



Jennifer Wyness, Ward 2 Councillor

Event Centre Deal Collapse

In late December 2021, Calgarians were informed that the ongoing negotiations between Calgary Sports and Entertainment Corporation (CSEC) and the City of Calgary (COC) on a future Event Centre deal, had come to a sudden and abrupt end.

Like many Calgarians, I was also surprised to learn these negotiations were in jeopardy at the beginning of the holiday season. To better understand both sides of the argument, in early January, I arranged for one-on-one meetings with both City Administration and CSEC CEO John Bean.

A multitude of supply-chain factors including rising inflationary costs, pandemic-related delays, and disagreements on climate mitigation requirements contributed to the collapse of the deal. Unfortunately, Councillors were not included in the discussion at the time CSEC made its ultimate decision to walk away. However, on January 12th, 2022, Council voted unanimously to begin engaging with a third party that will be tasked with finding out whether CSEC would be interested in re-entering discussions on building an Event Centre, or if there are other parties interested in partnering with the City of Calgary to complete the project.

Along with Council's re-establishment of the Event Centre Assessment Committee, I realize there is still much work to be done regarding this topic, and I share in Calgarian's disappointment over the previous deal's collapse. Moving forward, I commit to dedicating the necessary time, effort, and patience that is required to work towards an end resolution that is a win-win for Calgarians when the Event Centre item reports back to Council at our March 8th meeting.

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