


LEAP

Leisure Economic Access Pass



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Today's Agenda:

1. What is LEAP?
2. LEAP review recommendations
3. Statistics 2011-2024
4. Questions

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What is LEAP?

- The City of Nanaimo's Leisure Economic Access Pass (LEAP) supports residents living below the poverty line to access Parks, Recreation and Culture programs and services.
- It started in 1993 with the purpose that *"all citizens of Nanaimo shall have access to programs and services provided by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture regardless of the ability to pay"*.
- Open to residents of City of Nanaimo, District of Lantzville, & Regional District of Nanaimo Electoral Areas A, B & C.

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What do LEAP passes include?

- Admissions – skating, swimming, weight rooms, gym sports
- Subsidies – programs, memberships

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LEAP Review

In 2020-2021, a thorough review of the LEAP program was conducted and the ACAI committee recommended 14 changes which were approved by Mayor & Council in 2021-2022.

The overall goals of the LEAP recommendations are to reduce barriers and increase participation.

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Recommendations:

1. No longer include additional income on top of the Notice of Assessment (NOA) (ie. Child tax benefit, spousal support, rental income) **DONE**
2. No longer require at TD1 for incomes under \$9000 **DONE**
3. Make the application process easier by reducing the amount of supporting documentation to 1 piece of photo ID, proof of residency and proof of eligibility. **DONE**
4. Provide an option for applying online **DONE**

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Recommendations continued:

5. Revise/simplify the application form to make it more easily understandable **DONE**
6. Offer private appointments for applicants to discuss the program with a Recreation Coordinator privately by phone or in-person. **DONE**
7. Allow a one-time top up of 50 punches if all their drop ins are used **DONE**

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Recommendations continued:

8. Provide alternate options for proof of need, other than NOA. Basically "pre-approvals" for folks who have already been financially scrutinized by another level of government and are already deemed low-income. **DONE**
 - Income/Social Assistance
 - Children/Youth in Care
 - Guaranteed Income Supplement for Seniors (GIS)
 - Refugees/Newcomers with emergency landing docs
 - Community Living BC clients (CLBC)

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Recommendations continued:

9. For folks whose situation is unlikely to change in a 1 year period, issue a 2 year LEAP pass to reduce the requirement to reapply every year (2 years instead) and give double the entitlements **DONE**

10. Create a process for adjudicators or agency referrals **IN PROGRESS – PILOT**

11. Work with other City owned facility operators to expand the LEAP program offerings to include our culture partners **IN PROGRESS – Nanaimo Art Gallery, Nanaimo Museum and Bastion DONE.**

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Recommendations continued:

12. Research options for reducing transportation barriers **IN PROGRESS**

13. Research how post-secondary students could be included in LEAP program and/or if there's a partnership possibility for VIU. **FUTURE**

14. Create a marketing and communications plan & connect with key organizations and community partners. **FUTURE**

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Conclusion:

- The goals of the recommendations are to reduce barriers and increase participation in the LEAP program.
- The recommendations also aim to reduce the stigma for people to apply by lowering the amount of financial scrutiny required.
- The changes have been very well received and participation has increased by 447% since 2019 (pre-covid)
- The City will continue to help people living in poverty in Nanaimo to access the recreation facilities through the LEAP program as per City Plan and the Integrated Action Plan.

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