

Yarmouth, February 5th, 2021

**Attn: Municipality of the District of Yarmouth
Municipality of the District of Argyle
Town of Yarmouth**

RE: Reopening of the YMCA SWIM POOL

Dear members of the Mariners Centre Expansion Committee and Town Councillors,

My daughter, Chiara Carbonell has been enrolled in the Junior Whitecaps swim programs since she was a toddler. She then moved to be a competitive swimmer with the senior team since 2012 when she was just 8 years old.

For over eight years Chiara was able to swim every afternoon for up to 2 hours from Monday to Friday with The Yarmouth Whitecaps.

Chiara participated in Provincial competitions setting best personal records as well as placing top records in these competitions. Chiara was also part of the Swim Nova Scotia delegation of swimmers representing twice our province in Maine, US.

Considering this, it is an understatement to say that the Yarmouth Whitecaps, with fewer resources than most other teams in our Province, has brought immense pride and recognition to our small community.

All this is only the result of the passion and dedication of our coaches and athletes that to this day endeavour to keep our swim club open. But every day it feels like we are alone in this struggle. And it feels like we are closer to the final days of our long time home-based Swim Club.

In order to maintain a healthy and fit condition for all swimmers, the Whitecaps coaches have had to rent space to be able to perform exercise routines such as running, yoga, stretching, etc.

Most importantly Chiara has had to travel each week almost one hour away to be able to swim with her team at St. Anne University, for much less time now than she was able to before the YMCA closure.

We need the YMCA pool back.

A reopening of the YMCA pool would allow Chiara to continue her lifelong beloved sport, maintaining a good physical and mental health. It would allow her to be able to interact with her like-minded sport mates.

It would allow us as parents to reduce the cost of swim club fees associated with rental of swimming pool at St. Anne University, the rental of additional spaces for fitness programs, etc., keeping our swim club viable for future generations of swimmers.

The reopening would immediately make it more accessible to a wider number of families that could not afford the alternative options so that their children could participate in a swim program.

Last but not least, a reopening would secure the future of the Yarmouth based swim club that has and continues to forge so many young athletes and their future, which in turn is the future of our small community.

As parents and local residents we believe it is time that our elected leaders listen to and step up in response to their constituents needs. We don't have many years to wait for a future expansion of the Mariners Centre while no other option is given in the interim.

Thanks for your attention and understanding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Carbonell", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Carbonell.

Former Whitecaps Volunteer Swim Coach and current swim parent.