

FAQ#2, October 3, 2025 - It's Business as Usual at PEFAC

UPDATE ON FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING THE CURRENT SITUATION

If you have any questions that are not addressed below, or comments, please email pictonpefac@gmail.com . Please do not ask our staff – for staff, it's business and service as usual delivering PEFAC programs to our members, with just a bit of personal stress added in. Please be caring, kind and appreciative.

BACKGROUND:

Who Owns PEFAC and What is Happening?

The facility and land are owned by DF Automotive, a business owned by members of the Lester Family. They have put the property up for sale; this is related to settlement of an estate.

PEFAC is an incorporated not-for-profit organization that leases the facility from DF Automotive and operates it as a fitness and aquatic centre. PEFAC started operating the fitness centre in 2005.

The Municipality (The County of Prince Edward) **DOES NOT OWN** or operate PEFAC. They have provided operating support (currently \$70,000 per year) since PEFAC started. This represents about 8% of our operating costs; the balance comes from revenue earned by PEFAC.

Are you Doing Anything?

Yes. PEFAC's Board of Directors is meeting at least weekly to strategize, plan and assign tasks. And there is lots of work going on between meetings.

Our goal is for PEFAC to purchase the property.

To do this, we must raise money. We do not yet know how much we will need.

To raise money, we need to be able to offer charitable receipts. PEFAC is not a charity (and becoming so is a long and complex process), so the best way for us to achieve this is to get a special designation and agreement from The County. With this agreement, the Canada Revenue Agency will allow the municipality to receive charitable donations, then use those donations to increase PEFAC's funding to support the purchase of the property.

PEFAC made a deputation to Committee of the Whole of Council on September 25th requesting this designation as a "Project of Community Interest" (POCI). Council referred the matter to their staff for more details before considering the request. These details are being worked out over the next three weeks. The plan is that we will return to Council the week of October 20th.

We will NOT be asking The County to purchase PEFAC. In line with our long-term vision, our goal is to have a not-for-profit organization own and operate an aquatic and fitness facility in PEC, with support from members, users and community partners, including the municipality.

What Else Are you Doing?

We are working to find a professional fundraiser that can help us raise the money required. This is a specialized skill we do not have. **Do you know of anyone in PEC that has these skills? If so, please let us know (email: pictonpefac@gmail.com)**

PEFAC Board members will be meeting one-on-one with Councillors to make our case.

We are preparing a public relations campaign. **Are there any members who have expertise in this area that can help? (email: pictonpefac@gmail.com)**

We are preparing a "letter to the editor" in response to the article in the Wellington Times (October 1) which contains a number of inaccuracies.

Can we donate money?

We will, at some point, be asking members to donate money in support of PEFAC. However, we need to get everything in order re charitable donations and receipts before we ask. So, please be patient but keep your chequebooks handy!

Should we talk to our Councillor or the Mayor?

Since there are a lot of issues being explored, we are not ready for an organized effort by members to reach Council. We are working closely with staff to work through these issues. When we need you to reach out to your councillors or the mayor, we will ask you!

What can we do? Right now, you can help by:

- Promoting the benefits and value of PEFAC to your friends and neighbours
- Continuing your membership and participating in programs – it is business as usual!
- PLEASE, treat our staff with respect – this is a difficult time for them. Don't make insensitive comments. They do not have any more details.
- If you want to write a letter to the editors of local papers in PEFAC's support, please do so.

What about the rent increase?

For the past 20 years we have paid a low rental rate, and there have been no increases. Our landlords, the Lester family, have proposed a rent increase. We are currently in negotiations to set the new rate.