

The mayor's March 2017 slide-show presentation of the Mark Wilkins survey tries to explain why we're stuck with an arena and no choice was given: (see mayor's report www.laos-village-project.com/montreal-west)

On page 5: Why did the survey offer only one proposal?

- Due to the state of our current arena and the necessary repairs required, making a decision on the arena's future was of the utmost concern in the short term.
- Many people have advocated for a new arena for over a decade.
- The proposal describes a high end "blue sky" project for purposes of our grant application. You can scale down, not up.

On page 11: Why spend this money for an arena for such a small number of users?

- We already have an arena – not trying to introduce a new service.
- In terms of ice users, we have a minimum of 210 [MoWest] kids in skating and hockey programs. This represents 4.2% of our population. In comparison: CSL – 0.88%, Lachine – 0.88%, Westmount – 1.97% [This just shows a general lack of interest in hockey.]

Note: There currently are only about 3 dozen MoWest senior players. The activity usage report published in the February 2017 Informer indicated there were 220 MoWest kids playing in CRA ice activities with 47.6% of the total enrollment being non-residents.

These are not really explanations. Far more people have advocated for centralizing all programs & activities in one venue, and expanding them. A crisis was created: the sky was falling, urgent action was required, no time to properly consult. But the arena is still standing five years later, there was time for proper consultations.

But because the relatively small, vocal number of people who use the arena have asked it be replaced, we're going to spend a lot of money to replace it.

As the mayor said, we can always scale the project down later. Though it was only the reduction of 4 multipurpose rooms to 2, with a 60% reduction in space, that was acceptable as costs exploded. The obvious choice was to eliminate the costly arena. Quite the mental gymnastics.

We were starting with a blank canvas, why weren't we properly consulted with a needs-survey and determination of priorities in view of MoWest residents' participation rates? Why were we railroaded into no choice?