



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
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Item No. 15.6.1

Request for Council's Consideration		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Included on Agenda (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Thursday)	<input type="checkbox"/> Added Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday)	<input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor
Date of Council Meeting: July 12 th , 2022		
Subject: Recreation Funding Access Application Process		
Motion for Council to Consider: That Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to provide a staff report regarding reducing barriers to recreation for vulnerable communities including barriers to using Recreation Funding Access Program from the Affordable Access Program.		
Reason: Regional Council has identified creating involved, inclusive and affordable communities as a council priority in the 2021-2025 Strategic Priorities Plan and the goal of the Recreation Funding Access program is to provide recreation opportunities to children, youth and adults in financial need. Currently, in order to apply for the program, you must create accounts for the family members applying for programs, complete an application form and include proof of financial need, which is to consist of one of the following: (a) the applicant's most recent Notice of Assessment from Canada Revenue Agency; (b) a letter or stamp from the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services; or (c) a referral from a community professional who is qualified to assess financial need and is associated with a recognized community-based agency. This application process can be arduous for families who are already overburdened with financial hardship. While this kind of proof of income is an important verification for other aspects of the Affordable Access Program including property tax exemptions and deferrals, the risk of residents taking advantage of Recreation Funding Access would be easily outweighed by making it more accessible for residents who are in need.		
Outcome Sought: Staff report detailing options for reducing barriers for vulnerable communities to access recreation opportunities at low or no cost.		
Councillor Tony Mancini	District 6	