



Deer Lodge Curling Club  
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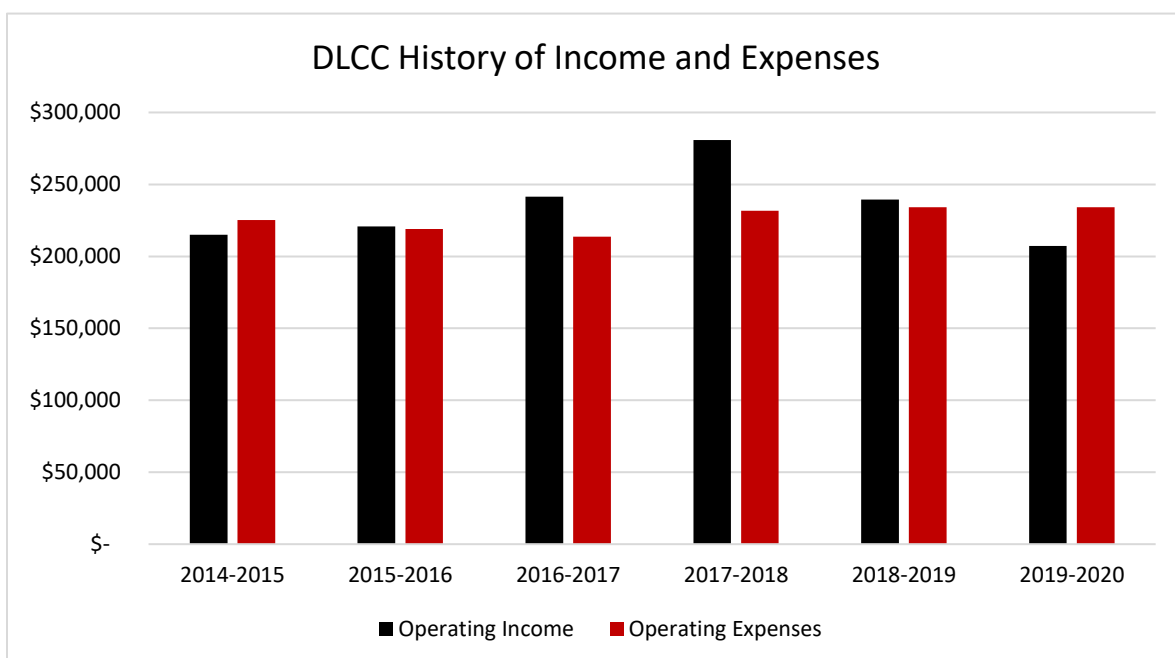
January 18, 2021

Dear Members,

We have received lots of feedback from the membership over the past week regarding the club closure letter we sent out last Monday. Based on the volume of responses, we felt the need to send out another short message as there are likely others who may be feeling / wondering the same things but chose not to reach out.

To start off, we want to thank those of you who provided their genuine and thoughtful feedback to the Board of Directors. It is truly appreciated, and we have used your questions and comments to directly inform this letter. However, while we completely understand that there is some frustration and uncertainty at the moment, please remain positive and constructive in your responses. Remember that the Board of Directors is a group of volunteers who also pays their curling fees and is missing being on the ice as much as everybody else. All decisions made by the Board are made as a group and are with the intention of ensuring the long-term health of the club. We are always looking for more volunteers to join the Board, and if you would like to have more input into the future direction of the club, we would gladly welcome new faces and ideas.

That being said, the main intent of this letter is to provide more information on the financial position of the DLCC. We were a little surprised at how many people seemed to not have an appreciation for the costs to run the facility or how razor-thin our operating budget is. In an effort to inform our members, please see the table below for a high-level summary:





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This type of financial information is always shared at both the Annual General Meeting and the Semi-Annual Meeting, which is open for all members. As you can see from the table, it costs roughly \$225,000 a year to run the curling club. That is just the operational costs which cover all utilities, salaries/wages, supplies, taxes/insurances, cost of beer / liquor, and all repairs and maintenance that needs to be done around the aging facility. These costs have been slowly increasing year-over-year, and the new average seems to be closer to \$235,000. As an example, just this past December, we found out that the cost of the DLCC's property and liability insurance is going up \$4,000 in 2021 compared to what we paid in 2020.

On the income side, you can see that it fluctuates greatly but the goal of the club each year is to simply break-even. In 2016-17 and 2017-18 the DLCC was fortunate to host some fantastic events like the Pinty's Grand Slam of Curling held at the Civic Centre next door. Through the incredible effort of some hardworking volunteers, that event brought in roughly \$40,000 for the curling club. Those funds went towards some long-overdue capital expenditures such as kitchen upgrades, plant upgrades, and the upstairs lounge flooring. However, as you can see, when those events go away in the following years – we are back to our break-even position.

This year, the DLCC brought-in \$34,000 less in league fees back in September / October as there were 5 complete leagues that chose to sit this Winter out. In many of the leagues that did decide to curl this season, the overall registration numbers were slightly down from the previous year. With the closure due to COVID restrictions, we have not been able to generate any additional revenues at the bar or through hosting bonspiels / events that we were scheduled to have. The net effect of that loss is roughly \$10,000 to-date, but that difference in lost income year-over-year will continue to grow as the months go on. There are plenty of other examples such as lost advertising revenue from the signage around the rink. ***In total – the club is operating this season with roughly \$45,000 less in revenue.*** Fortunately, there have been supports such as the Manitoba Bridge Grants we have received (for a total of \$10,000) and the large loans that have been extended to struggling businesses affected by COVID (which the club has already dipped into).

The Board of Directors felt it was important to share this information with everyone after hearing from a lot of folks who sounded like they were unaware of the club's situation and financial outlook.

In short, the DLCC is in no position to offer refunds for this past season. That is not the news that anyone wants to hear, and it is truly unfortunate to place the burden of club expenses on the members that took the risk and chose to come back and curl this winter despite all of the unknowns. That being said – the Board is going to do everything they can to put the club in a better position between now and the start of next season. Please be assured that we are looking



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at a number of different ideas and evaluating opportunities that will hopefully give us the ability to offer a credit on next year's fees to those who paid in-full for this season. As a Board, we cannot make any promises at this point in time as the situation is very fluid and seems to change every couple of weeks. We ask for patience as we make plans and put them into action over the next few months. It will take some time to properly forecast and budget for our needs once we have an idea as to any income opportunities between now and the Fall.

Some of the potential opportunities for generating revenue include opening the bar for members to come watch Jets games, Brier / Scotties games, or Bomber games – if this is an option we will follow all guidelines and take advantage of that opportunity. There are also a couple of unique fundraising opportunities such as online 50/50's or a can drive to collect empty bottles and cans for deposits that we will try to explore virtually / remotely. It is our hope that we will be able to have our regular Golf Day this summer as well, but like most of these decisions, we will have to wait and see. Curl MB is exploring avenues for curling clubs to be able to issue tax receipts for member donations, and we are looking into any potential grant opportunities as well. A lot of this hinges on the Gov't regulations and how those change over time, but we want to communicate our plans and keep everyone informed along the way.

Once again, we want to take the opportunity to thank you for your support of the DLCC and for your patience and understanding. As fellow curlers, we are also disappointed with the premature closure of the club, but we are confident that this decision will give the DLCC its best chance to return next year in a manageable financial position. Please keep an eye out for future updates from the club via email, the DLCC website, or the DLCC Facebook page. If you have any comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Sincerely,

The Deer Lodge Curling Club  
Board of Directors