

April 5, 2021

Report To: Mayor and Council

From: Aaron Bisson, Manager of Recreation and Culture

RE: Community Services Policy Review #2.6

The Community Services Executive Committee is taking a comprehensive review of all of the policies posted on the Towns Website under the Community Services heading in order to ensure all policies are relevant and up to date. This process will happen over a number of meetings depending on various factors including other content of our executive meetings.

The next policy we are looking at **#2.6 Access to Recreation and Leisure Policy**. The policy mentioned is attached to this report for reference. This policy remains relevant, with two main changes. The first is to point #7 where it will be a Council Decision based on the Community Services Executive Committee recommendation for subsidizing individuals, and the second change was the removal of point #7.4 from the original policy which stated, "Funding for programs not offered by the Town of Fort Frances will be considered on a case-by-case basis.". The only other change to the policy is to move it into the newest format. A copy of the original policy is included in this report for comparison purposes.

Recommendation

The Community Services Executive Committee recommends to Mayor and Council to authorize the update of Policy #2.6 Access to Recreation and Leisure Policy.

Respectfully Submitted,



Aaron Bisson

Manager of Recreation and Culture

<p>Council approval of this report will agree to the recommendation of the Community Services Executive Committee to authorize the update of Policy #2.6 Access to Recreation and Leisure Policy.</p>
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THE TOWN OF FORT FRANCES

Section: Community Services

Policy: Access to Recreation and Leisure

Creation Date: December 2008

Review Date: April 2021

Resolution Number:

Supersedes Resolution Number: 423 (consent)

Policy Number: 2.6

1) Policy Statement

The Town of Fort Frances is dedicated to barrier free sport, recreation programs, leisure programs, and services for its residents.

2) Policy

To overcome barriers, the Town of Fort Frances is committed to action as follows:

- a)** Ensuring that fair and equitable access to programs, offered by the Town of Fort Frances, is provided, as outlined within the parameters of this policy.
- b)** To assist Town of Fort Frances residents in overcoming barriers to participation.
- c)** To assist in the coordination of appropriate support services to aid in recreation and leisure pursuits for all town residents.
- d)** To foster independence and self-reliance in the pursuit of recreation and leisure activities.
- e)** In partnership with the Kid Sport and/or other agencies to assist in the development of mechanisms which will lead to ensuring fair and equitable access to recreation and leisure programs, services, and facilities for all members of the community.

3) Leisure Education

The Town of Fort Frances will offer information to groups and individuals in the area of sport, recreation and leisure.

4) Programs and Activities

The Town of Fort Frances will offer a wide variety of programs, within the fiscal and physical restraints of the organization, to meet the needs of individuals in the area of sport, recreation and leisure.

5) Advocacy / Consultation / Collaboration

Liaison with other agencies and organizations will be encouraged, i.e., through participation at board meetings, jointly sponsored programs, and utilizing their expertise and resources when needing specific information.

6) Assistance

The Town of Fort Frances is committed to provide assistance to those that meet the criteria as outlined in this policy.

7) CRITERIA AND PROCESS

The individual or family requesting assistance must qualify for the Town of Fort Frances program. Qualification will be determined by the Town of Fort Frances Council based on recommendation by the Community Services Executive Committee.

Qualified families will be funded by the Town of Fort Frances as indicated below:

- a) Only one program per person per season will be allowed.
Seasons:

Fall	September - December
Winter	January - March April -
Spring	June
Summer	July - August
- b) This assistance may include:
 - i) Fee reductions
 - ii) Fee waivers
 - iii) Cost of materials and equipment
 - iv) Support/aid assistance (i.e., transportation, etc.)
- c) The total leisure access subsidization will not exceed the Town of Fort Frances recreation and leisure access budget during the fiscal year.
- d) Notwithstanding the above, the applicant is required to follow the regular registration procedure of the Town of Fort Frances, i.e. participation may be restricted due to limited class size, cancelled programs etc.

e) The subsidy will be granted based on a review of the applicant(s) qualifications. It is important to note that this "Registration Form" does not reserve a space in the program for the person being subsidized. Applicants are to register at the same time as other residents.

8) Physical Accessibility

The Town of Fort Frances supports the concept of recreation and leisure access to all facilities and recommends that access be considered when designing and developing parks, playgrounds, facilities, and open space. The use of the universal access symbol in promotion material is encouraged.

9) Volunteer Training and Development

The training of volunteers to deal sensitively and effectively with individuals requiring leisure access is paramount to ensure the success of this policy. The Town of Fort Frances supports intensive volunteer training through workshops, guest speakers at meetings, and by providing information as required.

10) Promotion

The Town of Fort Frances will produce and distribute clear, consistent, accurate information about programs, services and supports that are accessible to people with a variety of needs.

<i>The Town of Fort Frances</i>	SECTION
	COMMUNITY SERVICES
<u>Access to Recreation and Leisure</u> POLICY	NEW: December 2008
Resolution No. 423 (consent) 12/08	Supercedes Resolution No.
Policy Number 2.6	PAGE 1 of 2

POLICY STATEMENT

The Town of Fort Frances is dedicated to barrier free sport, recreation and leisure programs and services for its residents.

POLICY

To overcome barriers, the Town of Fort Frances is committed to action as follows:

1. Ensuring that fair and equitable access to programs, offered by the Town of Fort Frances, is provided, as outlined within the parameters of this policy.
2. To assist Town of Fort Frances residents in overcoming barriers to participation.
3. To assist in the coordination of appropriate support services to aid in recreation and leisure pursuits all town residents
4. To foster independence and self-reliance in the pursuit of recreation and leisure activities.
5. In partnership with the Kid Sport and/or other agencies to assist in the development of mechanisms which will lead to ensuring fair and equitable access to recreation and leisure programs, services and facilities for all members of the community.

LEISURE EDUCATION

The Town of Fort Frances will offer information to groups and individuals in the area of sport, recreation and leisure.

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

The Town of Fort Frances will offer a wide variety of programs, within the fiscal and physical restraints of the organization, to meet the needs of individuals in the area of sport, recreation and leisure.

ADVOCACY / CONSULTATION / COLLABORATION

Liaison with other agencies and organizations will be encouraged, i.e., through participation at board meetings, jointly sponsored programs, and utilizing their expertise and resources when needing specific information.

ASSISTANCE

The Town of Fort Frances is committed to provide assistance to those that meet the criteria as outlined in this policy.

CRITERIA AND PROCESS

The individual or family requesting assistance must qualify for the Town of Fort Frances program. Qualification will be determined by the Town of Fort Frances - Community Services Division. The Community Service Executive will determine the type and extent of assistance to be given.

Qualified families will be funded by the Town of Fort Frances as indicated below:

1. Only one program per person per season will be allowed.
Seasons:
Fall September - December
Winter January - March
Spring April - June
Summer July – August
2. This assistance may include:
 - a) Fee reductions
 - b) Fee waivers
 - c) Cost of materials and equipment
 - d) Support / aid assistance (i.e., transportation, etc.)
3. The total leisure access subsidization will not exceed the Town of Fort Frances recreation and leisure access budget during the fiscal year.
4. Funding for programs not offered by the Town of Fort Frances will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
5. Notwithstanding the above, the applicant is required to follow the regular registration procedure of the Town of Fort Frances, i.e. participation may be restricted due to limited class size, cancelled programs etc.
6. The subsidy will be granted based on a review of the applicant(s) qualifications. It is important to note that this "Registration Form" does not reserve a space in the program for the person being subsidized. Applicants are to register at the same time as other residents.

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY

The Town of Fort Frances supports the concept of recreation and leisure access to all facilities and recommends that access be considered when designing and developing parks, playgrounds, facilities and open space. The use of the universal access symbol in promotion material is encouraged.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

The training of volunteers to deal sensitively and effectively with individuals requiring leisure access is paramount to ensure the success of this policy. The Town of Fort Frances supports intensive volunteer training through workshops, guest speakers at meetings, and by providing information as required.

PROMOTION

The Town of Fort Frances will produce and distribute clear, consistent, accurate information about programs, services and supports that are accessible to people with a variety of needs.