

Public engagement underway for Recreation Facility Allocation Policy

Jan. 27, 2020 — Work continues to ensure St. Catharines remains a community where everyone can play as the City engages the public for input on a new Recreation Facility Allocation Policy.

Staff have been researching best practices preparing to create the policy to replace the existing Ice Allocation Policy that codifies the decision-making process for allocation of facilities at City arenas. The new policy will extend to all City recreation facilities, creating a uniform process to ensure facility use is equitable for all users. In late 2020 the City held consultations with existing user and stakeholder groups and is now expanding those consultations to the public at large via an online survey.

“There’s a lot to balance when it comes to fairly and equitably allocating our recreation resources beyond a first-come-first serve model, any new policy will need to consider the needs of the community as a whole in addition to those of specific user groups and demographics,” said Programs and Culture Services Manager Lori Mambella, “adding, “we’re looking to the public to help us weigh and balance those needs and competing priorities as we look to build an equitable recreation landscape.”

The new policy will consider numerous factors such as:

- Non-profit versus for profit use
- Adult use versus opportunities for seniors and youth
- Local versus non-local use
- Competitive versus non-competitive use
- Public programming versus private leagues / organizations
- Primetime versus non-primetime use
- New versus existing user groups

Residents can take the survey by visiting engagestc.ca/RecFacilities before March 1, 2021.

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