

June 8, 2021

Mayor June Caul and Fort Frances Town Council,

I am writing to express my concern over the decision that the summer day camp program "Rec N Crew" historically run at the Memorial Sports Centre will not be running again this year due to "all the restrictions in place" and "requirements for camp operators" due to Covid-19. The provincial government made the decision not to resume in person learning for our youth until September 2021, so that the kids could have a normal summer, including day camps and team sports. The provincial government also gave the go ahead for day camp programs to run last summer, but they were not offered in our community.

Not only do I feel these programs would be low risk in our community, where our covid numbers have been generally low, but I also feel with the reopening of many businesses throughout the summer, there is some accountability on the town to provide child care options to the residents of Fort Frances. Our children need to be provided with the socialization and activity experiences they have been missing out on, as well as the structure and accountability of day programs like this. The older children were previously able to take part in some leadership activities, training them to be the future counselors of these programs. Additionally, these programs create summer employment to some of our young residents who may be home from their post-secondary school programs or going away to school in the fall.

I feel that there have been a lot of missed opportunities due to covid in Fort Frances without consulting with the citizens these decisions affect. The community services offered have greatly suffered over the past few years. What is the town of Fort Frances offering for recreation this summer? What are the offerings for child care? I think there needs to be an effort to find a way to safely and effectively run programming. There needs to be brainstorming of new ways to make these programs run as we transition to a new normal. Much larger centers seem to be figuring it out, and I am confident Fort Frances could too. I am requesting that my concern be added for discussion at the next available council meeting.

Respectfully,

Janice Neurinski

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