



NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

City of Campbellton implementing leisure card requirement at Memorial Regional Civic Centre

CAMPBELLTON, N.B. – The City of Campbellton is moving ahead with the implementation of a leisure card at the Memorial Regional Civic Centre, a facility which benefits and serves the entire local area.

“We are thankful to municipalities and to the Province of New Brunswick for responding to our letter in such a short period of time. Unfortunately, imminent registrations for minor sports associations allotted not much time for consultation and decision-making” says Mayor Stephanie Anglehart-Paulin.

“We must move forward quickly in the best interests of City of Campbellton taxpayers,” Mayor Anglehart-Paulin said. “Our primary duty is to them. With that said, we clearly recognize that this may cause inconvenience for some people. We remain sincerely committed to working with local communities to minimize impacts on individuals – especially our region’s children. These sorts of arrangements between municipalities over recreational facilities are made all the time and we have no reason to believe that we can’t come to suitable agreements.”

As previously announced, the leisure card is not the City of Campbellton’s preferred route of action. With that said, for this first year of implementation, the City has decided to significantly reduce the anticipated cost of the card for non-residents from the initial \$500-\$1,000 to \$200 per user. This will be in effect for only the first year of implementation in order to offer a period of adjustment and further negotiations which will hopefully lead to understanding and consensus.

Leisure cards will be available beginning Monday, Sept. 10, at the Memorial Regional Civic Centre's customer service desk from Monday to Thursday, 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m., with additional hours on Tuesdays from 4-7 p.m. and Thursdays (Sept. only) from 4-7 p.m. Applicants will be required to present identification which includes proof of residence. Details can be found on the City of Campbellton’s website at www.campbellton.org, on the City of Campbellton’s Facebook page at facebook.com/campbelltonnb or by calling the Memorial Regional Civic Centre at 506-789-2888 as of next Tuesday.

Campbellton residents will get the card at no cost. Cards will also be provided at no cost for Dalhousie and Tide Head residents for the first year. The City of Campbellton recognizes and thanks the Village of Tide Head for the municipality's contribution to the Memorial Regional Civic Centre's operations thus far this year.

Non-resident families of four (two adults, two children) will obtain a rebate of \$100 on the total cost; and an additional \$100 rebate on each additional child.

"We are also offering the option to municipalities and LSDs to enter into an agreement with the City of Campbellton where they would pay for the leisure cards requested by their residents," Mayor Anglehart-Paulin says. "This would eliminate the need for users to find the money up front or for changes to their tax rates."

The new cards will be valid from Sept. 10, 2018, to June 30, 2019, with a free extension to Aug. 31, 2019, should the Memorial Regional Civic Centre remain open next summer.

The leisure card will be required to be admitted to public activities (public swim, public skating, squash courts, walking track, etc.). It will also be required to register for programs such as aquafit, swimming lessons, etc., as well as sports such as minor hockey, figure skating, speed skating, etc.

The leisure card will not be required for events (Promotion Plus, Tigers' games, concerts, performances, etc.). It will not be required for rentals (adult hockey, pool school rentals, convention centre events, birthday parties, etc.), and will not impact hockey tournaments. As well, tenants will not be affected, such as the dance school, YMCA, etc.

"The facility adds to the entire region's quality of life, which in turn encourages people to live and work here," Mayor Anglehart-Paulin says. "We can't keep our families here or attract professionals such as doctors and others without facilities such as the Memorial Regional Civic Centre and the Dalhousie Recreaplex and Inch Arran Arena."

"We appreciate the patience and understanding of local residents as we work toward a system that everyone can agree upon," says Mayor Anglehart-Paulin. "Our sincere intent is to ensure fairness, while also realizing that the Memorial Regional Centre also plays an important role in the lives of people who live outside of the City of Campbellton, as well. Other areas of New Brunswick have faced similar challenges and have found solutions. We are confident that by working together we can reach consensus, as well, as we work through the process."

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