



Meeting Date: October 4, 2023

Submitted by: Scott Mairs, Director of Community Services

Report No: CMS-08-2023

Subject: Affordable Access to Recreation Policy

Recommendation:

THAT Report CMS-08-2023 re: Affordable Access to Recreation Policy be received;

AND THAT the policy set out in Appendix A to Report CMS-08-2023 be approved.

Purpose:

To seek Council approval of the Affordable Access to Recreation Policy.

Background:

Aligning with the inclusion and access strategies and goals outlined in Middlesex Centre Community Services Master Plan and the Framework for Recreation in Canada, the Municipality of Middlesex Centre is committed to developing and implementing policies, which ensure that no families or individuals in Canada are denied access to public recreation opportunities because of economic disadvantage. The Community Services Department has developed an Affordable Access to Recreation Policy and Recreation Assistance Program which will enable people of all ages to participate in recreation. The policy will address economic constraints to participation faced by children and youth from disadvantaged families and older adults who are frail and/or isolated.

The policy and procedure will provide information on accessing programs and services through the Middlesex Centre Recreation Assistance Program.

Analysis:

The process for creating the Affordable Access to Recreation Policy and Recreation Assistance Program included researching existing policies from a variety of municipalities in Ontario. Staff also utilized best practices and resources included in the “Affordable Access to Recreation for Ontarians Policy Development and Implementation Guide” developed by Parks and Recreation Ontario.

The Affordable Access to Recreation Policy and Recreation Assistance Program will apply to all municipal residents accessing Middlesex Centre recreation programs. Individuals requesting affordable recreation must meet the criteria indicated in the policy.

Financial Implications:

Eligible program participants will be enrolled for a period of 12 months and receive a subsidy of up to \$300, in the form of an account credit, that can be applied to their client account in the Univerus Rec Software. The account credit can be used towards Middlesex Centre's Recreation and Culture programs. Staff will monitor expiry dates for credits and delete expired credits when necessary.

Strategic Plan:

This matter aligns with following strategic priorities:

- Engaged Community
- Responsive Municipal Government

Attachments:

A1 – Affordable Access to Recreation Policy