

## City recreation facilities closing as province returns to a modified Step 2 of the Roadmap to Reopen

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 4, 2022**

Welland, ON – Beginning at 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, January 5, all recreation and sports facilities, including the Welland Community Wellness Complex (WCWC) and the Welland Arenas, are closed.

The province ordered these closures as Ontario returned to a modified version of [Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen](#), effective for at least 21 days (until January 26).

“As has always been the case during the pandemic, we follow the direction of the province when it comes to the regulations and guidelines for public health, safety, and closures,” said Mayor Frank Campion. “At the start of a new year, we are full of optimism for what’s ahead, and to incur this setback is a tough pill to swallow. However, as we have throughout the pandemic, we encourage all Welland residents to adhere to the provincial guidelines and keep health and safety practices at the forefront.”

Before the holidays, the City of Welland announced that it would reduce staffing levels in its facilities to 50 per cent. Further to the province’s announcement, all staff who can work from home will do so during the three-week time frame outlined by the province.

Library branches remain open at reduced capacity, while museums and indoor sports facilities such as the Youngs Sportsplex are closed.

The City will provide updates to the reopening of facilities and programs as information becomes available and will share on the City’s social media channels and website, [www.welland.ca](http://www.welland.ca). In addition, staff will contact members of the WCWC with options available for the next available session. Memberships will be on hold, and their expiration dates extended.

Programs, activities, and services will be restored as soon as the province lifts the restrictions. City staff are eager to welcome visitors and patrons to its facilities in 2022 and remain committed to providing residents with safe, fun, and enjoyable environments.

While indoor facilities are closed, residents can continue to use outdoor spaces for exercise and activity. The City boasts many parks and trails, including nearly 7 km of trails now being cleared of snow, including the Stop 19 and the trail from Lincoln Street to Woodlawn Bridge.

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