



City of Williams Lake

CORRESPONDENCE MEMO

COUNCIL MEETING DATE:	Joint Committee Meeting, September 26 th , 2018
SUBJECT &/OR ITEM #:	Correspondence from Cindy Nadeau, Axis Family Resources re/ Special Needs Pass pricing
STAFF COMMENTS: Geoff Paynton, Director of Community Services	<p>Within the existing Fees and Charges By-Law Special Needs Passes are only available to persons living within the Recreation taxation area. This is also the case for the Affordable Recreation (low income) Card and Grade Five Program.</p> <p>The current Fees and Charges By-Law for the Special Needs Pass reads as follows;</p> <p>Special Needs Pass Residents with permanent disabilities living within the Central Cariboo Recreation taxation area can apply for Special Needs Pass. The Special Needs Pass program is designed for physically and/or mentally challenged individuals at 50% off the regular rate and is non transferable. Required escorts will be admitted at no charge. The escort must be within the sight of the client at all times. The escort may participate in drop-in programs as long as the client is participating. Initial application is for 6 months. Re-application is required and a longer term may be requested by the client and granted by the Manager of Recreation or designate.</p> <p>Should Joint Committee wish to make the change suggested by Mrs. Nadeau the Fees and Charges By-Law would need to be amended to allow it. The impact on revenue would be minimal.</p> <p>If Joint Committee is considering the change to extend the program to those living outside the taxation area as suggested then staff would recommend that it only apply to individuals when they are in the company of a support worker from a recognized local agency, and that each</p>

	<p>individual must apply through the regular Special Needs Pass application process.</p> <p>Staff do not recommend that the Agencies be allowed to purchase the passes at the Special Needs rates as there is no way to control who they go to.</p>
ATTACHMENTS: (IF APPLICABLE)	<p>1. Letter from Cindy Nadeau, Axis Family Resources</p>



Cindy Nadeau
Axis Family Resources
321 2nd Ave N
Williams Lake, BC V2G 2A1

July 4, 2018

Geoff Paynton
Director of Community Services
Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex
525 Proctor Street
Williams Lake, BC V2G 4J1

Dear Geoff Paynton:

Following up on our recent telephone conversation regarding discounted passes for people with disabilities, I spoke with Darron Campbell at the CRD office and he suggested that I address my request with the Central Cariboo Joint Committee. Axis Family Resources Ltd. provides specialized support services – both residential and non-residential – to children and youth, families and adults throughout many communities in the North and Interior Regions of British Columbia. We have partnerships with other agencies and organizations within each community where our programs exist which includes our own Williams Lake branch.

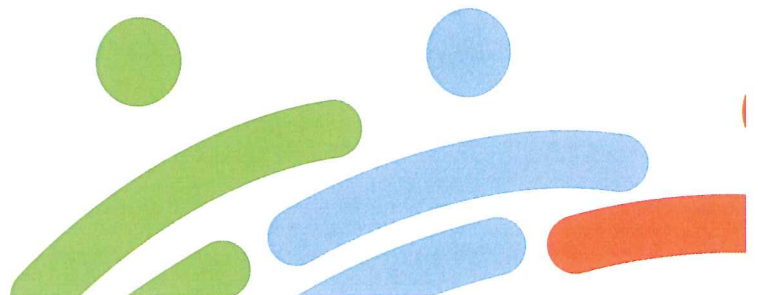
It is critical to us that we provide the highest quality service to the individuals and families who participate in our programs, to the staff and caregivers who do the day to day work, and to our funders. It is also important to our company that we give back to the communities in which we provide service, and as well provide some specialized support to former youth in care.

Head Office

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Our front line day program staff spends hours each week with various individuals with special needs. We volunteer throughout the community and patronize local businesses. We take part in community programs and events to foster a sense of belonging for the individuals we support.

Many of these individuals are living in home shared environments on a fixed income. Some of these residential home shares are outside of the Central Cariboo Recreation Taxation Area so under the current regulations they are not eligible for any discounts to use the Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex facilities. I recently had the experience when I took one of our individuals to swim for one hour and the cost was \$7.61 compared to \$2.86 for the others with disabilities living within the boundaries. This makes it unaffordable for those individuals who are in out of town placements.

Since it is not by their own choice that they live outside the boundaries, rather through necessity for their safety and well-being, it seems unfair that they are not able to use the facility simply because of affordability. So much of their time is spent within the boundaries of our community often providing services through their volunteer work. Our programs are inclusive where we encourage individuals to participate in community events and group activities. The two tiered system for Recreation Access Passes makes it very difficult to foster inclusion in terms of using the Complex facilities.

I respectfully submit that the discounted special needs pass be made available for all people with disabilities while they are in the company of a support worker from our local agencies since the agencies themselves are part of the community and within the taxation boundaries. Another way to do this might be to allow the agencies to purchase the passes at the discounted rate to be distributed to support workers when they are needed.

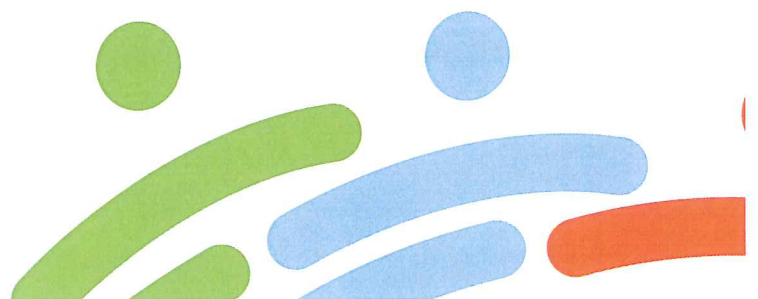
In keeping with the spirit and intent of the facility regarding user availability this would allow fair and equal access for all of the individuals we support without discrimination for circumstances beyond their control.

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I would like to thank the committee for consideration of this proposal. If you require any further information or would like me to speak on behalf of this submission, please feel free to contact me at (250) 267-3246.

Respectfully,

Cindy Nadeau

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Axis Family Resources
Williams Lake, BC

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