

March 15, 2021

Report To: Mayor and Council

From: Aaron Bisson, Manager of Recreation and Culture

RE: Age at which the Town recognizes a Senior

At the request of the Fort Frances Senior Centre Board a review of the age at which individuals are considered a Senior at various Town of Fort Frances buildings has been reviewed. It was suggested that having different ages to be classified as a Senior in different buildings within the Town of Fort Frances was confusing.

It was found that at the Fort Frances Senior Centre that the age to use the facility is noted as 55 years or older. For patrons to be eligible to qualify for a discount on memberships, day passes, and other services at the Memorial Sports Centre the age is set at 60 years or older.

The age to be considered a Senior varies greatly and is open to interpretation. The Government of Canada benefits such as Old Age Security classifies a Senior as 65 years of age and begins those payments. The Canada Pension Plan has a payment date beginning at age 65 without penalty but allows for members to begin drawing this benefit as early as age 60 or as late as 70 which suggests that they considered retirement/senior citizens in that age range. In Private sector companies, there is also a wide interpretation of the age considered to be a Senior, with most private sector companies having an age range from 55 to 65 to qualify as a Senior.

As noted above the Town of Fort Frances currently has two different ages in two different buildings to qualify as a Senior. At 55 years of age, Citizens can use the Fort Frances Seniors Centre, at 60 Citizens qualify for the discounts available at the Memorial Sports Centre. Based on membership statistics from 2019 (Pre-Pandemic) the lost revenue from changing the age at which a discount is available at the Memorial Sports Centre would have a cost of \$3,321.14 in lost revenue.

The two divisions within the Town are very different in what they offer. The Fort Frances Senior Centre is a Social Club with no membership fees to join, where like minded individuals gather to enjoy activities, meals, and conversation together and has a minimum age to attend. The Memorial Sports Centre is a recreation facility for all ages within the Town. Many of the activities that take place at this facility are fee based and these fees help partially offset costs associated with the operation of the facility. With 60 being the age recognized as a Senior for discount purposes, the Town is in the middle of the generally recognized age of being considered a Senior.

Recommendation

The Community Services Executive Committee recommends to Mayor and Council to continue using 55 as the age for its Citizens to use the Fort Frances Senior Centre and 60 as the age in which a discount is applied to fees at the Memorial Sports Centre.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Bisson

Aaron Bisson
Manager of Recreation and Culture

Council approval of this report will agree to the recommendation of the Community Services Executive Committee to continue with using 55 as the age for its Citizens to use the Fort Frances Senior Centre and 60 as the age in which a discount is applied to fees at the Memorial Sports Centre as outlined in this report.