

Access and Inclusion

Effective Date: November 1, 2016
Revised Date: March 8, 2022

1. Policy Statement

All citizens should have equal access to participate and engage in Parks, Recreation and Culture opportunities in their community.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the Access & Inclusion policy is to further the commitment of the City to ensure that assistance and support is provided to those that may have challenges when accessing parks, recreation and cultural opportunities. This policy provides overall departmental guidance and works in support of existing Council Policy C083 Programs and Admission Fee Subsidization.

3. Scope

This policy supports the participation of persons with varying physical, social, mental and emotional abilities and persons that face cultural and/or language barriers.

4. Policy

Parks, Recreation and Culture staff will work to provide accessible and inclusive services and programs to ensure opportunities are available for all residents to develop their full potential through chosen experiences. Some participants may require the assistance of a support worker to attend the services and programs offered by the City.

To recognize the care provided to program participants by support workers, the support worker will not be subject to program registration or drop-in fees while supporting an individual. To ensure a safe environment for all participants a Police Information Check (PIC) is required for support workers who assist a person under the age of 19 years.

4.1 Definitions

In this policy,

- (a) ***Support Worker*** is defined as the person(s) responsible for the integration of child(ren), youth, adult(s) and/or senior(s) with varying abilities into City of Pitt Meadows programs. These workers are not City staff and are hired and trained by other agencies and/or the family.

4.2 Procedures and Guidelines

- (a) Drop-in Programs:

Individuals requiring support can apply for a *Leisure Access Pass* which allows the participant to bring a support worker to drop-in programs free of charge. Support workers are not identified on the card; the card may be used by the participant interchangeably for different support workers assisting the individual during the drop-in visit.

- (b) Registered Programs:

When registering for a program planned for participants (under 19 years of age) the support worker is required to provide PIC clearance documentation to Parks and Recreation program staff prior to the first day of the program.

The support worker will not be subject to any program registration fees during the course of the program. Any additional fees, outside of the regular registration fees are program dependent and are the responsibility of the support worker. Programs such as Day Camps that requires bus transportation may be excluded where space is limited.

5. Related Policies

Other related policies include:

- (a) Program and Admission Fee Subsidization, C083