

Progress Report: Joint Use Agreement Review and Public Consultation

The Joint Use Agreement (JUA) is an agreement of the City of Edmonton, Edmonton Public Schools and Edmonton Catholic Schools designed to optimize use of publicly funded facilities for the benefit of all. It outlines how schools are made available to community groups during after-school hours, how arenas, pools and other City facilities are made available to school children during school hours and how shared sites are assembled and developed in new areas. This agreement is implemented through a Steering Committee and three sub-committees.

The Joint Use Agreement Review Team (struck by the Joint Use Steering Committee in late fall of 2004) is comprised of three representatives of each partner and is responsible for collaborating on the 2005/2006 Review.

The agreement timeframe expires early in 2006 and the JUA agreement remains in effect until a new one is in place.

Update on the Overall Review Process

The Partners contemplated commitments at the onset of the review, and confirmed the importance and need for this partnership to continue as a means to effectively and efficiently manage resources for the benefit of the students and citizens of Edmonton.

Initial early discussions focused on the development and clarification of:

- Key elements for inclusion in next agreement:
- Nature of the collaborative relationship
- How the agreement can provide leadership influence in the community
- Community and educational benefits
- Cost savings and efficiency
- Commitment and communication

In light of the discussions, new and emerging issues such as Public-Private Partnership proposals to develop new schools and recreation facilities, and the need for a gymnasium study were identified. The Partners identified a list of issues to be addressed and sorted them into three themes:

- Shared use of facilities
- Management of reserve and non-reserve land, and
- Overall governance of the agreement.

The focus of the discussions to date has been relative to the shared use of facilities.

Each partner has provided historical data, clarification of their individual mandates and values, internal operations information, current situations, and their hopes and expectations of the agreement. The partners identified that they also need

information from stakeholders, experts, and the general public to create a sustainable inclusive agreement to serve the present and future needs of the Partners and their communities.

Update on the Public Consultation

The Review Team partners are interested in seeking stakeholder and general public input into current shared use issues, and potential solutions, as part of this ten-year review. The Committee is only consulting on the "Shared Use" portion of the agreement at this time and will address the other themes for discussion around land and governance as they progress through the review.

The JUA Review Team identified their principles for consultation, a consultation process, key stakeholders, and a proposed timeline. The process is currently underway. The goal is to revisit the agreement through an effective public input process, so that the revised agreement better reflects present realities, current needs, and enables the partners to successfully resolve tomorrow's challenges.

Principles for the consultation follow:

- Each member organization of the JUA Review Committee will undertake a meaningful consultation process appropriate to their organization.
- The process will be open and transparent to all those participating.
- All information gathered will be for input *or* recommendations to the Review Committee. The Review Committee will finalize recommendations for the renewed agreement and present them to City Councillors and School Board Trustees for approval.
- It is understood that public consultation is integral to effective policy development and service to the public.

The JUA Review Team created a **two-phase public consultation process**.

Phase One includes internal consultation within each partner's organization and consultation with the Joint Use Committees. Partners will manage their own internal consultations. The Draft Discussion Guide will be presented to the Joint Use Committees to ensure the draft process and discussion guide truly reflects the issues and intent for public input. At these meetings we will also collect input on the issues from the committees. The input from these first consultations will be synthesized and used to revise the discussion guide prior to Phase Two.

Phase Two is the broad based consultation with external stakeholders and the general public. Public meetings will be held in each quadrant of the City. Key Stakeholders will receive personal invitations to participate in these meetings. The meetings will be advertised in the media to reach a broad base of citizens. The

agenda for the meetings includes a presentation and an opportunity to provide feedback through the discussion guide. The opportunity to provide feedback will also be available through an on-line survey.

Information gathered during the public consultation process will be reviewed and analyzed along with input from internal organizational reviews, joint use best practices, and other research. All of this information will be synthesized by the Review Team Partners to develop collective recommendations for Shared Use of Facilities in the new Joint Use Agreement. At this point considerations for operational improvements will be referred to the appropriate Joint Use Committee for implementation and a progress report will be presented to the City Council and Boards of Trustees.

The key **Stakeholders** identified to receive individual invitations to attend the public consultation meetings are:

- All users of facilities under the Agreement
- Chairs of governing bodies of major user groups
- Partner staff as identified by their Review Team Representatives
- Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues
- Edmonton Sport Council
- Conseil Scolaire Centre-Nord (Greater North Central Francophone Education Region No. 2)
- YMCA/YWCA
- Area Councils

Edmonton City Councillors, Edmonton Public School Board Trustees, Edmonton Catholic School Board Trustees, and senior staff of appropriate Provincial Ministries will be invited to observe and listen.

The Review Team partners proposed **timeline** for public consultation on the shared use theme is outlined below.

December 2005/January 2006	Finalized process, timelines and discussion guide
January/February 2006	Hire external facilitator for public consultation process
February/March 2006	Implement broad community consultation and internal consultation processes
March/April 2006	Receive consultants final data analysis report
April/May 2006	Review Team to prepare a progress report for council and trustees
May/June 2006	Implement operational improvements