



FRANCES NUNZIATA

COUNCIL SPEAKER YORK SOUTH–WESTON WARD 5

June 26, 2026

Weston Lions Arena Progress Update

Transfer Process

On April 1, 2026, the City officially assumed responsibility for the Weston Lions Arena. This transition was coordinated with the Weston Lions to ensure that the building transfer coincided with the end of the hockey season (March 31). I am pleased to say that it was a cordial and collaborative process that respected the Weston Lions tenure and all parties were committed to ensure a smooth and dignified transfer.

City staff have kept me informed about the number of site visits and ongoing follow-up activities related to the arena transfer.

I am pleased that the City was able to provide the Lions with a Zamboni loaner allowing them to complete the 2025 season. Additionally, I advocated for the City to cover the 2025–2026 utilities for the Weston Lions hockey season. Furthermore, I proposed that information about job opportunities at City arenas be shared with Weston Lions staff should they choose to continue working. I also am pleased to say that my efforts to find meeting space in a City building for the bi-monthly meetings of the Weston Lions have been successful and space has been offered to the Weston Lions.

Now the City is conducting a comprehensive building condition review of the 78-year-old facility. This review assesses both structural and environmental issues. The findings will inform the necessary stabilization measures as we explore options to reimagine the facility as a Made in Weston sports hub that includes indoor ice and a multi-sport facility.

At this time, I can share that the arena is in a very poor state. Experts have assessed the infrastructure, and the majority is beyond life service and needs replacement. Many structural aspects are from 20 to 42 years beyond their life span. As I understand it, the list is long and includes core elements such as the roof, the HVAC, plumbing, wiring, dehumidifiers, drainage, piping and pumps – - all well beyond their life span. Windows, masonry and other components are equally in poor condition. It is also important to note that the building is not accessible, and the renovation must include full accessibility.

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Based on preliminary highlights of the building condition it is abundantly clear that this building must be extensively renovated and structural repairs are essential to bring it up to current standards before any future use as an ice rink. It is my understanding that this amount of work required represents a major financial investment that will include design and construction over several years.

I committed myself to this project in the spring of 2025. I met with Weston Lions at that time, and it was agreed that the goal is to ensure the building remains a part of the community as a reimagined year-round sports space for youth. Subsequently the dialogue evolved to include ice and a multi-use gym.

I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Lions for their long service to Weston over the many years of providing a place where community-based hockey leagues could play from September to March annually.

What's Next

The building condition assessment is expected to be complete in early summer 2026. It may take a bit more or a bit less time. When it is completed, I look forward to reading the draft report and providing feedback.

A final report is expected shortly thereafter.

This document will form the basis for a clearer understanding of the stabilization work required; potential design options along with figuring out budget estimates. The goal is to examine scenarios for the building's future use with ice and gym.

As stated in my February update, I remain dedicated to working with other orders of government to secure financial support and to collaborating with the team at MLSE.

While I am eager for progress, this project represents a meaningful change, extensive repairs and renovations. It also represents an exciting opportunity. It deserves the time and attention necessary to ensure we deliver a safe and engaging space that meets the needs and expectations of our youth and the community at large in York South Weston.

I look forward to providing further updates as we move into the summer months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Frances Nunziata". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "F" and "N".

Frances Nunziata
Council Speaker
City Councillor
York South-Weston