



City of Richmond Diversity Services Section

An Introduction to the Recreation Fee Subsidy Program

The City of Richmond and its partners provide some support to those in financial need to assist them in accessing services and programs. This service is called the **Recreation Fee Subsidy Program** and is specifically there to assist those in Richmond that earn a low income. It is a program to provide short term help for those families that would really benefit from their children accessing recreation.

Some often asked questions with their answers:

Q - I used to live in a different municipality and received a different level of support, why was this?

A - *Different municipalities have different systems in place. Each municipality has a different arrangement to assist those earning low incomes.*

Q - How do you define what is meant by 'low income'?

A - *The definition of low income is based on family low income levels from Statistics Canada (yearly) for size of family in this size of community.*

Q - Who is the Recreation Fee Subsidy Program aimed at?

A - *It is aimed at families on low income to assist and encourage teenagers, children and families to participate in recreation.*

Q - What does it mean that this support is 'means tested'?

A - *This means that your eligibility for this program is based on your total household income and you will be asked to provide evidence of this income.*

Q - What financial information will I be asked for?

A - *You will be asked for your official document from Revenue Canada that states your income levels and tax levels (T1 general). You will also be asked to provide proof of Richmond residence (e.g. a utility bill). If you have not yet been in Canada long enough to have a T1 general you will need to bring your landing papers.*

Q - What assistance will I get from the Recreation Fee Subsidy Program?

A - *You will receive one program or opportunity per child per-season (every 3 months) or one family activity per season. You can choose one program or activity you are interested in.*

Q - I am not currently working but have savings and investments. Are these taken into account in my financial assessment for Recreation Fee Subsidy?

A - *Yes, all income and savings and investments are taken into account. You may not be working but still not considered 'low income' by our definition.*

Q - How do I find out more and/or apply for Recreation Fee Subsidy?

A - *The first step is to call the **Recreation Fee Subsidy Line** at **604-247-4909**. You will be asked some basic questions about your finances. If it is felt you may be eligible you will be asked to come into our office for a short interview. If no one is available to answer your call, please leave a message.*



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An Introduction to the Recreation Access Card

The **Recreation Access Card** program has been designed to assist people who have a permanent disability or those with a mental health issue. The program has been designed to make sure that those that need the help are assisted to lead healthy lifestyles and do not face financial barriers in accessing recreation opportunities.

Some often asked questions with their answers:

Q - Will I be asked for proof that I have a permanent disability or chronic mental health issue?

A - *Yes, but this proof will be no more than a letter from your doctor or therapist that states the nature of your condition and confirms a permanent disability.*

Q - I have been injured in a car accident and my doctor recommends regular exercise or rehabilitation. Will I be eligible for the Recreation Access Card?

A - *You will not be eligible unless your condition is permanent and you can provide a letter of confirmation of your condition from a doctor / therapist.*

Q - I have just come to live in Canada and don't yet have a Canadian doctor. Can proof of my condition be a letter from a doctor in my country of origin?

A - *Yes, that is acceptable as long as you can provide full contact details for this doctor and the letter of confirmation of permanent disability is written in English.*

Q - Will I need to provide proof of income or talk about my finances?

A - *No, the **Recreation Access Card** is not based on your ability to pay.*

Q - Will my assistant or attendant have to pay?

A - *No, once you have been accepted for the **Recreation Access Card** your assistant or attendant (if required) will be able to accompany you for free to recreational activities. If an assistant or attendant does accompany you, they must be there to help you participate in the activity.*

Q - What recreation activities will the Recreation Access Card give me access to?

A - *The **Recreation Access Card** will allow you fifty percent discount on any 'drop-in' activity. Your attendant or assistant (if required) can accompany you free of charge.*

Q - Will I need to renew my Recreation Access Card every year?

A - *No, once you have been approved your eligibility is permanent.*

Q - How do I apply for the Recreation Access Card?

A - *Pick up a **Recreation Access Card** application form from City Hall or any City facility or from the City website at <http://www.richmond.ca/parksrec/about/access/card.htm>. Return all completed forms to any City facility. Your application will take approximately two weeks to process.*