

THE CORPORATION OF THE
CITY OF WHITE ROCK
CORPORATE REPORT



DATE: March 31, 2025

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: John Woolgar, Director, Recreation and Culture

SUBJECT: Leisure Access Program New Policy

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve the new terms for the Leisure Access Program and adopt a Leisure Access Program Policy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of White Rock's Leisure Access Program (LAP) currently provides an opportunity for White Rock and South Surrey residents in financial need to participate in the City's Recreation and Culture activities at a discounted rate. A comparison across the Metro Vancouver Region shows that each municipality operates their own form of an LAP and that these programs serve residents of each city exclusively. It is recommended that the LAP Policy be approved which contains the existing program benefits and the new eligibility requirements for participants of the LAP program. Please see Appendix A for a draft of the proposed LAP Policy.

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

For over 15 years, the White Rock LAP has provided low-income residents in White Rock and South Surrey with access to White Rock recreation programs and services. This program ensures that applicants are not restricted from accessing or participating in a limited variety of recreation and culture activities due to financial hardship. Applicants are provided with a mechanism for accessing subsidies which incorporates confidentiality, dignity, privacy and easy access.

Program Benefits

The benefits of the LAP include:

- 50% off eligible White Rock Recreation and Culture programs or memberships with a limit of \$300 per person per year.
- Free public skating at Centennial Arena for White Rock residents.
- Grandview Heights Aquatic Centre and South Surrey Indoor Pool Annual Pool Pass or 20 Session Pass available at 50% for White Rock residents only.

A review across Metro Vancouver identified that each municipality runs their own LAP. The benefits at each municipality vary slightly but include discounted access to drop-in activities and

program registrations with discounts ranging from 25% to 90%. White Rock’s current discount for the LAP is on average with neighboring municipalities.

Please see Appendix B for a table of Leisure Access Program benefits and subsidies at other cities in Metro Vancouver.

Income Requirements

Currently, all permanent City of White Rock and South Surrey residents who meet the annual family income limitations may apply (see Table 1 below). Total income for all adults in the household must be included in the application.

Number in Family	1	2	3	4	5	6
Family Income	\$25,837	\$31,446	\$39,156	\$48,851	\$55,626	\$61,691

Table 1: Low-Income Levels for Leisure Access Eligibility

Residency requirements

A review across Metro Vancouver identified that each municipality requires residency in the municipality to participate in the LAP. The City of White Rock currently allows both White Rock and South Surrey residents to participate in the LAP. On average, approximately 30% of LAP participants are Surrey residents. Staff recommend that the new eligibility requirements stipulate that only residents of White Rock are eligible to participate in the LAP program.

LAP Participants

The table below shows the number of individuals accessing the LAP from 2020 to 2025.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
LAP Participants	102	129	42	109	117	58*

**Denotes Year to Date*

Access to Public Swimming Pools

A unique feature of the White Rock LAP is that it subsidizes White Rock residents who wish to use the swimming pool facilities at Grandview Heights Aquatics Centre or the South Surrey Indoor Pool. The rationale for this subsidy is because White Rock does not have a public swimming pool. Staff performed a review of lower mainland cities and found that all cities in the lower mainland have their own public swimming pools, either indoor or outdoor. LAP participants pay 50% of the cost of the Surrey pool pass, with the LAP paying for the remaining 50%.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The value of the LAP program subsidies in 2024 was \$9,700. Of this amount, the subsidized city of Surrey pool passes amounted to \$5,700 while subsidized recreation programs and drop-in memberships made up the remaining \$4,000. This funding is in the current operating budget and no additional funding is required if Council approves the LAP policy.

COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The LAP is promoted on the City website, in recreation centres, and through social media. All documentation and webpages will be updated with these changes and communicated to staff. This may include advertisements, updating City webpages, marketing in White Rock recreation facilities, and other forms of City communication and promotion as required.

OPTIONS / RISKS / ALTERNATIVES

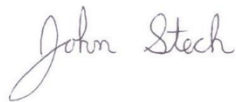
The following options are available for Council's consideration:

1. Do not change eligibility requirements for the City's LAP program.
2. Do not approve the LAP Policy.
3. Approve the LAP policy with other amendments.

CONCLUSION

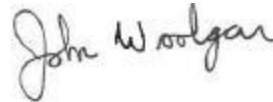
Recreation and Culture's LAP ensures that residents are not restricted from accessing and participating in activities due to financial hardship. The recommendation is for Council to approve the LAP Policy to endorse the existing program benefits and approve the new residency requirements. This will ensure that the LAP continues to provide access to recreation benefits to White Rock residents.

Respectfully submitted,



John Stech
Manager, Community Recreation

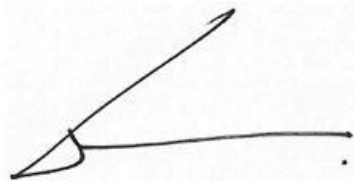
Approved by,



John Woolgar
Director, Recreation & Culture

Comments from the Chief Administrative Officer

This corporate report is provided for information purposes and direction to staff.



Guillermo Ferrero
Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix A: 03-31-2025 Leisure Access Program Policy

Appendix B: 03-31-2025 Leisure Access Program Benefits Across the Lower Mainland