



## Calgary's First Accessible Outdoor Community Rink Parkdale Backgrounder, January 2022

### **About the Parkdale Community Association**

Established on December 29, 1953, the Parkdale Community Association represents a proud, active and welcoming neighbourhood that offers programs, services and facilities that make us a vibrant inner-city community. Our mission is to create an environment for people to connect in a complete and healthy community. To learn more about Parkdale visit [www.parkdaleyyc.com](http://www.parkdaleyyc.com)

### **The Parkdale Accessible Outdoor Community Rink**

The Parkdale Community Association has built Calgary and Alberta's first outdoor accessible community rink. On January 29<sup>th</sup>, Parkdale will be home to an outdoor rink that is inclusive and accessible to everyone.

The outdoor rink was designed and built to meet accessibility standards for sledge hockey and we are aiming for Rick Hansen certification. A new standard of design has been set for all future community rinks to be inclusive and accessible.

### **Why this Project is so Important**

The outdoor rink was at the end of its useful life. As part of the Parkdale Community Association's lifecycle plan, a decision was made by the Board of Directors to replace the rink for safety reasons.

The Parkdale Community Association engaged with partners and organizations like Calgary Sledge Hockey Association, Level Playing Field, community groups, residents, and users of the rink to inform, design and build a new community rink that would promote inclusion and accessibility for everyone.

Community Associations play a critical role in bringing people together by creating gathering places, infrastructure that promotes vibrancy and a sense of belonging. The Parkdale Community Association took this seriously and have built an outdoor rink that is welcoming, inclusive and will be resilient for the next 30 years.

### **The Accessible Community Rink is Open to Everyone**

The Accessible Community Rink is open to the community and local organizations for public skating, grassroots hockey, tournaments, rentals and events. The Accessible Community Rink is a public social place for gathering and enjoying recreational activities.

### **The Budget of the Accessible Community Rink**

The overall project budget for the Community Rink is \$2.0 million. Planning started five years ago, with construction completed over the past two years.

## Project Timeline

Key milestones completed over the last 5 years



## Our Community Partners and Funders

Committed to building sustainable and inclusive communities, our funding partners for this project include City of Calgary, Parks Foundation Calgary, Flames Foundation, Government of Alberta, ENMAX, Calgary Foundation and Calgary Parking Authority. We have also received donations from our community residents.

We are thrilled to be working with community partners like the Calgary Sledge Hockey Association to develop opportunities to promote accessible and inclusive programming.

## Key Messages

- All rinks should be inclusive and accessible. We have set the new standard by building an accessible outdoor rink for everyone to enjoy.
- Community Associations play a critical role in bringing people together by creating gathering places, infrastructure that promotes vibrancy and a sense of belonging.
- The Parkdale Community Association is taking this seriously and have built an outdoor rink and facility that is welcoming, inclusive and will be resilient for the next 30 years.
- The Accessible Community Rink is a collaborative community project. We have engaged with partners and organizations like Calgary Sledge Hockey Association, Level Playing Field, community groups, residents and users of the rink.
- Total cost of the project is \$2.0 million. Funding provided by Parks Foundation Calgary, Calgary Flames Foundation, Government of Alberta, City of Calgary, ENMAX, Calgary Foundation and Calgary Parking Authority.
- The project meets sledge hockey requirements including accessible washrooms, warming benches to transfer to sleds, ramps to the rink, clear rink boards, and wider rink entry that is barrier free. We are working towards Rick Hansen certification.

**Media Inquiries and more information:**

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**Photo Images:**

[PCA Rink Construction - Google Photos](#)

Photo credit @jackcarterimages and @ParkdaleYYC

**Parkdale Community Association**

[www.parkdaleyyc.com](http://www.parkdaleyyc.com)

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