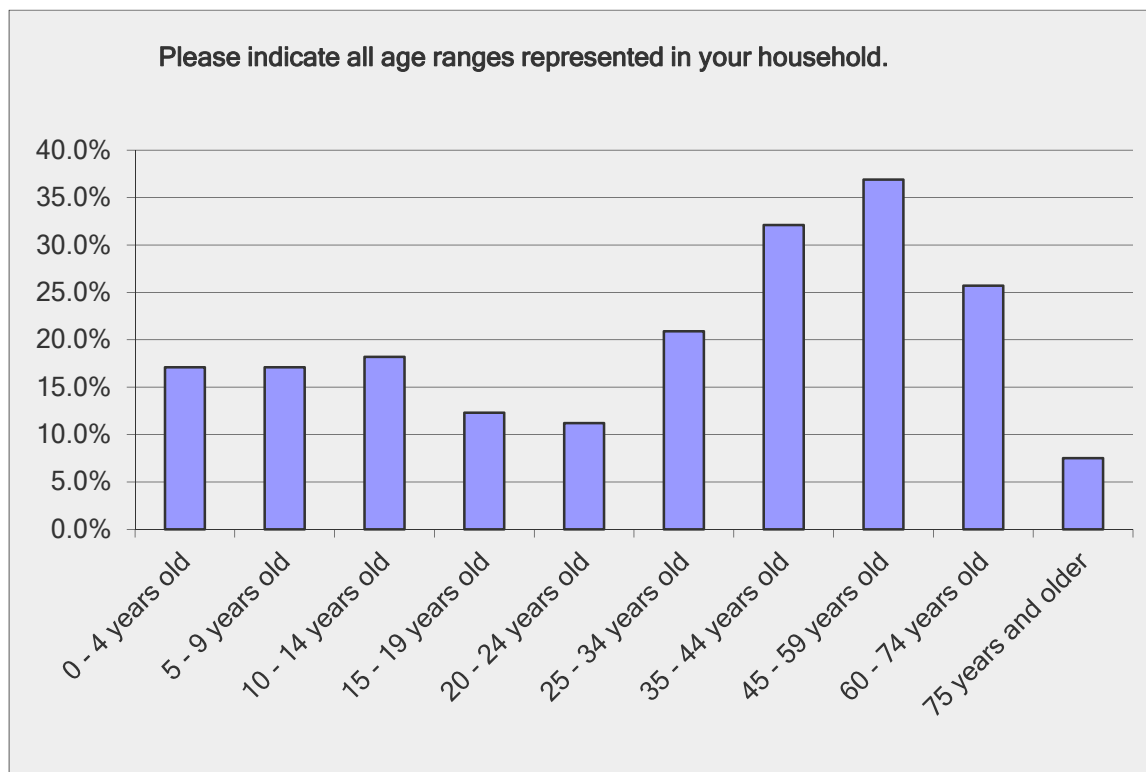
- Acadia Dance Community Club
- Edalene Theatre
- S.M.I.L.E. Program
- Valley Athletics
- Wolfville Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and Beavers
- Wolfville Gymnastics Club (the club responded that they recently closed)
- Wolfville Soccer Club

IV. COMMUNITY HOUSEHOLD SURVEY RESULTS

IV.1 HOUSEHOLD MAKE UP

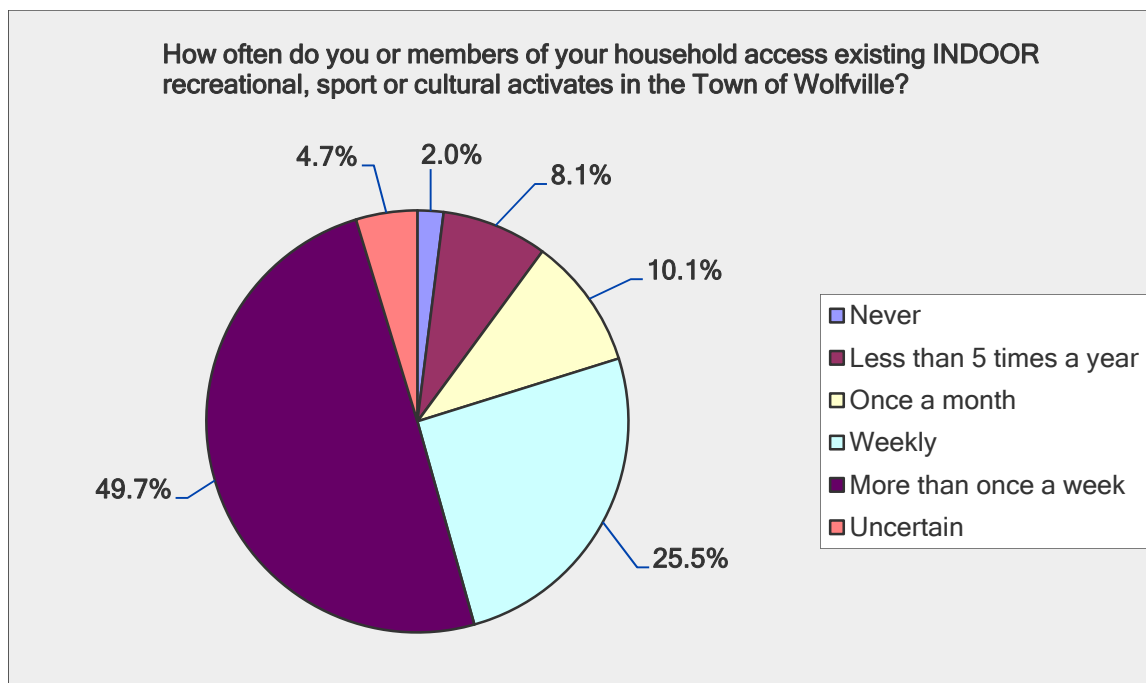
A total of 187 households responded to the survey with 69% of residents located within the Town of Wolfville's boundaries. Another 27% indicated that they live outside of the Town but within Kings County and 3% of respondents resided outside of the County. Nearly 45% of respondents said they have lived in their home for 10+ years.

How long have you lived in your current location?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
10+ Years	44.6%	83
6-9 Years	17.7%	33
2-5 Years	26.3%	49
Less than 2 years	11.3%	21
	<i>answered question</i>	186
	<i>skipped question</i>	1

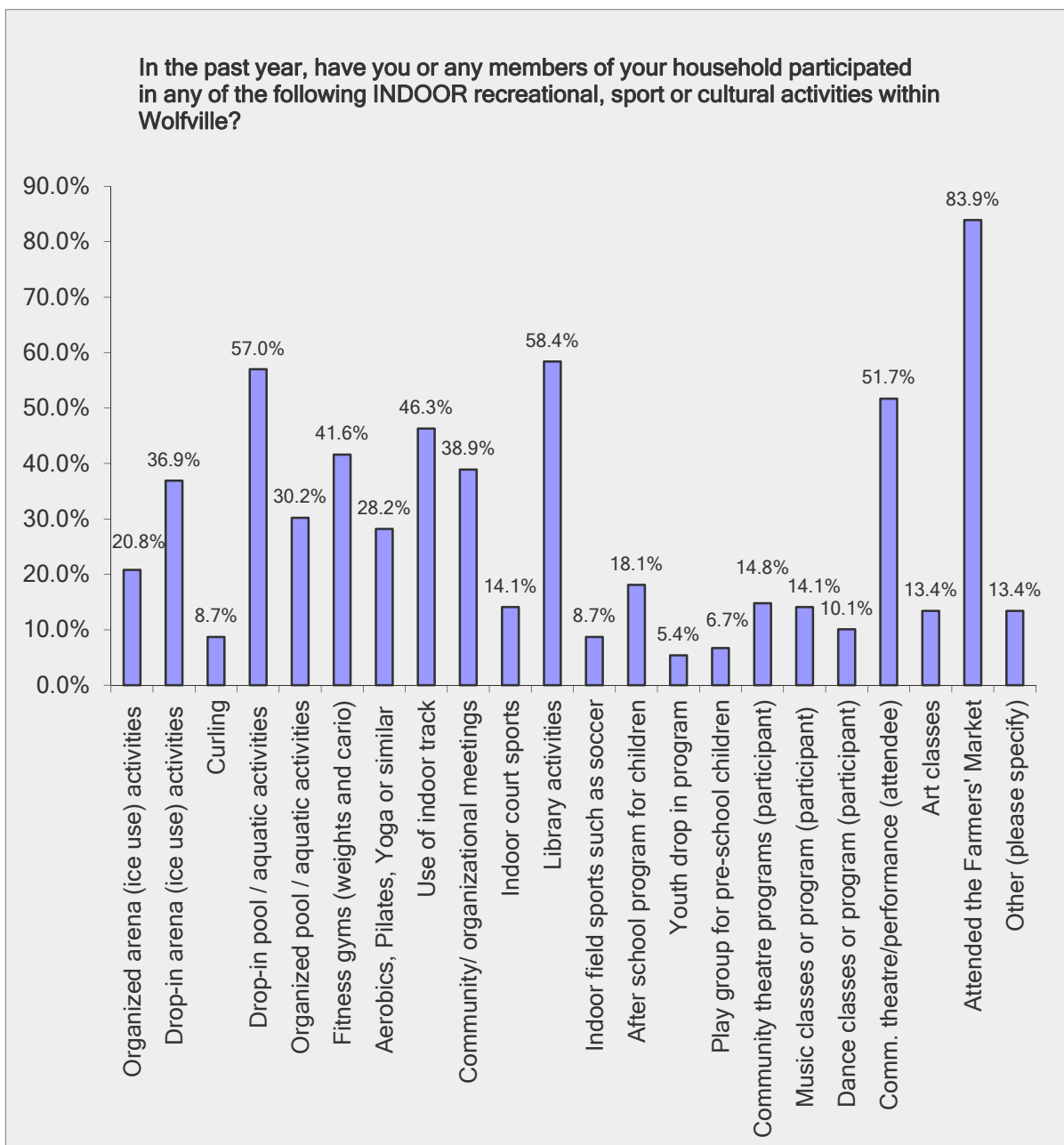


IV.II CURRENT FACILITY USE

The majority (80%) of respondents indicated that they have used indoor recreational, sport, or cultural facilities within the Town of Wolfville in the past year with nearly 50% of respondents indicating that they use these spaces more than once a week.

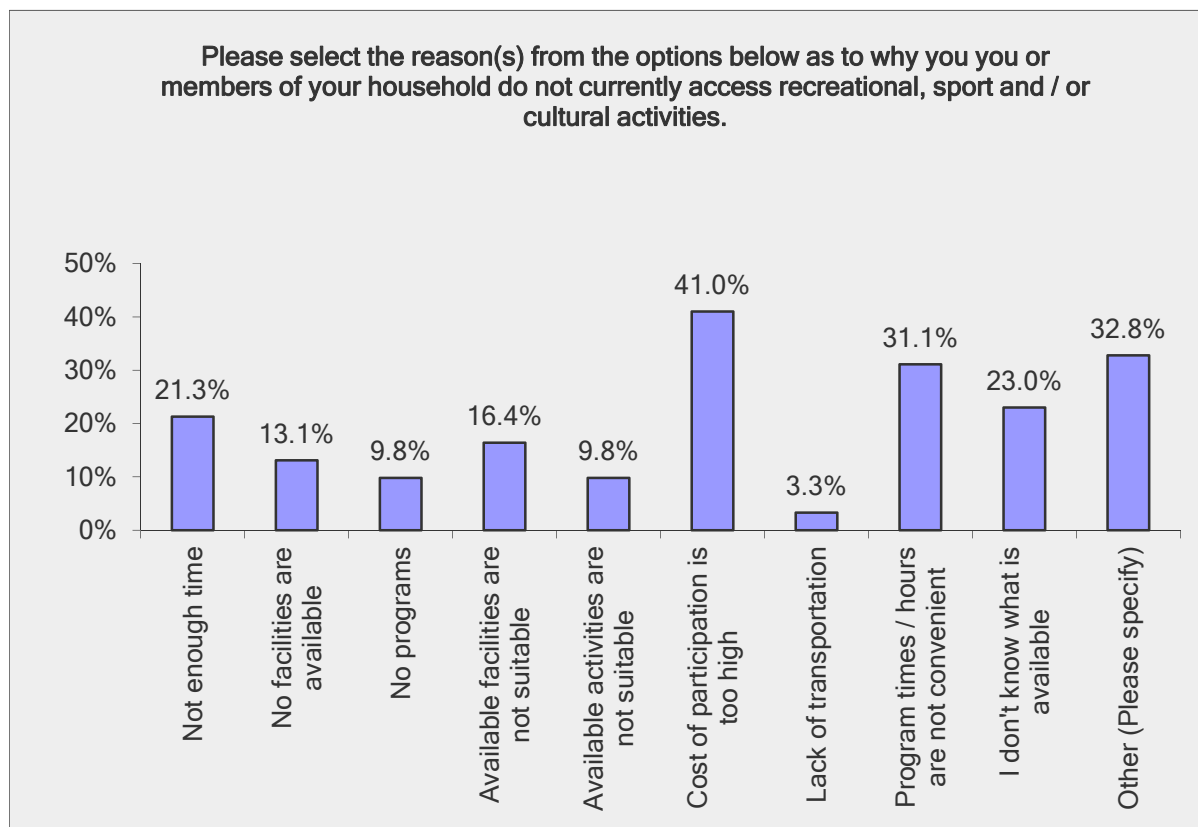


The activity with the highest attendance was the local farmer's market (84%), with library activities (58%) and drop-in pool activities (e.g. public swims) (57%) being greatly utilized by the respondents as well.



Respondents were asked to identify their top three most important facilities that they use within the Town of Wolfville. Out of 140 answers, the most important facility identified was Acadia's swimming pool (35% of respondents chose it as their number one space used). The ice arena was indicated as the second most important space used (17% of respondents chose it as their number one space) followed by community theatre space (8.6%), the fitness centre (8.6%), the library (7.9%) and the community's gymnasium for court and team sports (7.1%).

Of those who had indicated that they do not use the Town's indoor facilities, 40% confirmed the reason to be that the cost of participation was too high. Respondents also frequently felt that the scheduled program times are not convenient for their household. Other answers included a lack of interest in the programs provided, a lack of age-specific programming (too many currently focused on children), as well as a lack of facility quality and variety.



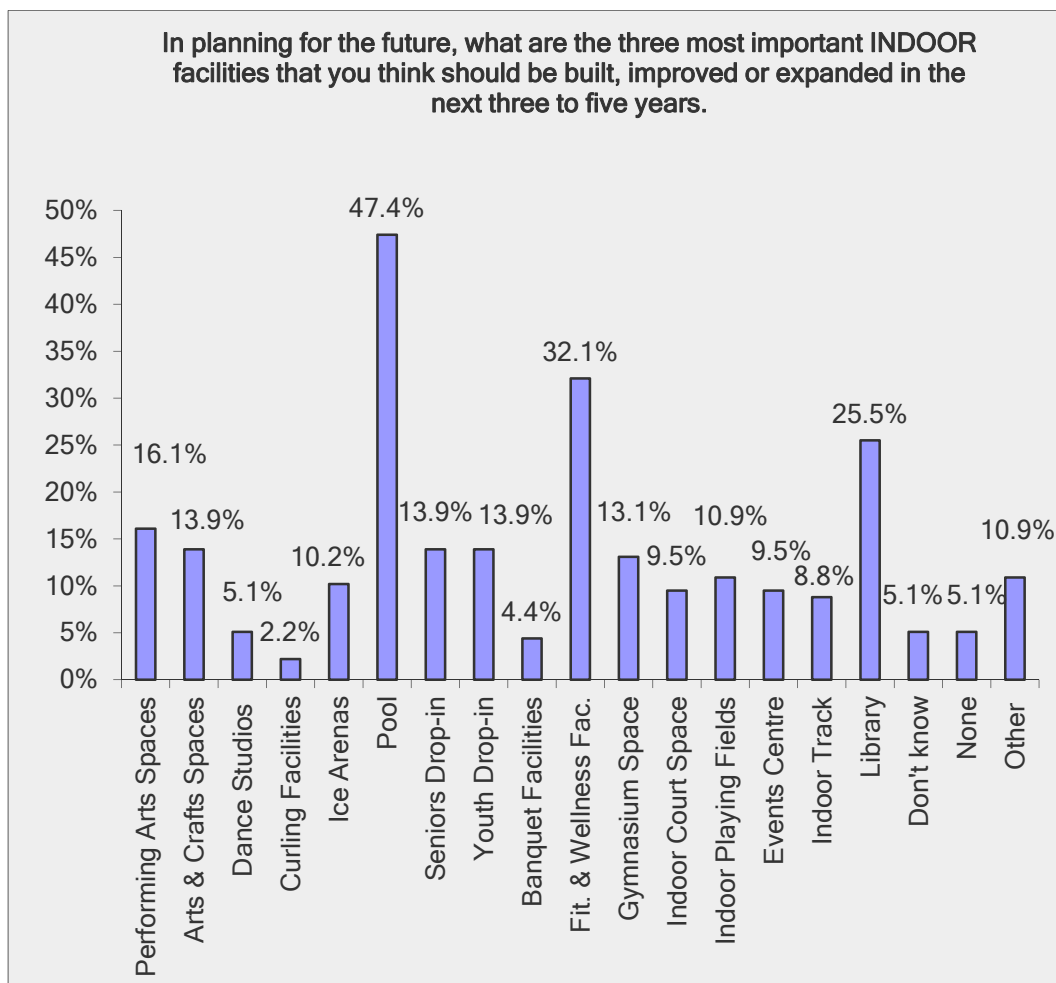
Respondents were asked whether or not there were indoor recreational sports / activities that they would like to participate in (but currently do not) and 56% indicated that there were. A variety of answers were given that participants identified as activities they would like to be involved in, (many of which were fitness or sporting events) and include soccer, and court based sports (e.g. basketball, badminton, indoor tennis, pickle ball, etc.). Others said they would like to be involved in class-based fitness activities such as yoga, Pilates, Zumba and spin classes. Activities for children were also indicated as something respondents would like to participate in.

Over half of the respondents said that members of their household regularly leave the Town of Wolfville to use other indoor recreational facilities. These respondents gave a variety of activities that they leave the Town for, the most prevalent of which being for indoor soccer. Other out of area activities provided by respondents included swimming facilities, group fitness classes, public skating and court based sports such as basketball, pickle ball, squash and badminton.

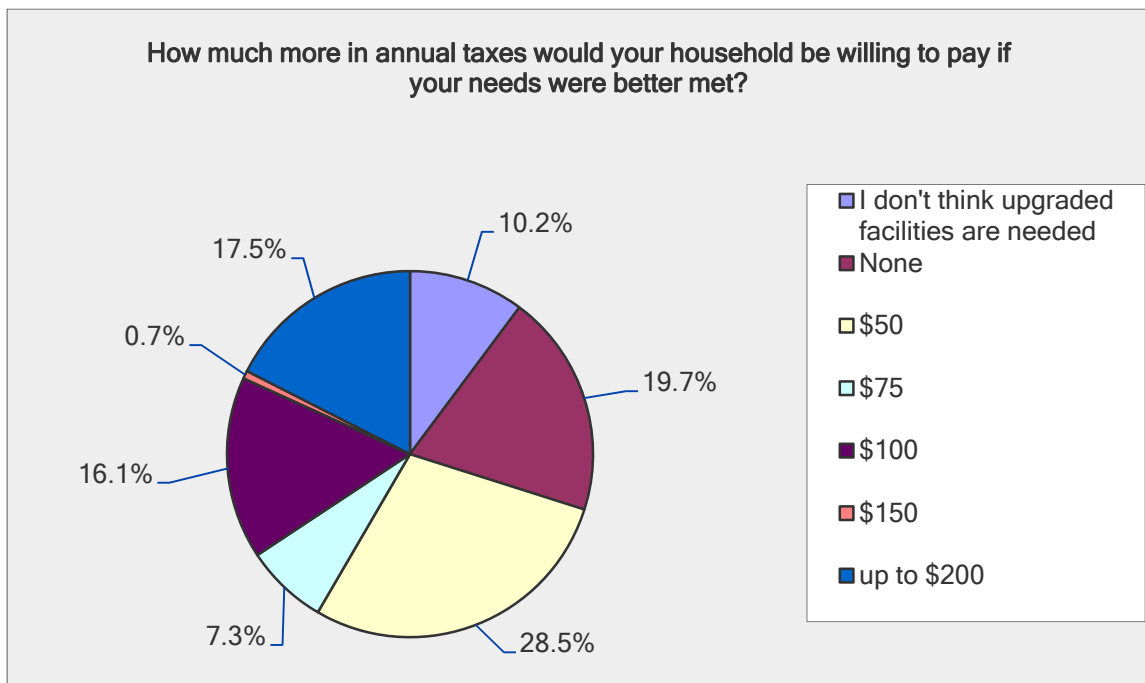
Do you or any members of your household regularly leave the Town of Wolfville to access indoor recreational, sport or cultural facilities or programs / services?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	52.3%	78
No	41.6%	62
Uncertain	6.0%	9
<i>answered question</i>		149
<i>skipped question</i>		38

IV.III FUTURE FACILITIES

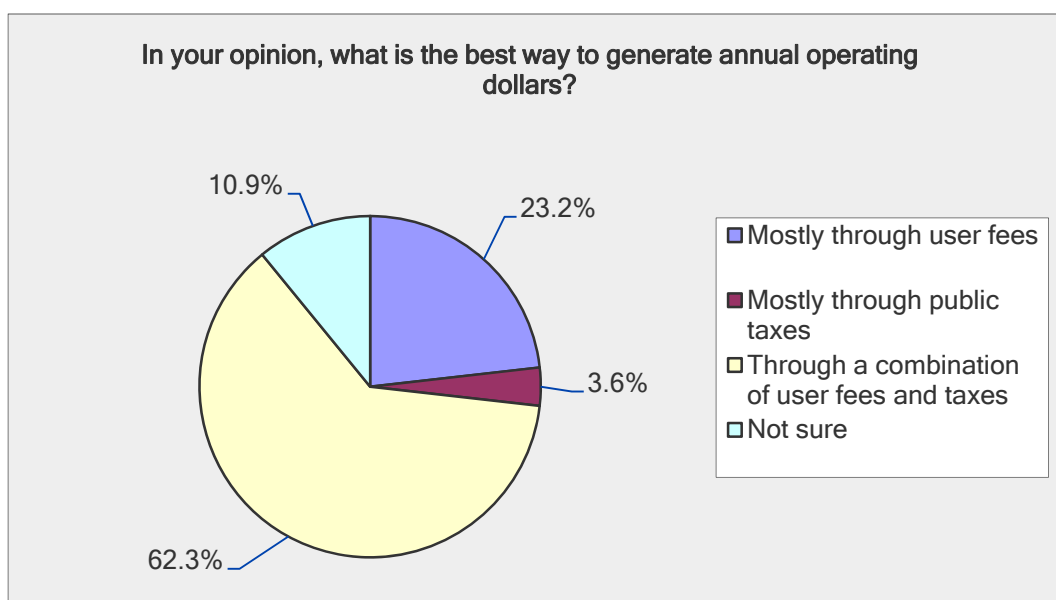
Those surveyed were asked to identify what they thought the three most important indoor recreation facilities to be built or improved upon were. Almost half of the respondents said that the pool should be a priority to improve upon with a fitness / wellness facility and library closely behind.



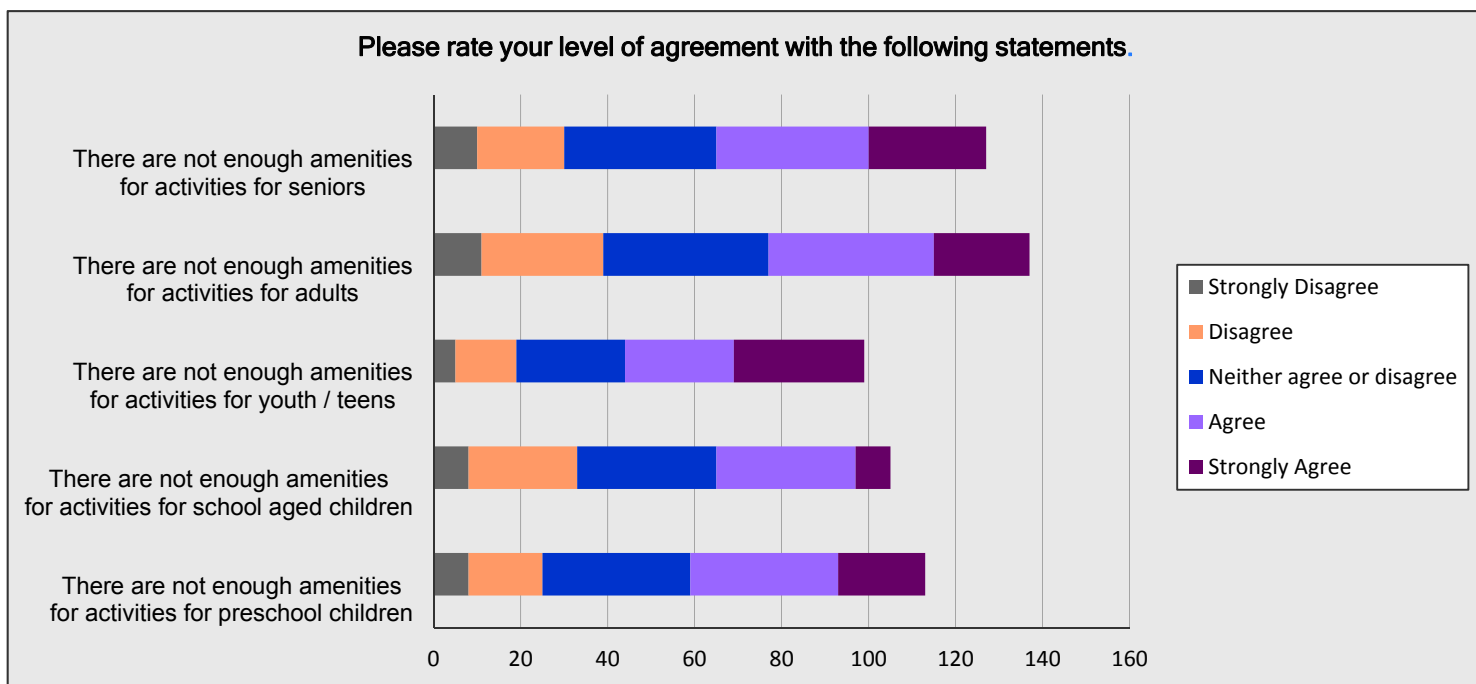
When asked how much respondents were willing to contribute (through local taxes) to have an upgraded / new facility in the Town, 28% said they would be willing to pay an extra \$50 per year. While 19% of respondents said they would not be willing to pay any additional taxes, almost as many said they would pay \$200 or more to have better indoor facilities.



Respondents were asked how they thought operational costs of the new facilities should be covered and 62% thought that using an approximate 50% split of user fees and taxes would be the best.



While many of the respondents seemed to neither agree or disagree to the statements written in the chart below, there appears to be an overall agreement that there is not enough amenity space for any of the age related user groups listed below. However, it does appear that of all the age groups, people feel school aged children are best served.



Appendix C

Facility Condition Evaluation

I. OVERALL FACILITY CONDITION EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

The following evaluation tables are used to assess condition and identify gaps in the indoor facility inventory. Note that the evaluation tables are categorized by major facility components (not per specific building). For each facility component, discussion has been provided to address the current condition as well as any gaps of the facility identified.

In the evaluation tables, each facility component is assessed by a number of criteria using a 0 – 3 scoring system. The scores are based on information gathered on facility tours, and comments received from key informants, user groups, and the general public through the community household survey. The consultants' knowledge of current facility trends were also used to help inform the decision regarding the facility's score. These are summarized in the rationale / comments section for each type of facility.

Score	Indications
3	The criterion is fully compliant with the expectations of a new facility
2	There are issues with the criterion, but not to the significant detriment of facility use
1	Major flaws or shortcomings with the criterion
0	The criterion has no compliance

The total range of scores for each facility are from 0 – 27. Total scores should be taken objectively and it is important to review the individual criterion scores for each facility to understand where the gaps exist.

Total Score Range	Indications
19 – 27	Likely do not have any major gaps and will likely not require major action within the next 3 – 5 years
10 – 18	Indicated that gaps have been identified and major repairs or upgrades may need to be addressed in the short to medium term (3 – 5 years)
0 – 9	Identified that a number of significant gaps exist that will more than likely require repairs, upgrades or replacements in the immediate to short term (0 – 2 years)

II. ARENA FACILITY CONDITION EVALUATION

Criteria	Score	Rationale / Comments
Physical Condition: Structural, mechanical, electrical, HVAC, ice plant, etc. Based on visual review, key informant interviews and current documents.	3	- Renovations / updates: Olympic sized rink fully renovated in 2014 including ice plant upgrades
Design Consistent with Program Needs: Based on consultants' knowledge of current program trends, input from stakeholders and the community.	3	- Olympic sized rink. Only 10.7% (13 respondents) identified arena as one of the three most important facilities to improve.
Maintenance: Based on visual inspection, key informant interviews, stakeholder and public user input.	3	- Public and user groups did not identify issues pertaining to maintenance. Appears to be well maintained based on visual review.
Ancillary Space Condition and Maintenance: Washrooms, change rooms, storage areas etc. Assessment based on visual inspection, key informant interviews, input from stakeholders and public.	2	- Arena locker room upgrades over the past two years. - Currently four dressing rooms and one re-adapted female and one official's room. - Lack of dedicated first aid area.
Amenities Available: non-attached equipment e.g., lane markers, nets, fitness equipment, chairs tables etc. Availability and condition based on visual inspection, key informant interviews, public and stakeholder input.	3	- Public and user groups did not identify issues pertaining to amenities available. - Amenities appear to be well maintained based on visual review.
Time available for Community Use: Quantity and quality of time based on review of schedules, public and stakeholder input, key informant interviews.	1	- Acadia Staff report that 55% of arena usage annually is community based. - Acadia Staff report that the arena is at capacity and they think another ice surfaces is needed to service King's County. - Community access is 8 th – 9 th priority behind Academics, Varsity Sports, student clubs and student use. Acadia Staff expressed that Student Clubs also struggle for ice time. - Only a few respondents identified skating as an activity they would like to participate in, but do not currently. - Comment from public regarding difficulty for high school hockey to book ice time through the year. - Acadia Minor hockey responded that they do not need additional ice time, but noted that the arena is at capacity. - Some user groups noted they have to share ice time with the general public as they cannot get dedicated time.

Criteria	Score	Rationale / Comments
Accessibility: Physical accessibility including parking, access from outside, availability of elevator, lifts etc. Provisions for visual and hearing impairment.	3	- There were no accessibility issues noted during tour or from user groups / general public.
Cost to Use: Based on input from Users and Public.	3	- Minor Hockey felt that ice fees were decently priced compared to other arenas in the Province.
Welcoming: Easy to book / schedule, clear process, information on usage policies readily available.	2	- Some groups expressed that they have trouble securing ice time they desire. The general public did not express issues around booking.
Total Score	23	

Information regarding community use and interest:

- 37 of 124 respondents identified the arena as one of the three most important facilities to their household. (so less than one third of respondents)
- 21.8% (29 respondents) have participated or members of their household have participated in organized arena activities in the past year
- 38.3% (51 respondents) have participated or members of their household have participated in drop-in arena activities in the past year.

III. AQUATIC FACILITY CONDITION EVALUATION

Criteria	Score	Rationale / Comments
Physical Condition: Structural, mechanical, electrical, HVAC, etc. Based on visual review, key informant interviews and current documents.	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Asbestos tile was removed in pool and ceiling upgrades required where this occurred (not completed). - New lighting in the pool. - The pool also has a salt water filtration system which has brought its own special requirements and implications to maintenance (and the cost of it).
Design Consistent with Program Needs: Based on consultants' knowledge of current program trends, input from stakeholders and the community.	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pool is a 25m t-shape single tank. Contemporary aquatic facilities typically include a traditional rectangular tank suitable for competition, fitness, and lessons, and a separate leisure tank suitable for play, therapy, learn to swim programs. - Many of the residents on the community household survey indicated that they would use the facility if it were of better quality and was more kid-friendly (e.g., shallow end and warmer water temperatures). - The swim club also emphasized the need for a regulation size pool (50m) to enable them to host higher level competitions.
Maintenance: Based on visual inspection, key informant interviews, stakeholder and public user input.	1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Salt water pool causing issues of corroding equipment - Barrier free lift exists, but users commented that it needs improvements
Ancillary Space Condition and Maintenance: Washrooms, change rooms, storage areas etc. Assessment based on visual inspection, key informant interviews, input from stakeholders and public.	1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Family change room added over past two years. Community, user groups and key informants were generally not satisfied with the state of the change rooms (e.g. rusty lockers, water dripping in women's changing room).
Amenities Available: non-attached equipment e.g., lane markers, nets, fitness equipment, chairs tables etc. Availability and condition based on visual inspection, key informant interviews, public and stakeholder input.	1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two user groups identified that the pool lacks specialized equipment for their needs and indicated that pool amenities are in poor condition (e.g., lane ropes are often broken)
Time available for Community Use: Quantity and quality of time based on review of schedules, public and stakeholder input, key informant interviews.	1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many respondents to the household survey said they would use the pool if more times were available (evenings and weekends). - Pool is generally at capacity. - Two user groups noted that their timeslots for the pool either overlap with the public swims or with the varsity team. One user group noted that due to lack of space and booking times, participation in their club is limited. - Residents and user groups have both expressed that the pool's early bird swim starts much too late in the morning.

Criteria	Score	Rationale / Comments
Accessibility: Physical accessibility including parking, access from outside, availability of elevator, lifts etc. Provisions for visual and hearing impairment.	1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - User Groups noted that the pool was not accessible. - User Groups indicated the safety and accessibility is poor particularly in the woman's changing room. - Seniors groups indicated they would like to have a ramp with railings to enter into the water.
Cost to Use: Based on input from Users and Public.	1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residents expressed the fees to use the pool were too high and having to purchase an Acadia pass just to use the pool was too costly. User groups also felt that pool rental rates were too high. One option proposed would be to be able to pay lifeguard directly to avoid inflated prices for pool rental.
Welcoming: Easy to book / schedule, clear process, information on usage policies readily available.	1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - User groups noted that the pool can be difficult to book because it is so readily used by groups that have precedence (e.g. varsity swim team).
Total Score	13.5	

Information regarding community use and interest:

- From the community household survey, 65% (65 of 124 respondents) had identified the swimming pool as a top 3 most important facility to themselves and their households.
- From the community household survey, 12% (9 of 73 respondents) identified pool-based activities as something they would like to participate in but currently don't. Many of the reasons that respondents do not currently participate in pool-based activities include poor schedule times and an unfriendly environment for children.
- From the community household survey, 44% (54 of 122 respondents) identified the pool as being one of the 3 most important spaces to be improved upon in the next 3-5 years.
- From the community household survey, 54% (72 of 133 respondents) indicated that they and/or their households have used the pool facility in Wolfville within the past year.
- From the community household survey, 30% (40 of 133 respondents) indicated that they and/or their households have taken part in organized pool programs in Wolfville within the past year.
- From the community household survey, 8.5% (4 of 47 respondents) indicated that they regularly travel outside of the Town to use other pool facilities.
- The Wolfville Tritons Swim Club and the Blomidon Multisport Club both indicated that they were willing to turn over grant monies for the construction of a new 50m swimming pool.

IV. GYMNASIA FACILITY CONDITION EVALUATION

Criteria	Score	Rationale / Comments
Physical Condition: Structural, mechanical, electrical, HVAC, etc. Based on visual review, key informant interviews and current documents.	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wolfville School gymnasium currently undergoing renovations; it is anticipated that the physical condition will be fine following. - Acadia Athletics Complex gymnasium is a university quality and appears in adequate physical condition. Recent HVAC system upgrades for the gymnasium.
Design Consistent with Program Needs: Based on consultants' knowledge of current program trends, input from stakeholders and the community.	2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wolfville elementary school has a double-gymnasium that is currently undergoing renovations; does not appear to fully meet all needs of some users (i.e. badminton has issues with basketball nets and low ceilings).
Maintenance: Based on visual inspection, key informant interviews, stakeholder and public user input.	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is anticipated that maintenance will be fine following renovations of Wolfville School.
Ancillary Space Condition and Maintenance: Washrooms, change rooms, storage areas etc. Assessment based on visual inspection, key informant interviews, input from stakeholders and public.	2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is anticipated that ancillary space maintenance will be fine following renovations at Wolfville School. - Acadia Athletics Complex change rooms are shared with the fitness facility and pool user groups. Key informants have noted that these are in need of an upgrade. - The Acadia Athletics Complex also has retractable bleachers which are noted as in need of repair albeit these are not typical in community quality gymnasias. - Groups did not identify any issues regarding storage space.
Amenities Available: non-attached equipment e.g., lane markers, nets, fitness equipment, chairs tables etc. Availability and condition based on visual inspection, key informant interviews, public and stakeholder input.	2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We were not able to view the Wolfville gymnasium amenities due to facility renovations. - Acadia Athletics Complex amenities appeared adequate however user group expressed they would like climbing equipment for the participant's use.

Criteria	Score	Rationale / Comments
Time available for Community Use: Quantity and quality of time based on review of schedules, public and stakeholder input, key informant interviews.	1.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Wolfville School gymnasium is required to prioritize school use over community use. Conflicts with community availability have been noted by some key informants and user groups. It is our understanding that the gymnasium will be out of commission until early 2016 due to school renovation. - The Acadia Athletics complex gymnasium is required to prioritize varsity and university use before community use. Acadia Staff stated that the Acadia Athletics Complex Arena is at capacity. - User Groups expressed that they would like to see more gymnasium time availabilities during evening timeslots. An increase in time and space availability would allow them (and other groups depending on gymnasium space) to expand their programs and participation numbers.
Accessibility: Physical accessibility including parking, access from outside, availability of elevator, lifts etc. Provisions for visual and hearing impairment.	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is anticipated that the Wolfville School gymnasium will be accessible. - Acadia Athletics Complex gymnasium appeared to be accessible (at grade entrance).
Cost to Use: Based on input from Users and Public.	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some user groups indicated they would be willing to increase rental fees for improved or renewed facilities.
Welcoming: Easy to book/schedule, clear process, information on usage policies readily available.	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concerns expressed by some user groups regarding booking and conflicts with school users. Cancellations can occur of regular times. - Groups also expressed challenges for newer organizations to get gymnasium time.
Total Score	22.5	

Information regarding community use and interest:

- 10% (13 of 124 respondents) identified the gymnasium (or court-based activities) as a top 3 most important facility to them and their households.
- From the community household survey, 11% (8 of 73 respondents) identified gymnasium-based activities as something they would like to participate in but don't.
- 9.8% (12 of 122 respondents to the community household survey) identified gymnasium space as one of the 3 most important spaces to be improved upon.
- From the community household survey, 12.8% (17 of 133 respondents) indicated that they and/or their households have used gymnasium space in Wolfville in the past year.
- Acadia Minor Basketball said they would be willing to contribute to a new facility through fundraising, volunteering and direct injection of capital in consideration of certain user rights. They also indicated they would be willing to turn over grant monies and would enter into a joint agreement with other organizations to finance construction and jointly operate the new facility.

V. FITNESS CENTRE FACILITY CONDITION EVALUATION

Criteria	Score	Rationale / Comments
Physical Condition: Structural, mechanical, electrical, HVAC, etc. Based on visual review, key informant interviews and current documents.	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New air conditioner in the fitness room, to which the Town of Wolfville contributed \$10,000. - Based on visual observations, facility condition appeared adequate.
Design Consistent with Program Needs: Based on consultants' knowledge of current program trends, input from stakeholders and the community.	2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Readapted squash courts for heavy lifting (potential future cycling room). - Fitness centre was adapted from a gymnasium that overlooked the pool and the main floor gymnasium. - Through the community survey, a few residents commented that the fitness facility feels cramped.
Maintenance: Based on visual inspection, key informant interviews, stakeholder and public user input.	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fitness equipment and fitness space appears relatively new and well maintained.
Ancillary Space Condition and Maintenance: Washrooms, change rooms, storage areas etc. Assessment based on visual inspection, key informant interviews, input from stakeholders and public.	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Family change room added over past two years. Community respondents stated that the fitness area general change rooms are not updated and need upgrades.
Amenities Available: non-attached equipment e.g., lane markers, nets, fitness equipment, chairs tables etc. Availability and condition based on visual inspection, key informant interviews, public and stakeholder input.	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fitness equipment appears relatively new and well maintained.
Time available for Community Use: Quantity and quality of time based on review of schedules, public and stakeholder input, key informant interviews.	2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fitness Centre is heavily used - 45% of Acadia Fitness Centre users are community based during school months. Almost 60% of facility pass holders reside in Wolfville (Kings County residents make up 16% while 13.6% come from Kentville and 8.1% from New Minas) - During non-school months, community usage is close to 100%
Accessibility: Physical accessibility including parking, access from outside, availability of elevator, lifts etc. Provisions for visual and hearing impairment.	1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Readapted squash courts for heavy lifting (potential future cycling room) requires access by stairs and is not accessible.
Cost to Use: Based on input from Users and Public.	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Membership and fitness passes available to the general public. The public did not express concerns over high costs for usage.

Criteria	Score	Rationale / Comments
Welcoming: Easy to book / schedule, clear process, information on usage policies readily available.	3	- Fitness Centre is a drop in activity, booking not required.
Total Score	22.5	

Information regarding community use and interest:

- 41% (54 of 133 respondents) identified that they or members of their household has used the fitness facility in the past year.
- 21% (27 of 124 respondents) identified the fitness/gym facility as being one of the top-three most important facilities to them and their household.
- Only 4% (27 of 124 respondents) identified gym/fitness facilities as being an activity they or members of their household would like to be involved in, but are not now.
- 34% (42 of 122 respondents) said they think improving fitness facilities should be a top-three facility for improvements in the next 3 - 5 years.
- Cardiac Rehab groups use the track and weight rooms for rehab programs. They say it is busy but currently works for them.

VI. MULTIPURPOSE SPACE FACILITY CONDITION EVALUATION

Criteria	Score	Rationale / Comments
Physical Condition: Structural, mechanical, electrical, HVAC, etc. Based on visual review, key informant interviews and current documents.	2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generally, most spaces are in adequate condition. - Some spaces are cold or unusable throughout the entire year (e.g. the Farmers Market and Wolfville Recreation Centre).
Design Consistent with Program Needs: Based on consultants' knowledge of current program trends, input from stakeholders and the community.	2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are numerous multipurpose spaces to meet a variety of needs. As these are general spaces most groups said they are adequate for their needs, but at times not ideal.
Maintenance: Based on visual inspection, key informant interviews, stakeholder and public user input.	2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Based on the facility tour, generally, most spaces are well maintained.
Ancillary Space Condition and Maintenance: Washrooms, change rooms, storage areas etc. Assessment based on visual inspection, key informant interviews, input from stakeholders and public.	2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Based on the facility tour, generally, ancillary spaces are well maintained. - Some washrooms are in need of accessibility upgrades.
Amenities Available: non-attached equipment e.g., lane markers, nets, fitness equipment, chairs tables etc. Availability and condition based on visual inspection, key informant interviews, public and stakeholder input.	2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generally, appropriate amenities are available or groups bring the equipment they need to the facility.
Time available for Community Use: Quantity and quality of time based on review of schedules, public and stakeholder input, key informant interviews.	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are a number of multi-purpose facilities within Wolfville that said they have capacity for more community rentals; however some groups expressed difficulty finding space when needed.
Accessibility: Physical accessibility including parking, access from outside, availability of elevator, lifts etc. Provisions for visual and hearing impairment.	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some facilities meet accessibility standards, but many are in need of upgrades based on facility tour.
Cost to Use: Based on input from Users and Public.	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cost can vary greatly for space bookings. Some spaces (i.e. EKM Health Centre and Churches) are offered free of charge to community groups while others charge fees that groups have identified as high.
Welcoming: Easy to book / schedule, clear process, information on usage policies readily available.	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most facilities are booked directly through the operator which sometimes causes groups to contact numerous sources to find space. Some User Groups indicated current conflicts with double booking space at Wolfville Rec. Centre.
Total Score	20.5	

Information regarding community use and interest:

- From the community household survey, 30.6% (38 of 124 respondents) had identified fitness/multipurpose spaces as being a top 3 most important facility to themselves and/or their households.
- From the community household survey, 29% (21 of 73 respondents) identified fitness/multipurpose spaces as something they and/or their households would like to participate in but currently don't.
- From the community household survey, 5.7% (7 of 122 respondents) identified dance and studio spaces as one of the 3 most important spaces to be improved upon within the next 3-5 years.
- From the community household survey, 28.6% (38 of 133 respondents) indicated that they and/or their households have used fitness/multipurpose spaces in Wolfville in the past year.
- From the community household survey, a handful of residents identified that the Town needed more space for fitness classes such as yoga, Pilates, and Zumba.

VII. MEETING SPACE FACILITY CONDITION EVALUATION

Criteria	Score	Rationale / Comments
Physical Condition: Structural, mechanical, electrical, HVAC, etc. Based on visual review, key informant interviews and current documents.	3	- The majority of meeting rooms within Wolfville are in acceptable physical condition.
Design Consistent with Program Needs: Based on consultants' knowledge of current program trends, input from stakeholders and the community.	3	- As there are numerous meeting rooms that cover a wide range of sizes, there is a space to meet most groups' needs.
Maintenance: Based on visual inspection, key informant interviews, stakeholder and public user input.	3	- The majority of meeting rooms within Wolfville appear to be well maintained based on facility tours. There were no comments received from the public or user groups regarding maintenance issues.
Ancillary Space Condition and Maintenance: Washrooms, change rooms, storage areas etc. Assessment based on visual inspection, key informant interviews, input from stakeholders and public.	2.5	- The majority of ancillary spaces supporting meeting rooms within Wolfville appear to be well maintained based on facility tours. - Some groups (e.g. the Wolfville Curling Club) expressed the need for upgrades to spaces such as kitchens.
Amenities Available: non-attached equipment e.g., lane markers, nets, fitness equipment, chairs tables etc. Availability and condition based on visual inspection, key informant interviews, public and stakeholder input.	3	- The majority of rooms appeared to have acceptable amenities (e.g. chairs, tables and access to things like coffee makers).
Time available for Community Use: Quantity and quality of time based on review of schedules, public and stakeholder input, key informant interviews.	2.5	- Most facility operators said that they have time available for groups to book weekly. One user group noted that the EKM Boardroom meets their preferred time for bookings. One group expressed they were having trouble finding space for a group 50 plus.
Accessibility: Physical accessibility including parking, access from outside, availability of elevator, lifts etc. Provisions for visual and hearing impairment.	2.5	- Most facilities appeared to be accessible, while some were in need of upgrades to meet current accessibility standards.
Cost to Use: Based on input from Users and Public.	2.5	- Some user groups expressed that they have issues finding affordable space for large groups. Other groups are charged no cost for use.
Welcoming: Easy to book / schedule, clear process, information on usage policies readily available.	2	- Some groups expressed issues find suitable space.
Total Score	24	

VIII. BANQUET FACILITIES FACILITY CONDITION EVALUATION

Criteria	Score	Rationale / Comments
Physical Condition: Structural, mechanical, electrical, HVAC, etc. Based on visual review, key informant interviews and current documents.	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fountain Commons - Building is over 40 years old, well maintained (used to be a dining hall). Not aware of any upgrades required. No air conditioning, but has an air exchanger. - The lobby space of the Acadia Festival Theatre is aging, but generally appeared in adequate condition
Design Consistent with Program Needs: Based on consultants' knowledge of current program trends, input from stakeholders and the community.	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fountain Commons can accommodate 220 for a banquet and the room has capacity to accommodate 500 individuals.
Maintenance: Based on visual inspection, key informant interviews, stakeholder and public user input.	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fountain Commons appears extremely well maintained. - The lobby space of the Acadia Festival Theatre is aging, but generally appeared in adequate condition.
Ancillary Space Condition and Maintenance: Washrooms, change rooms, storage areas etc. Assessment based on visual inspection, key informant interviews, input from stakeholders and public.	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ancillary spaces generally appeared in adequate condition based on visual review.
Amenities Available: non-attached equipment e.g., lane markers, nets, fitness equipment, chairs tables etc. Availability and condition based on visual inspection, key informant interviews, public and stakeholder input.	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fountain Common's acoustics are okay, good sound system for speaking events. - Acadia Festival Theatre lobby space amenities seemed adequate.
Time available for Community Use: Quantity and quality of time based on review of schedules, public and stakeholder input, key informant interviews.	2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acadia Staff noted that there is generally time available to accommodate community rentals of Fountain Commons. Annapolis Valley Health Authority and Annapolis Valley School Board has booked the space. Community use used for Devour reception, weddings, and Town Hall style meetings / info sessions. University bookings take priority.
Accessibility: Physical accessibility including parking, access from outside, availability of elevator, lifts etc. Provisions for visual and hearing impairment.	2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is an elevator in Fountain Commons making it accessible. - Lobby of Acadia Festival Theatre appeared generally accessible.
Cost to Use: Based on input from Users and Public.	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Catering exclusive to the University's provider at both facilities can make events expensive.
Welcoming: Easy to book / schedule, clear process, information on usage policies readily available.	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Booking occurs through the University. Spaces do not generally appear to be advertised for community use.
Total Score	24	

Information regarding community use and interest:

- Only 4.9% (6 of 122 respondents) identified banquet space and only 9.8% (12 of 122 respondents) identified an events centre as a top 3 priority for facility upgrades in the next 3 - 5 years.

IX. PERFORMANCE ART SPACE FACILITY CONDITION EVALUATION

Criteria	Score	Rationale / Comments
Physical Condition: Structural, mechanical, electrical, HVAC, etc. Based on visual review, key informant interviews and current documents.	2	- Acadia Cinema: older building (30s or 40s), heating / cooling issues identified. - Festival Theatre: older building but in acceptable condition
Design Consistent with Program Needs: Based on consultants' knowledge of current program trends, input from stakeholders and the community.	3	- Acadia Cinema and Festival Theatre are both older buildings, but provide quality facilities that exceed those found in similar sized communities.
Maintenance: Based on visual inspection, key informant interviews, stakeholder and public user input.	2.5	- Both theatres appear well maintained based on age.
Ancillary Space Condition and Maintenance: Washrooms, lobby, dressing rooms, storage areas etc. Assessment based on visual inspection, key informant interviews, input from stakeholders and public.	2	- Acadia Cinema would like upgraded dressing and green room in future. - Festival Theatre: well-maintained ancillary spaces. Seniors groups indicated the need of larger theatre spaces with smaller ancillary rooms for rehearsals (with enough room for a piano).
Amenities Available: non-attached equipment e.g., lane markers, nets, fitness equipment, chairs tables etc. Availability and condition based on visual inspection, key informant interviews, public and stakeholder input.	2	- Acadia Cinema projector close to needing replacement. - Festival Theatre's sound system is aging.
Time available for Community Use: Quantity and quality of time based on review of schedules, public and stakeholder input, key informant interviews.	1.5	- Acadia Theatre Co-op Staff report availability during the week and typically booked 2 - 3 Fridays and Saturdays per month. - Festival Theatre is used for some comment events, but is largely booked by the Acadia School of Music. - Community groups find they are in competition with one another for booking time.
Accessibility: Physical accessibility including parking, access from outside, availability of elevator, lifts etc. Provisions for visual and hearing impairment.	2	- Acadia Co-op Theatre: Al Whittle Theatre only accessible in back rows and through the rear of the stage, Studio Z not accessible (no elevator). - Acadia Festival Theatre is accessible.

Criteria	Score	Rationale / Comments
Cost to Use: Based on input from Users and Public.	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some comments re: high cost for theatre bookings from user group representatives and community survey Festival Theatre is very expensive (according to focus group participants). - Focus Group members indicated the Festival Theatre was increasing costs every year despite discount rates (e.g. groups are now paying for ushers which is an additional expense). - Some of the focus group members noted that the Town provides grants to subsidize rental fees for community groups.
Welcoming: Easy to book / schedule, clear process, information on usage policies readily available.	2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some booking issues identified by Acadia Co-op Theatre Staff. - Booking is done directly through the facilities.
Total Score	19.5	

Information regarding community use and interest:

- 51.1% (68 respondents or members of their household) have attended a community theatre / dance or music performance within the past year.
- 13.5% (18 respondents), 12.8% (17 respondents) and 10.5% (14 respondents) have participated in a community theatre, music class or dance class respectively.
- 39 of 124 respondents identified a theatre as one of the three most important facilities to their household within Wolfville.
- Only one respondent identified theatre as a program they would like to participate in, but do not currently.
- Only 5 of 47 respondents said they leave Wolfville more than 5 times a year to attend theatre or concert productions elsewhere.
- Only 17.2% (21 respondents) identified performance art spaces as a top 3 facility that should be improved.

X. LIBRARY FACILITY CONDITION EVALUATION

Criteria	Score	Rationale / Comments
Physical Condition: Structural, mechanical, electrical, HVAC, etc. Based on visual review, key informant interviews and current documents.	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The facility is aging and likely increased maintenance costs will arise. - It is our understanding that a consultant has been hired to conduct a detailed physical condition assessment of this building, but it has not yet been completed.
Design Consistent with Program Needs: Based on consultants' knowledge of current program trends, input from stakeholders and the community.	1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Based on the age and nature of the facility (being a former train station and not a purpose built library), it does not have the ability to meet programming typical of a modern library.
Maintenance: Based on visual inspection, key informant interviews, stakeholder and public user input.	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The facility is aging but generally appeared adequately maintained. - The infrastructure report being completed should also be reviewed to evaluate maintenance levels.
Ancillary Space Condition and Maintenance: Washrooms, change rooms, storage areas etc. Assessment based on visual inspection, key informant interviews, input from stakeholders and public.	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is an aging facility. In general, ancillary spaces are adequate, but small and appear in need of accessibility upgrades.
Amenities Available: non-attached equipment e.g., lane markers, nets, fitness equipment, chairs tables etc. Availability and condition based on visual inspection, key informant interviews, public and stakeholder input.	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is an aging facility. Amenities appeared adequate – chairs, tables, etc.
Time available for Community Use: Quantity and quality of time based on review of schedules, public and stakeholder input, key informant interviews.	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff expressed that time is available for community rentals and there are a variety of public programs offered. - The facility is open to and serves the general public.
Accessibility: Physical accessibility including parking, access from outside, availability of elevator, lifts etc. Provisions for visual and hearing impairment.	1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The building appears to be in need of accessibility upgrades to better serve residents.
Cost to Use: Based on input from Users and Public.	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cost was not expressed as a concern by residents or user groups.
Welcoming: Easy to book/schedule, clear process, information on usage policies readily available.	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Booking of the facility was not expressed as a concern by residents or user groups.
Total Score	20	

Information regarding community use and interest:

- 59.4% (79 of 133 respondents) indicated that they have used the Library (and its programmed activities) within the past year.
- 21.7% (27 of 124 respondents) identified the Library as of the top three most important facility to them and their household
- 27% (33 of 122 respondents) identified the Library as a top 3 priority for indoor facility improvements / renewal.