

# Innisfail Aquatic Centre

## Modernization Project - Universal Changerooms



As part of the Town of Innisfail's commitment to inclusivity, accessibility, and modern facility design, we are transitioning to Universal Changerooms as part of the Aquatic Centre Modernization. We want everyone to feel welcome, safe, and respected — and universal changerooms are a big step in that direction.

### What is a Universal Changeroom?

A Universal Changeroom is a space designed for everyone — regardless of gender, age, or ability. Instead of separate male and female changerooms, the universal changeroom includes:

- Private changing cubicles
- Private shower and toilet rooms
- Fully accessible/family change rooms
- Common areas for lockers and handwashing

### Why the Change?

Universal changerooms help create a more inclusive, safe, and flexible environment for:

- Families with young children
- People with disabilities and their caregivers
- Anyone needing assistance or privacy
- Reduced risk of inappropriate behaviour, bullying, and theft
- Gender-diverse and transgender individuals

This model reflects best practices already in place in many leading aquatic facilities across the country and provides for the required upgrades to our Aquatic Centre to meet building codes.

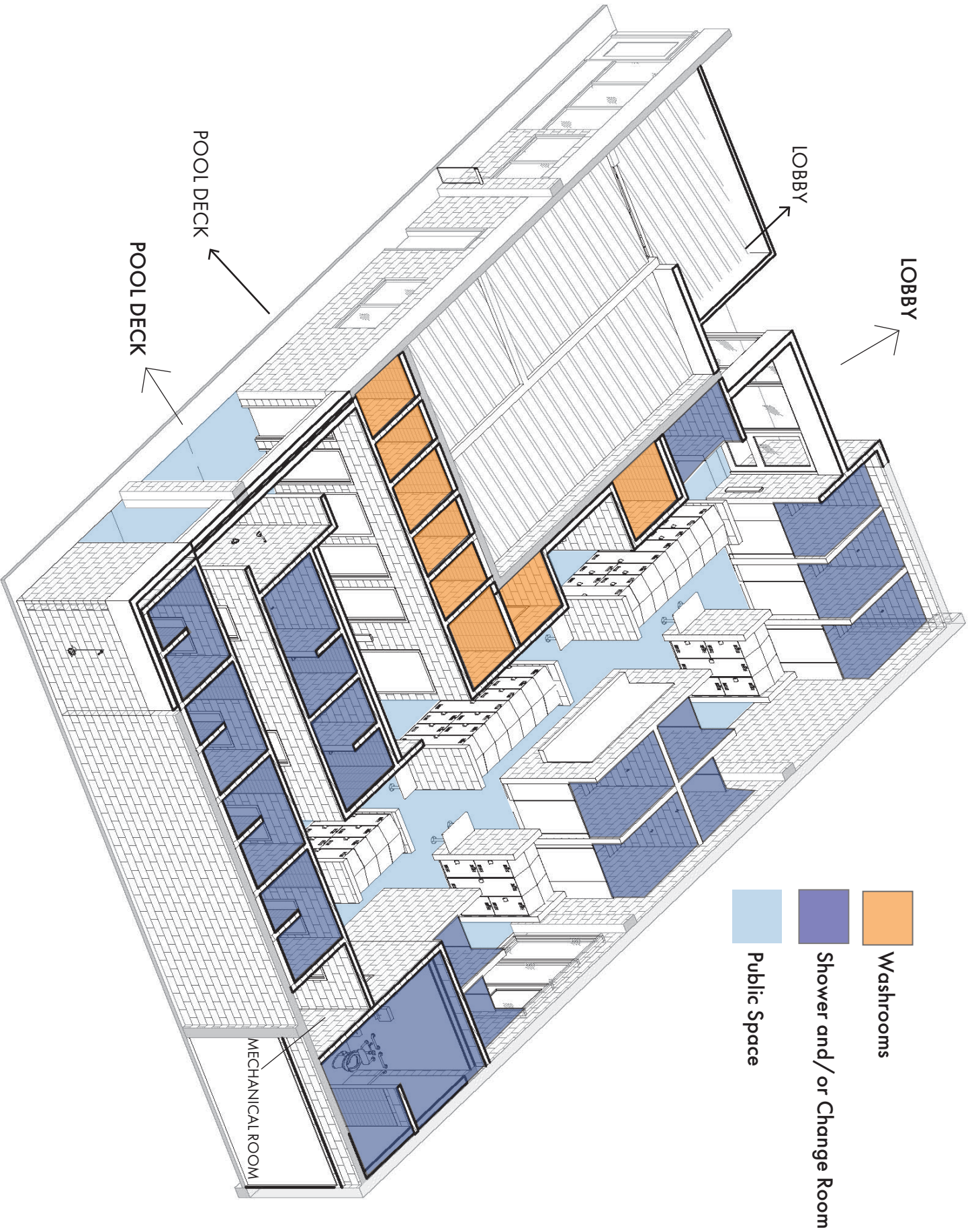
### What About Privacy?

Privacy is our top priority. Here's how we've designed the space:

- Fully enclosed changing and shower rooms
- Lockable doors
- Private toilet rooms
- Increased ability for staff monitoring for safety and cleanliness

**For more details about the Innisfail Aquatic Centre Modernization Project, scan the QR Code or visit [involve.innisfail.ca](https://involve.innisfail.ca)**





LOBBY

LOBBY

POOL DECK

POOL DECK

MECHANICAL ROOM

Washrooms

Shower and/or Change Room

Public Space

# Innisfail Aquatic Centre

## Response to Public Feedback



**In late June and early July of 2025, the Town received a substantial amount of feedback from the public regarding the universal changeroom planned as part of the Aquatic Centre Modernization project.**

In response to this feedback, and with the understanding that the public's voice is important to us, the Town is working to address any concerns the public may have.

The majority of the feedback we received was in response to:

- Safety and Privacy
- Capacity and User Experience
- the Decision-making Process

With these themes in mind, we have compiled some of the more common concerns we've heard and have prepared the following selection of frequently asked questions complete with answers.

## Innisfail Aquatic Centre - FAQs

### **What are the benefits of a universal change room?**

Providing an open common space that is fully visible from the lobby and pool deck helps to reduce the risk of inappropriate behaviour, bullying, and theft, allowing staff to monitor the facility. This was not possible with gender-oriented changerooms that are completely out of view from public areas. Group leaders, such as teachers and coaches, will also be able to better monitor groups under their supervision.

### **Why can't the Town include three separate changerooms?**

The universal changeroom as designed is the result of analysis by the project team - including professional architects - to make the most efficient use of the limited space within the existing building. There is not enough space to create three separate changerooms and meet requirements of the Alberta Building Code, particularly those related to barrier-free access. The current budget approved would not support an expansion of the facility.

### **Will there be enough room for people to change?**

In total, there will be 25 enclosed spaces for individuals to use as change rooms. The current facility provides only 12 private spaces (3 in the male changeroom and 9 in the female changeroom).

The new floor plan provides:

- 10 Private Changerooms
- 8 Individual Washroom Rooms
- 5 Private Shower Rooms - with shower and bench
- 1 Accessibility-focused Shower Room - full washroom, shower and adult change table
- 1 Family Shower Room - larger changeroom with shower

# Innisfail Aquatic Centre

## Universal Changeroom FAQs



### **Will this new layout provide privacy for people to change?**

The universal changeroom features individual rooms that have lockable doors and floor-to-ceiling walls, so they provide complete privacy. Patrons will not have the option to change in and out of bathing attire in common public areas, but rather will be required to use a room to change.

### **Do these kinds of facilities exist anywhere else?**

Many new public facilities are being designed with universal changerooms, so this is becoming a more common configuration in Alberta. As an example of this, The City of Edmonton utilizes only universal changerooms in their new recreation facilities. The new layout also ensures that the facility will meet current building codes.

### **How did the Town inform people about this decision?**

The decision to move ahead with the current plan was made in April of 2025. Shortly after, the Town released information about the universal changeroom through stories on the website, in the local media, and through social media. The Town also has a dedicated project page at [involve.innisfail.ca](https://involve.innisfail.ca), including a project page that features drawing of the new design.

### **Why wasn't the public consulted about the idea of the universal change room?**

The Town did engage the public through a survey in 2021. The results of that survey indicated that people were in favour or accepting of a universal changeroom. At that time, there were hopes that the Town would proceed with building a new facility. Since then, costs have restricted the options available to the Town, so the decision was made to modernize the existing Innisfail Aquatic Centre rather than build a new facility.

**For answers to any questions not addressed here,  
please email [ask@innisfail.ca](mailto:ask@innisfail.ca) or visit [involve.innisfail.ca](https://involve.innisfail.ca)**