



MEDIA RELEASE

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COUNTY EXPLORES PARTNERSHIP WITH YMCA AS OPTION FOR LIFEPLEX'S FUTURE

ANNAPOLIS CO. January 13, 2010– After County Councillors and the public listened intently as staff brought forth recommendations for the future of the Lifeplex Wellness Centre; a unanimous decision was made to explore a possible partnership between the County and the YCMA.

The Special Committee of the Whole meeting held on January 13th in Bridgetown saw councillors, County staff and over 60 members of the public in attendance to hear what was being discussed regarding the future of Lifeplex. Staff offered four options for Council's consideration – 1) status quo, 2) sell, 3) close the doors until a business plan can be created that meets with Council's approval, or, the most anticipated one by staff, 4) continue to operate the facility under new governance (YMCA). It was this fourth option that brought forth an immediate reaction from Council resulting in a unanimous decision to proceed with a possible partnership with the YMCA.

“Even though our CAO explained a partnership with the YMCA is still in the early discussion phase it is very positive,” said Annapolis County Warden Peter Newton. “If this relationship develops, the aquatic wellness centre can remain available to our residents while under the very capable management of this reputable organization.”

The YMCA is dedicated to expanding services without restricting community access, introducing cost-effective management and accountability measures, and improving opportunities for external funding. They will contribute to a bottom-line that is mutually beneficial.

Under this option, the County would maintain ownership of the Lifeplex Mall, and the YMCA would take over management and operations of the Lifeplex Wellness Centre. The businesses within the building would remain tenants of the County.

Ms. Margaret Kay-Arora, YMCA Canada East MRC Coordinator, has been in close contact with the CAO discussing the possibility of this merger. “The YMCA is very interested in a exploring a partnership,” she noted.

The options discussed during the meeting were presented after three fundamental meetings were held to learn more about Lifeplex. In July, staff reviewed the history of the facility, while the two meetings in November saw the financial information brought forward, and another provided the opportunity for residents to express their opinion.

“We (staff) have gathered all the information and have outlined the implications for the various options regarding Lifeplex's future,” noted Annapolis County CAO Brenda Orchard. “Now, Council has had the opportunity to review these facts, consider what they've heard during the previous meetings, and they have made a decision based on what they feel is in the best interest of the County.”

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