



**AFFORDABLE ACCESS TO RECREATION POLICY**

<b>SECTION:</b> Financial	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> March 26, 2018
<b>RECOMMENDATION NO.:</b> GC25-18 <b>AMENDED BY:</b> GC129-24	<b>COUNCIL APPROVAL:</b> Res. No. 95-18
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Affordable Access to Recreation	<b>POLICY NUMBER:</b> Budget&Financial-17

**POLICY**

The Town of Huntsville recognizes and promotes the full participation of all Huntsville residents in recreational programs and services regardless of financial circumstances. The Town of Huntsville is committed to enhancing the quality of life for the community by ensuring age-friendly, accessible and inclusive recreation and leisure opportunities for all residents.

The Town of Huntsville to provide the Affordable Access to Recreation Program, as a mechanism to support affordable access to recreational opportunities for residents and households living with a low combined income.

**DEFINITIONS**

**Recreation Programs:** activities of recreation, sport, art, or cultural nature that may be self-directed or instructional, providing skill development in a particular leisure pursuit.

**Recreation Services:** recreational and membership services available through the purchase of memberships, drop-in activities including but not limited to aquatics, fitness, and skating.

**Financial Assistance:** an approved reduction in user/participant fee charged by The Town of Huntsville for participation in a program or delivery of a service.

**Low Income:** income threshold (*determined by analyzing family composition and expenditure data*) below which families will devote a larger share of income to the necessities of food, shelter and clothing than an average family would. (Statistics Canada)

**SCOPE**

The Affordable Access to Recreation Program to include per eligible person per calendar year the following:

- Children & Youth (up to 17 years of age):
- Annual public swim/skate pass
- and
- 100% off of two (2) youth registered programs\*

Adult (18 years of age and older):

One of the following:

- Annual public swim/skate pass
- 52 Drop-ins per year to adult/55+ drop-in programs (Pool Drop-ins/Fitness Drop-ins/Active Living Centre/ Skating Drop-Ins)
- 100% off of up to two (2) registered programs\*

Plus one of the following:

- 1 Single Visit to Muskoka Heritage Place which could include an individual or family
- Up to 5 tickets to one show hosted by the Algonquin theatre

*\*Any programs requiring Manuals, Certification or administration costs, must be paid in full by recipient, at time of Registration.*

**Eligibility**

Town of Huntsville permanent residents who have lived in Huntsville for at least 30 days and who are able to demonstrate residency.

Households include family members and dependents residing at the same address.

Full-time post-secondary students are not eligible.

Part-time post-secondary students are eligible.

A combined household income that is at, or below, the most recently reported low income cut-offs before tax for the population of Huntsville, as set out by Statistics Canada. [Table 11-10-0241-01 Low income cut-offs \(LICOs\) before and after tax by community size and family size, in current dollars.](#)


The Manager of Recreation Culture and Heritage has the authority to approve the eligibility of Program applicants, based on consultation with local agencies and under special circumstances.

**Restrictions & Parameters**

Passes and tickets are not redeemable for cash value.

Passes/tickets must be used within the calendar year. Passes/tickets are not transferrable from one year to the next and or from person to person.

Participants must register in person for any programs they wish to apply for.

Youth day camp programs are excluded from this program. Financial assistance for camp programs for eligible individuals is available through the District of Muskoka.

The minimum number of participants in registered programs must be reached for registration to proceed.

Participants must follow all other registration and participation guidelines and rules when registering and or participating.

This policy extends to eligible programs and services directly delivered by the Town of Huntsville.

This policy excludes contracted program agreements with individuals/organizations delivering programs in partnership or on behalf of the Town, unless language related to affordable access is incorporated into the agreement.

This policy excludes programs and services where discounts and subsidies already exist (i.e. Day camp programs).

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

The Community Services Department will regularly monitor the effectiveness of the Policy and Program and identify amendments, including updating the eligibility based on Statistics Canada, as required.

Staff will monitor and record attendance at recreational programs and eligible services and ensure minimums of full paid registrations are being met before subsidized program registrations are accepted.