

Public-private deal may address needed rec centres

BY JASON MARKUSOFF, CALGARY HERALD JANUARY 3, 2011

Presented By:



Shane Byciuk jokes that he hopes a recreation centre is built near his home in time for his 11-month-old son Kyron to use it. Four rec centres around Calgary are awaiting approval.

Photograph by: Christina Ryan, Calgary Herald

A popular one-liner in southeast Calgary goes like this: they'd better build that rec centre before my kid is too old to use it anymore.

Shane Byciuk is fond of the joke, and his son was only born last year.

Council committed funds in 2007 for recreation centres in the northeast, northwest and southeast.

The rapidly growing area east of Deerfoot Trail lacks several key rec facilities, such as pools, and even a library. A hoped-for target of 2014 now seems out reach, leaving community leaders unclear about how late into this decade they'll have to wait for their rec centre.

"There is nothing down here, and the population is just going crazy - it's all young families," Byciuk said.

But relief-tinged anticipation is stirring again. Council this week will consider a public-private-partnership (P3) financing option that could potentially fast-track creation of the mega-complex in Seton.

