



Children and Youth Opportunities

Recreation and Regional Services

310-800 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 0N4

July 2013

Dear Colleague:

Manitoba's curling rinks and ice arenas are important community assets that offer numerous recreation and sporting opportunities for many Manitobans. We are committed to ensuring these facilities are managed by qualified operators to provide quality ice surfaces and support clean and safe environments.

Since 1976, the Recreation and Regional Services Branch (RRS) has supported recreation facility manager training, ensuring that qualified staff are operating Manitoba's arenas and curling rinks. For the last seven years, RRS has contracted with Recreation Connections Manitoba (RCM) to coordinate and administer the Arena Operator Course on its behalf. Inspections and Technical Services Manitoba (ITSM), on behalf of The Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC), develops and administers the provincial exam and Refrigeration Class licensing to qualified arena operators. Over the past two years there have been growing industry and provincial government demands to correlate the Arena Operator training with Refrigeration Operator responsibilities for better success on the provincial certification examinations under the Power Engineers Act and Regulation for Refrigeration Operators.

As part of this transition, a review of the Arena Operator Course has been completed and it has been determined the course requires updating to better meet current industry standards. The partners (RRS, ITSM and RCM) are currently working to develop a new course program following the Refrigeration Curriculum with the intention of offering both a Refrigeration Level I and Level II course in the fall of 2013 that will better prepare individuals for the required provincial Refrigeration Class Certification exam.

If you have questions regarding changes to the training requirements for arena operators or if you wish to place your name on the waiting list for upcoming classes, please contact Ms. Jeanne Zwiep, Consultant, Recreation and Regional Services, 310-800 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3G 0N4, telephone (204) 945-3692. Her email address is Jeanne.Zwiep@gov.mb.ca.

Thank-you for your patience as we work through this transition period and please be assured we are working towards developing a training program that will meet your needs.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Annette Willborn
Executive Director

c. David Shafer, Manitoba Fire Commissioner
Cory Burgess, President, Recreation Connections Manitoba