



## CITY OF WILLIAMS LAKE COUNCIL REPORT

**DATE OF REPORT:** March 19, 2024  
**DATE & TYPE OF MEETING:** March 27, 2024 Joint Committee Meeting  
**AUTHOR:** Stacey Miranda, Director of Community Services  
**SUBJECT:** FIRST RESPONDER ADMISSION FEE REDUCTION FOR CMRC  
**FILE:** 2280-20-01

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### Recommendation

That the Central Cariboo Joint Committee consider a first responder discounted admission fee to the Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex of 25%.

### Purpose

At the September 27, 2023 Central Cariboo Joint Committee Meeting, Cariboo Regional District Bylaw #5213 - Fees and Charges was presented. A first responder category was not presented at that time. Should the recommendation be accepted, additional information will be need to be added under Section 1: Public Admission Rate Definitions – Pool, Public Skate and Fitness Centre, requiring an amendment to Bylaw #5213.

### Discussion

#### Background

Currently, the Fees and Charges Bylaw (#5213) has the following categories:

#### Age Definitions:

<b>Tot</b>	Newborn to 3 years of age
<b>Child</b>	Ages 4 to 12 years
<b>Youth/Student</b>	Ages 13 to 18 years and/or full-time student at a recognized educational institution with a valid student card or equivalent.
<b>Adult</b>	Ages 19 to 54 years
<b>Senior</b>	Ages 55 to 84
<b>Super Senior</b>	Ages 85 and over. Super seniors will receive free admission to the facility regardless of residency status.
<b>Family</b>	One or two parents or legal guardians and their dependent children. The family rate will apply when at least one adult and one dependent child/youth is admitted. A maximum of two adults and four children/youth may be admitted under the family rate for drop in admissions and passes.

**Drop In Passes**

Patrons can purchase 10 drop in passes at a reduced rate. Transfer of these passes is limited to family members of the same address and will be subject to a \$5.00 administration fee. Drop In Passes are non-refundable.

**Facility Passes**

Facility Passes are available to Patrons in 1-, 3-, 6-, and 12-month terms. For the 6 and 12-month terms the first and last month's payments are non-refundable. Refunds will be prorated based on the remaining number of days on the pass. 1- and 3-month terms refunds will be prorated on the number of days used plus a 25% administration fee.

**Recreation Access Passes**

Residents living in the Central Cariboo Recreation taxation area may receive a Recreation Access Pass (RAP) at the CMRC at no cost. This eligibility extends to the immediate family of the resident and includes up to 1 additional adult (married or common-law to the applicant resident) and their dependent children, or children under their legal guardianship who are under the age of 19 years old. Family members over the age of 19, who are not full-time students with a valid student ID card, cannot be included in a family pass and must have their own RAP. Proof of residence must be supplied (i.e. valid driver's license).

Non-residents may purchase a Recreation Access Pass for a fee. Individuals or families living outside the taxation area will be charged the Regular admission rate for the swimming pool, fitness centre, public skating, and drop-in fitness programs.

**Recreation Access Card (RAC) Rates (Dual Pricing system)**

Residents who contribute to the Central Cariboo Recreation function through taxation shall receive a Recreation Access Card at no cost. All users and user groups of the CMRC must be in possession of a valid RAC or have an approved registration process to use the facility at RAC Rates with exceptions.

Non-residents of the Central Cariboo Recreation taxation area can purchase a Recreation Access Card at the CMRC or pay the Standard Rates as they apply in Schedule B.

This rate does not apply to;

- All Conferences, Conventions, and/or Tradeshow Events that charge for entrance, or participation, or booth rental;
- Events held by non-profit groups in partnership with a commercial group (where any proceeds go to the commercial entity);
- Events using a liquor license in the Gibraltar Room, with the exception of weddings.

**Three-month Group Pass Rates**

Groups of 15 or more people may purchase a three month pass at the applicable discounted rate. Group passes must be paid in full for all participants at time of purchase. Group fitness prices are set at 75% of the regular Resident or Non-Resident price.

### Analysis

#### First Responders Definition:

- A *first responder* is a professional with specialized training who arrives at the scene of an emergency to provide immediate medical or evacuation help. The emergency could be a motor accident, a natural disaster, or a terrorist attack.
- Historically, first responders have included firefighters, paramedics, and police officers. First Responders may include members of the British Columbia Emergency Health Services, which answer the calls in emergency situations and dispatch the appropriate responders. BCEHS also employs emergency medical responders in some communities.

#### Benefits:

1. **Mental Health.** Regular exercise benefits for mental health include reducing stress, improving self-confidence, better sleep quality, sharper memory, and clearer thinking. Emotional well being is enhanced and strengthened through exercise. People who exercise regularly achieve a sense of wellbeing, and show that through behaviors like more energy, more relaxed and positive about themselves and their lives.
  - a. Evidence suggests that by exercising often, and regularly, and focusing on how your body is feeling and reacting to the exercise, it can help your nervous system begin to move away from stresses caused by trauma. Taking your mind into another way of thinking about things in the “here and now”.
2. **Daily life.** Physical activity and access to exercise options help keep people fit. Training the muscle movements, you use in a rescue is extremely beneficial for safe actions. For example, a first responder that lifts people could practice bodyweight squats to improve their ability to perform this task in an emergency. These types of activities can get easier when you train for them.
3. **Balance and coordination.** Exercises can help maintain and preserve a person’s sense of balance. Exercising makes different parts of your body move together smoothly. This is helpful for first responders to ensure they are safe when performing their duties, ensuring they are not making a rescue more hazardous. People recovering from injuries can also regain balance with prescribed exercise routines.
4. **Injury protection.** Practicing the movements involved in a rescue situation can help prevent injury. Exercise equipment that is simple and easy to use protects your spine from movements that cause back pain. If you lift heavy objects off the floor correctly while exercising, you can avoid accidents picking up heavy objects at work or home.
5. **Prevents muscle loss.** Strength training, cardio training and physical fitness can maintain and increase muscle mass, bone density and strength. Training muscles will continue to enhance strength and agility which can effectively improve overall posture. These exercises trigger many areas of muscles and joints providing a better overall physical movement when required in a rescue.

**Options**

1. First Responders showing appropriate credentials would receive a discount of the applicable price for monthly or annual passes
2. First responders could gather together and apply for the group fitness pass discount, paying only 75% of the applicable rate for 3 months at a time (scheduled seasonally)
3. First responders do not receive a discount and pay applicable fees

**Other Considerations**

- First responders are an integral part of keeping our communities safe. They respond quickly and expertly in emergencies, assisting our community to be looked after. Which first responders would be a part of this program?
  - RCMP
  - Fire
  - Ambulance
  - Search and Rescue
- Which areas of the Cariboo Regions should be able to access a discount, in or out of the taxation areas?
  - Central Cariboo Region
- Some first responder agencies and employers do have access to wellness funds for their workers and volunteers.
  - Utilize these funds instead of a discounts if those first responder agencies are interested

**Financial Considerations (Cost and Resource Allocation)**

- ☒ Yes: Admissions may increase if the discount is marketed to the First Responders.
- ☐ N/A

**Legislative Considerations (Applicable Policies and/or Bylaws)**

- ☒ Yes: Bylaw 5213 Fees and Charges would require an amendment.
- ☐ N/A

**This project aligns with the following Focus Areas of Council's Strategic Plan:**

- ☒ Collaboration and Partnerships
- ☐ Indigenous Relations
- ☒ Livability / Positive Atmosphere
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Infrastructure
- ☐ Organizational Effectiveness
- OR
- ☐ \*Core Service (not identified in Focus Areas, but necessary local government function)

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**This report has been prepared in consultation with:**

- Chief Administrative Officer

**Approved for Agenda by:**

Chief Administrative Officer

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Miranda  
Director of Community Services

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**Attachment A – Bylaw #5213**

[CIPSRT | First responder \(cipsrt-icrtsp.ca\)](https://cipsrt-icrtsp.ca)

[Key Messages - Canadian Parks and Recreation Association \(cpra.ca\)](https://cpra.ca)