



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

File: 1470.01

## City Targets November 2 Reopening of Western Financial Place & Aquatic Centre

**Cranbrook, BC (October 1, 2020)** -- Following the guidance from the Provincial Health Office, BC Recreation and Parks Association, and viaSPORT, the City of Cranbrook is targeting a gradual re-opening of Western Financial Place beginning on Monday November 2, 2020.

Operations will look very different than they did prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The facility will not be open to the general public. **All patrons will be required to be pre-registered for all activities as drop ins for programs and services will not be permitted at this time.** This is required to facilitate staff safety, maintain our ability to contact trace, and keep us operating within the rules and guidelines surrounding COVID-19.

Aquatic operations will see very limited programming initially. Activities that will be offered are lap swimming, aquafit, private lessons and swim therapy.

The concourse walking program will be re-opened to a set schedule and will have limits to the number of participants at this time. There will be a (1) one-hour maximum time limit for each prescheduled walking session. Walkers will be required to preregister as no drop in walking will be permitted at this time.

Staff are currently working with multiple contractors to wrap up the final components of major upgrades to the arena that have been taking place over the summer months. Replacement of the new plant chiller and the chlorination system have run into delays which have contributed to the delayed opening. Part of these delays were directly attributable to supply challenges related to the pandemic. It is anticipated that the ice surface will be available for usage prior to the end of October.

New protocols have been developed which will guide users on how they will register for activities, enter and exit the building, how they must pre-register for all activities, how they will be screened for any COVID symptoms, mask usage, and other requirements. The City of Cranbrook Community Services department will post detailed information on our website on or about Friday October 23, which will include the above information as well as a schedule of activities.

“Staff are looking forward to seeing familiar faces returning to the venue to enjoy activities and see the many changes that have taken place within the facility during the closure. We appreciate the public’s patience during these unprecedented times,” says Chris New, Director of Community Services.

Registration for activities is slated to begin on Monday October 26.



Patrons are reminded that the COVID-19 environment is rapidly changing, and at any time could see restrictions imposed that affect our timelines or programming.

Just because these and many other City facilities and amenities are gradually opening to the public, it does not mean things are back to normal when it comes to COVID-19.

It is important that everyone continue to maintain proper physical distancing and wear masks when that distancing may not be possible. You should continue to keep your circle small, wash your hands regularly and bring hand sanitizer with you when you are out. Stay home if you are sick and please be patient with other users around you.

For more information about what City facilities are open, the COVID-19 protocols and guidelines in place and links to important COVID-related information from the Province of BC and the Government of Canada, visit [www.cranbrook.ca/restart](http://www.cranbrook.ca/restart).

--30--

For more information, please contact:

Chris New, Director  
Community Services  
Phone: 250-489-0251  
[chris.new@cranbrook.ca](mailto:chris.new@cranbrook.ca)

Chris Zettel, Corporate Communications Officer  
City of Cranbrook  
Phone: 250-489-0238  
Cell: 250-420-1686  
[chris.zettel@cranbrook.ca](mailto:chris.zettel@cranbrook.ca)