

CITY OF NANAIMO
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

LEISURE ECONOMIC ACCESS POLICY
(LEAP PROGRAM)

Policy Goal:

To ensure that all residents of Nanaimo have access to programs and services provided by the City of Nanaimo, Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture.

Policy Statement:

All citizens of Nanaimo shall have access to programs and services provided by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture regardless of ability to pay.

Policy Objectives:

1. Special programs will be targeted to groups and communities statistically in economical need (e.g. A free floor hockey program for children with volunteer instructor offered at Princess Royal School).
2. A Leisure Economic Access Policy (LEAP) Card will allow a 50% reduction in program fees and a "children's rate" for swim, fitness centre and skate admission to persons meeting the Assistance Eligibility Criteria.
3. A Swim/Skate Pass will entitle children (under 19 years) of families meeting the above criteria to 50 free swim or skate sessions in a one year period.

Assistance Eligibility Criteria:

A Leisure Economic Access Policy (LEAP) Card will be issued to City of Nanaimo, Electoral Area A (Cranberry, Cedar, South Wellington), Electoral Area B (Gabriola), Electoral Area C (Extension) and Electoral Area D (Lantzville, East Wellington) residents who meet one of the following criteria:

1. **Referral:** Any person who has been referred by a recognized social service or advocacy agency - examples are Ministry of Social Services, Ministry of Health, Citizens Advocacy, Legal Aid, Nanaimo Independent Living Resource Centre, Haven House, Canadian Mental Health. This is a non exhaustive list which may change from time to time. The referring agencies will certify that the applicant meets the limited income criteria and will stamp and sign the application form (attached).
2. **Proof of financial assistance:** Any person who can show proof of income assistance- GAIN cheque stub, GAIN For Handicapped cheque stub or Ministry Transit Pass, B.C. Care Card (H2 designation), B.C. Senior's Supplement.
3. **Others in Need:** Any person dependent upon a limited income who cannot afford to participate in recreational programs or services. A verbal declaration may be accepted or proof of income may be required by the Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture or his\her designate. The following gross annual incomes "Low Income Cut-offs for Family Units in the City of Nanaimo" are a guide to who will be eligible to request assistance. These income levels are based on a \$3000 reduction from the Statistics Canada Low Income Cut-offs for Family Units (April 23\93).

Low Income Cut-offs for Family Units in the City of Nanaimo

Family Size	Gross Annual	Gross Monthly
1 person	\$10,021	\$835
2 persons	14,650	1220
3 persons	19,434	1620
4 persons	22,830	1900
5 persons	25,221	2100
6+ persons	27,632	2300

Those living independently who may be dependent upon others for financial support (e.g. students) must consider total family income including that of the supporting individual.

Upon meeting the eligibility criteria above, a Leisure Economic Access Policy (LEAP) Card for adults and a Leisure Economic Access Policy (LEAP) Card along with a Swim/Skate Pass for those under 19 years old will be issued.

Limitations:

1. The Leisure Economic Access Policy (LEAP) Card and Swim/Skate Pass will be valid for one year only from the time of issue.
2. One recreational program per season per individual may be accessed with the LEAP Card. Programs available with this card may be restricted. Extra supplies or equipment costs would not be discounted.
3. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture retains the right to suspend or alter this program without notice.
4. The LEAP card and Swim/Skate Pass may be canceled for non-observance of the rules.
5. All LEAP Card applicants must fill out a volunteer information form and be prepared to volunteer time with the department or another designated community organization.

A Reserve Fund for this Program will be established in the amount of \$1500 for the remainder of 1993 and \$5000 budgeted for 1994.

Additional Notes:

1. People with a disability whether or not they are eligible to receive a LEAP Card, who require the assistance or support of an aide in order to participate are entitled to have that person admitted at no charge.
2. The Leisure Economic Access Policy (LEAP) will be advertised in each Leisure Guide.

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CITY OF NANAIMO
PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE

LEAP CARD
(LEISURE ECONOMIC ACCESS POLICY)
GUIDELINES

Leisure Economic Access Policy (LEAP) Cards are for use by City of Nanaimo residents whose limited income does not allow them to participate in recreational programs operated by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture, City of Nanaimo. In order to qualify for the card, you must meet one of the following criteria:

- 1. Referral:** You receive services from a recognized social service or advocacy agency - examples are Ministry of Social Services, Ministry of Health, Citizens Advocacy, Legal Aid, Nanaimo Independent Living Resource Centre, Haven House, Canadian Mental Health. The staff of the agency have certified that you meet the limited income criteria and have stamped and signed the front of this form. You will receive a LEAP Card when you present this form to Beban or Bowen Park offices.
- 2. Proof of financial assistance:** You receive one of the following forms of assistance:
GAIN - please show cheque stub
GAIN for Handicapped - please show cheque stub or Ministry Transit Pass
Medical Services Plan - Premium Reduced - please show B.C. Care Card
B.C. Senior's Supplement - please show proof of acceptance
You will receive a LEAP Card when you show one of the above documents with a completed application form to a staff member at Beban or Bowen Park.
- 3. Others in Need:** If you do not receive one of the forms of assistance described above, you live in Nanaimo, and cannot afford to participate in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture programs, you may meet our definition of others in need. The following gross annual or monthly incomes are a guide to who is eligible to request assistance.

Family Size	Gross Annual	Gross Monthly
1 person	\$10,021	\$835
2 persons	14,650	1220
3 persons	19,434	1620
4 persons	22,830	1900
5 persons	25,221	2100
6+ persons	27,632	2300

Those living independently who may be dependent upon others for financial support (e.g. students) must consider total family income including that of the supporting individual. Please check category 3 on the reverse and give the form to a staff member at Beban or Bowen Park.

For more information call 756-5200.

