



City of Kelowna
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Council Policy

Recreation and Cultural Services – Philosophy/Fees & Charges Policy

APPROVED November 23, 1992

RESOLUTION: R375/10/04/26
REPLACING: R892/99/11/01; S1315/1992/11/23
DATE OF LAST REVIEW: April 2010

A. STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The City of Kelowna provides a variety of recreation, parks and leisure services as a vehicle to achieve benefits for all individuals and for the community at large.

AND

The level of community resources that the City of Kelowna dedicates towards these services should be directly related to the extent of benefit to the community and the City's ability to pay.

Although not limited to the following, benefits to the community can be defined as activities that:

- lead to individual growth or community development
- improve the physical or social well being of the community and the individual
- enhance or support family life
- promote community spirit and pride
- beautify or protect the environment
- enhance leadership qualities in individuals
- enhance personal skill development related to leisure and recreation activities
- integrate persons of low socio-economic status and person with disabilities
- enhance the quality of life in the City's outdoor environment.

B. POLICY STATEMENT FOR FEES AND CHARGES

The purpose of these policy statements is to guide the overall system of fees and charges so that there is internal consistency and a fair level of financial contribution by the participant and by the City of Kelowna.

1. In order to justify the City's involvement, services must provide some level of benefit to the public. Services that can demonstrate a greater public benefit justify a greater commitment of municipal resources than those that do not. (Access to parks, facilities, and commitments of staff time are the primary municipal resources provided by the Recreation and Cultural Services Department.)
2. Fees should not be a barrier to participation in basic recreation and cultural services and the City of Kelowna will ensure that a system is available to assist those who cannot afford fees for basic services. (The concept of a "basic park and leisure service" is defined in Appendix "A".)
3. Fees and charges should be applied consistently to all sectors of the community regardless of race, ethnic origin, age, religion, gender or disability. Lower fees to certain sectors of the community are justified by defined community benefits. (For example: lower fees to children or seniors encourage higher levels of participation and higher levels of participation by these age groups has a number of broad community benefits.)
4. While respecting statements 1, 2 and 3, fees and charges will, whenever possible, reflect costs and fair market value for the services offered because revenue received offsets the demand on general taxation and thus allows for more services to be provided.

5. While the financial commitment to individual programs, facilities, and services varies depending on the nature of the service, the City of Kelowna will strive to improve efficiency and effectiveness. Higher rates of cost recovery for certain service will be achieved by:
- (a) charging fair market value for services when it is appropriate to do so;
 - (b) prudent cost controls;
 - (c) including in the service mix those services which are more financially productive; and
 - (d) raising fees when it is not in conflict with policies (a), (b) and (c).

C. APPENDIX "A"

A DEFINITION OF BASIC RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC BENEFIT

BASIC RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES are broadly beneficial and widely available to the public. They fulfill the following criteria:

1. Consistency with the goals and objectives of the City of Kelowna and the Recreation and Cultural Services Department.
2. Socially worthwhile.
3. Broadly accessible by:
 - * being available to large numbers of participants;
 - * having low fee levels;
 - * having minimal transportation barriers to the location;
 - * having low costs for getting started in the activity;and by lacking other barriers such as age, gender, and skill level.
4. A reasonably safe activity that does not subject participants to a high degree of risk.
5. Provide opportunities for human development.
6. Respond to an identifiable local need.
7. Feasible from a financial and practical perspective.

(NOTE: There is a recognized system available to enable the Recreation and Cultural Services Department to determine if a service satisfies the criteria to be a Basic Recreation and Cultural Services. Examples of basic recreation and cultural services would include: public swims, youth soccer and use of local parks for passive recreation.)

REASON FOR POLICY

To identify policy statements that will guide the overall system of fees and charges for recreation and cultural services so that there is internal consistency and a fair level of financial contribution by the participant and by the City of Kelowna.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Council Resolution.

PROCEDURE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The Director of Recreation and Cultural Services ensures adherence to these policy statements.