



August 28, 2025

City of Barrie
70 Collier Street,
Barrie ON L4M 1E8

Dear Councillor Riepma,

RE: Decision to Limit Pool Size in City of Barrie Multi-Sport Facility

As the national governing body for competitive swimming in Canada, Swimming Canada oversees the development of swimmers from grassroots programming to international podiums, while advocating for accessible aquatic infrastructure that supports safety, health, physical literacy, and high-performance sport. It is with serious reservations that we write regarding the City of Barrie's announcement of a new multi-sport facility that includes only an 8-lane 25-metre pool, despite the available space for a 50-metre pool.

The Barrie Trojan Swim Club (BTSC) and its membership have long advocated for a 50-metre pool in the Huronia region, the only region in Ontario without one. BTSC has invested significantly in feasibility studies and consultant reports that have demonstrated both the need and viability of a long course pool in Barrie. This work shows a clear community and regional demand that a 25-metre facility cannot meet.

Replacing the opportunity for a 50m pool with a 25m design ignores the reality of Canada's aquatic facility crisis. According to [Swimming Canada's Facilities Toolkit](#), the country is facing an urgent shortage of aquatic facilities, with many pools closing permanently without replacement. A 50m pool is the most versatile aquatic design, supporting the full spectrum of programming from learn-to-swim lessons and lane swimming for seniors, to aquatic therapy, community recreation, and Olympic preparation. This flexibility cannot be replicated in a 25m pool, which reduces capacity, limits programming options, and removes Barrie as a potential host for future provincial, national, or international events.

The proposed 25m pool will not address the needs of Barrie's rapidly growing population, nor those of the broader Huronia region. A 50m pool would support equitable aquatic access, promote drowning prevention and healthy active living, and create opportunities for high-performance development. It would also position Barrie as a hub for aquatic sport, drawing tourism, events, and economic activity to the city.

This is not simply about competitive swimming; it is about creating a sustainable, inclusive, and future-proof community asset. Swimming Canada joins the voices of BTSC, the Aquatic Sports Council of Ontario, and other aquatic stakeholders in urging City officials, MPs, and MPPs to reconsider this direction and commit to building a 50m pool. The decision made today will impact generations of swimmers, water polo players, artistic swimmers, lifeguards, seniors, children, and families across the region for decades to come.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and collaborate on a plan that better reflects the long-term needs of Barrie's vibrant and growing community.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jocelyn Jay'.

Jocelyn Jay
Associate Director, Sport Development

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Paulins'.

Suzanne Paulins
Chief Executive Officer