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Aquatic complex: the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion's application for a grant is denied for the second time

Vaudreuil-Dorion, July 11, 2024 – The City of Vaudreuil-Dorion was recently notified by the *Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec* that its application for financial support for the construction of an aquatic complex, within the framework of the PAFIRSPA financial assistance program (*Programme d'aide financière aux infrastructures récréatives, sportives et de plein air - volet 1*), was turned down. The amount of the funding assistance requested was for up to \$20 million, the maximum available. This is the second time that an application for funding by the City has been denied for this project, which had been enhanced since the first time it was submitted to the government in 2019, chiefly in terms of its scope with the addition of regional partners.

"We were extremely disappointed upon hearing the news. Our teams have worked hard to put together a strong and convincing case. However, due to the high number of projects submitted for this financial assistance, which exceeds the funding envelope allocated to the program, our project was not selected, nor were any major projects in Vaudreuil-Soulanges. The need for an aquatic complex in this region is very real. We are not giving up on the idea of building a new swimming pool. We will analyze the avenues that are currently available to us, including the possibility of a consultation with citizens, to determine the next steps," commented Mayor Guy Pilon.

The aquatic complex project is planned to be located at the municipal hub, behind the Centre multisports André-Chagnon and adjacent to the Vaudreuil train station. As early as 2018, associations involved with aquatics were met with to learn about their needs, after which a functional and technical program was developed in collaboration with professionals specializing in the design of this type of infrastructure. Estimated at \$39 million in 2019, the project budget has been updated and now amounts to \$59 million.