

COUNCIL POLICY

SUBJECT: PARKS AND RECREATION - PROGRAM ASSISTANCE FOR ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED	DATE: November 23, 1992 Revised:
--	---

The Saanich Parks and Recreation Department will provide assistance to Saanich residents and families that are unable to participate for economic reasons in departmental recreation programs. Assistance will be considered generally on a one program per person, per season bases. Consideration for financial assistance will be given for both activity passes and pre-registered programs. It is anticipated that the recipient will participate to some degree in the program cost.

Rationale

Sustainable recreational activity is important for an individual to achieve and maintain a healthy active lifestyle. There are members of our community who would benefit from this recreational activity, but cannot participate due to limited financial resources.

A role of municipal government is to reach out to ensure equitable public access to its basic services for all citizens, regardless of their ability or inability to pay. Saanich Parks and Recreation actively explores, supports, and makes open available opportunities through which all Saanich residents can regularly access leisure services with ease and dignity.

Procedure

1. Communicate policy to the general public through vehicles such as program brochures, notices in departmental program centres, and through contacts with various community social service agencies.
2. The program will be coordinated by the Community Services Section. Individual requests and/or agency referrals for program assistance will be forwarded to the appropriate Program or Recreation Centre Supervisor directly responsible for the program.
3. Recreation programming and reception staff who receive an inquiry or request for assistance, should directly accept the party=s name and telephone number for follow-up by the appropriate supervisor.
4. Within the general guidelines of this policy, each supervisor has discretionary authority to address each request on an individual basis. The degree of fee reduction will be guided by the need and ability of the applicant to pay.
5. Applicants may also participate in other departmental alternative programs for fee subsidy such as volunteer program credits and programs that are sponsored.

6. All enquiries/request will be addressed in confidence. To ensure that the assistance given is consistent with the general guidelines of this policy, however, a departmental record of fee subsidies granted will be maintained by the Coordinator of Community Services.