

# Fieldhouse to open this summer



Jeanne Gagnon/NNSL photos

**A view of the Fieldhouse's two soccer fields.** Workers are finishing installing the rebar before the concrete can be poured.

## Building will feature two soccer fields and running track

by **Jeanne Gagnon**  
Northern News Services  
**Somba K'e/Yellowknife**

With its 240-metre three-lane running track, two indoor soccer fields, 13 change rooms with washrooms facilities, indoor playground, bleachers and office space, Yellowknife's new Fieldhouse is sure to delight soccer players and residents alike.

The City of Yellowknife has budgeted more than \$17 million for the project, including construction, landscaping and LEED certification.

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a third-party certification program that sets standards for the design, construction and operation of environmentally friendly buildings.

With the building set to be open this summer, construction of the building – located on Kam Lake Road – was about two months ahead of schedule as of April 9, said Art Duffley, project manager at Clark Builders.

"The building is all closed in and then inside, we've got pretty well all the drywall done and we're taping and painting," he said, later adding that concrete slabs were subsequently poured and the soccer boards were put in place.

"Then we put the turf down. Then, we finish all our flooring and painting and all our finishes. And this is all going to happen between now and the first of June," said Duffley.

The city is aiming for an LEED-certified or green

building, so the Fieldhouse features energy-efficient lighting, low-volume flush toilets, high energy-efficient boilers, as well as extra insulation in the roof and wall panels. Low-temperature heat from the Multiplex will heat the soccer field floors.

Yellowknife wanted to lead by example, said Mayor Gord Van Tighem.

"If the city is building a building, then it should work toward the same level of certification or exceed the LEED

certification to show what you can do and also have a building that's a lot less expensive to operate," he said.

The Fieldhouse project started years ago when the soccer association and young soccer players told the city that a soccer field with turf would be great, as school gyms were getting too busy, explained Van Tighem.

He added that many people expressed a desire to have a place where they can exercise sheltered

from the cold during the long Yellowknife winter.

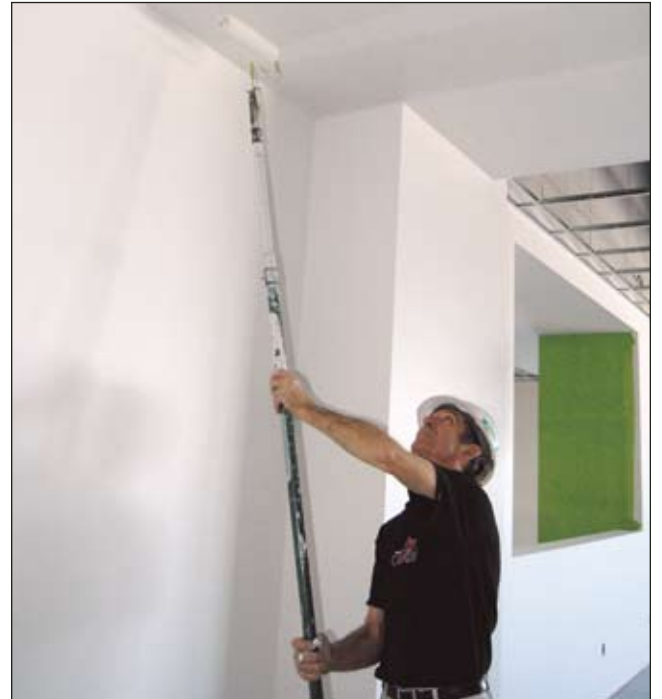
The building will also feature glass boards, so spectators on the bleachers will clearly see the action.

Some 30 people were hired for this project, most of which are local, said Duffley.

Van Tighem said he looks forward to the opening.

"People are very keen to get it finished and get it in use. I already know that it's 320 paces to go around the track if you're walking," he said, adding with a smile: "If you look at it, it's even a place where you can go have a picnic on the grass in the winter."

*"People are very keen to get it finished."*



**Roger Labranche, a painter with True Grit,** applies a coat of white paint to the ceiling inside the Fieldhouse.



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