

Subject: Urgent Action Required – Acadia University Pool & Varsity Swim Team Closure

Dear [Recipient Name],

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding Acadia University's recent decision to close its pool on June 15th due to financial constraints and to discontinue its varsity swim program.

The way this decision has been handled is extremely disappointing, as there was little consultation with key stakeholders, including Swim Nova Scotia, the athletes, and the broader community. The abrupt announcement has left swimmers, coaches, and families in limbo, with no transition plan to mitigate the loss of this critical facility and program.

Far-Reaching Consequences for the Swimming Community

This closure will have devastating consequences for both the local Wolfville community and the entire Nova Scotia swimming ecosystem. The Acadia pool has long been a cornerstone for aquatic programming, hosting essential training camps, competitions, and community programs. Its loss will be felt deeply at all levels:

- **Elimination of the Wolfville Tritons Swim Club (WTSC)** – A program that has developed elite-level athletes for over 50 years and serves as a key training hub for swimmers across the province.
- **Dismantling of One of Two University Swim Teams in Nova Scotia** – Without Acadia's varsity program, Nova Scotia risks losing its entire Atlantic University Sport (AUS) swimming conference. Student-athletes will be forced to leave the province to continue competing at the university level, weakening our province's ability to develop and retain top-tier athletes.
- **Loss of Community Access to Essential Aquatic Programming** – Learn-to-swim lessons, water safety education, rehabilitation programs, and recreational swimming will all be lost, disproportionately affecting children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities.

Gender Equity Concerns

The decision to cut the Acadia Varsity Swim Team raises serious concerns regarding gender equality in sport at the university. Swimming is one of the few varsity sports with gender balance, and eliminating it disproportionately impacts female athletes. Meanwhile, male-dominated sports like football, which carries 90 players, remain untouched. Additionally, Acadia's coaching staff currently consists of 11 female coaches and 31 male coaches, highlighting an already significant gender disparity. This decision further marginalizes female athletes and sets back progress toward gender equity in university athletics.

Immediate Action is Needed

I recognize that renovation costs are a major challenge, but there are viable solutions that can allow the pool to remain operational while a long-term plan is developed. I urge the provincial government to work collaboratively with Acadia University and Swim Nova Scotia to explore short-term solutions.

Your Support is Critical

The provincial government has already been in direct contact with Swim Nova Scotia regarding this matter, and we know that our advocacy is making an impact. The more we continue to push for solutions, the more pressure will be placed on Acadia University to work in collaboration with stakeholders.

I strongly urge you to advocate for immediate solutions to bridge the gap and keep the pool open while plans for a new facility are finalized.

Additionally, I ask for your support in holding Acadia University accountable for reinstating its varsity swim program and ensuring that gender equity in sport is prioritized.

Swim Nova Scotia's provincial AA Winter Champs took place in Wolfville this past weekend, we witnessed firsthand the energy on the pool deck, the commitment of our athletes, and the economic impact that an event like this has on the community. Over 200 swimmers and their families traveled to Wolfville for a three-day event, staying in local accommodations and supporting local businesses. The loss of this facility will have economic consequences beyond sport.

We are grateful for the presence of MLA Julie Vanexan, and local Mayor Dave Corkum, Kings Municipality, Mayor Jodi Mackay, and Deputy Mayor Jennifer Ingham, both from the Town of Wolfville attended the event and engaged directly with those affected. We hope to see continued leadership from government officials in ensuring this issue remains a priority.

I encourage you to work with Acadia University, Swim Nova Scotia, and all relevant stakeholders to find a sustainable solution that keeps the pool open and supports the reinstatement of Acadia's varsity swim team. I welcome any updates on funding discussions, upcoming meetings, or potential next steps.

Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your commitment to the future of swimming in Nova Scotia.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Affiliation – Parent, Swimmer, Coach, Community Member]