

August 3, 2021

Report To: Community Services Executive Committee

From: Aaron Bisson, Manager of Recreation and Culture

RE: Summer Programs Update

Since the request to hold Summer Programs at the June 28, 2021 Council meeting, Administration has been advertising extensively via several Social media and Print media avenues to try and attract staff for the 2021 Summer Programs.

The Summer Programs require three post secondary students to be able to operate with a capacity of 20 students in each week of the programs. To date we have only received one resume from a high school student.

The potential Summer Program staff require a vulnerable sector check from the OPP to secure employment. This is a requirement of employment and is a one-to-two-week process once a person successfully completes an interview.

We have had to cancel the first two weeks of programs, with the week of August 10, being the first week we are hoping to offer now. 20 students have registered and paid for this week, and we will have to cancel and refund these sessions this week due to a lack of applications. The August 16th sessions are also in jeopardy as they are slated to start two weeks from August 3, and we still do not have any post secondary student applications. If we cancel and refund the August 16 session that will leave us with the August 23 week as the only potential week we can offer Summer Programs if we get two Post secondary students apply at some point this week.

Internally we do not have the staff to fill the Summer Program positions. We are down to only two full time lifeguards and are in the process of training several new high school students to be able to fill in at the pool. Our Lifeguard Supervisor has been working a substantial amount of evening and weekend hours over and about her regular duties to get these new students trained and ready for our fall sessions. Many of our regular students from the past had taken jobs elsewhere with the facility closed due to COVID during most of the Summer of 2021.

The Community Services Division is offering programming for children outside of Summer programs including: family swims beginning July 19th on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and swimming lessons Monday through Friday beginning August 3. The Museum is offering programming at the Rainy Lake Square on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for students starting Aug 3 – 31, please call the museum at 274-7891 and speak with Alyssa about registering for the sessions. The Fort Frances Public Library is also offering virtual student programming on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays. To sign up for these programs please call Hallee at 274-9879. The Ice is going in the Ice for Kids Arena on August 16, and Minor Hockey is hosting a 3 on 3 or 4 on 4 league or development camp around this time, please contact Minor Hockey for more details. Jamie Davis will be offering his one-week development camp the week of August 16th, please call Jamie at 276-1839 to sign up. Borderland Skating is planning using ice in August and anyone interested in joining their program should reach out to them.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Bisson

Aaron Bisson
Manager of Recreation and Culture