

Recreation Services – Function 645

Financial Assistance for Recreation Services Program

Inter-agency Financial Assistance Program for Low Income CVRD Residents

Background Information

- The CVRD currently provides the PLAY Program to CVRD residents that are in need of financial assistance for recreation services.
- Low income residents can also currently access the RAC, TRIP and FAIR Programs if they live in those membered municipalities.
- Registration processes for these programs have recently been streamlined.
- Recreation staff from all of the municipalities have been working together to develop a more inclusive program.



Proposed Program Changes

- One unified form for all the recreation departments with a new program name.
- Using the Statistics Canada Low Income Measure (LIM) to determine program eligibility vs the Low Income Cut-Off (LICO) rates to allow more individuals/families to access the program.
- Increasing the number of facility drop-in's permitted for youth aged 18 and under to 52 free admissions to drop-in programs at each organization regardless of which municipality they reside in.
- Create a 1 year trial program to ensure it remains economically feasible.



Program Eligibility - LIM vs LICO

Using the Statistics Canada Low Income Measure (LIM) to determine program eligibility vs the Low Income Cut-Off (LICO) rates to allow more individuals/families to access the program.

# in Household	1	2	3	4	5	6	7 & over
Income Under LICO (current)	\$21,687	\$26,997	\$33,190	\$40,298	\$45,705	\$51,548	\$57,392
Income Under LIM (proposed)	\$25,153	\$35,572	\$43,566	\$50,306	\$56,244	\$61,612	\$66,549



Focus on Youth

- This program would focus on increased access to services for youth aged 18 and under.
- Residents would apply once and youth would receive a LEAP pass for each municipality.
- Youth would also be eligible for any additional benefits from PLAY, TRIP or RAC programs depending on where they reside.
- Keeping youth physically active and engaged in community was the #1 priority for this project.



Questions?



COMOX VALLEY Financial Assistance for Recreation Services

Your four local recreation departments are working together to ensure all Comox Valley residents have access to low cost recreation options. Application forms have now been combined so you will only need to fill out one form, if you qualify, to receive the benefits of your home community and CVRD facilities. Application forms can be found on the website or by phoning your home municipality. Resident families and individuals who are working low income, on BC benefits and/or the family income for 2020 before taxes does not exceed the Canada Low-Income Cut-off Rates are eligible for the following financial assistance recreation programs:

CVRD SPORTS & AQUATIC CENTRES'S PLAY PROGRAM

All residents of Courtenay, Comox, Cumberland and Areas A, B, C of the Comox Valley Regional District are eligible for the CVRD PLAY program - 52 free admissions per year, per family member at the CVRD Sports and Aquatic Centres. Plus 1 free registered program and 4 programs at 50% off per calendar year per family member.



comoxvalleyrd.ca/rec

COMOX RECREATION'S Inclusion Program (TRIP)

TRIP financial assistance is awarded to eligible Town of Comox residents and can be used for a 50% discount towards registered, non-contract programs and Fitness Studio memberships. Financial Assistance amount is awarded per person, per calendar year and can be used online, in person or over the phone for registrations and membership sales.



comox.ca/recreation

COURTENAY RECREATION'S Recreation Access Program

City of Courtenay Residents are eligible for the Recreation Access Program (RAC) - scan cards and program discounts can be used at the Lewis Centre, Florence Filberg Centre, Courtenay Outdoor Pool and LINC Youth Centre. RAC program includes annual scholarship amount to be used towards discounted programs and services, and 52 free drop-ins.



courtenay.ca/rec

CUMBERLAND RECREATION'S FAIR PROGRAM

Village of Cumberland Residents are eligible for the Financial Assistance in Recreation (FAIR) - 50 free admissions per year or 50% off an annual membership, per family member to the Cumberland Recreation Centre.



cumberland.ca/rec

PLAY Statistics

PLAY Memberships by Year:

2019 - 745

2020 - 511

2021 - 170 year to date

Registered PLAY Program Discounts by Year

2019 - \$18,403.39

2020 - \$12,147.12

2021 - \$2,609.87

PLAY Memberships by Age for 2019

Adults - 403

Child - 224

Teen - 51

Senior - 67

Total - 745



Low Income Cut-Off Rates

2016 Low Income Cut-offs - Before Tax

Municipality	Low Income
CVRD-A	790
CVRD-B	555
CVRD-C	575
Courtenay	3915
Comox	1165
Cumberland	445
Total	7445

National Council of Welfare Estimates of Stats Canada Low-Income Cut-offs Rates

# in Household	1	2	3	4	5	6	7 & over
Income Under	\$21,687	\$26,997	\$33,190	\$40,298	\$45,705	\$51,548	\$57,392



Strategic Priorities

The following COVID-19 response and renewal framework for the CVRD services are supported:

- Adapting to changing community priorities.
- Maintaining core services at an affordable cost.

This project addresses the following CVRD Strategic key drivers:

- Community Partnerships
- Fiscal Responsibility

The following CVRD Recreation Commissions strategic priorities are also addressed:

- Strategic Goal 4 – Accessibility
- Strategic Goal 2 – Partnership between Jurisdictions

