



Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

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REPORT #: OPS-25-017

COMMITTEE DATE: 2025-05-13

DUE IN COUNCIL: 2025-05-27

REPORT TO: COTW-General

SUBJECT: Niagara Region Fee Subsidy Program

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is respectfully recommended that:

- 1.1 The Agreement with the Niagara Region for a fee subsidy program for recreational programs within the Town attached as Appendix I be **APPROVED**; and
- 1.2 Council **AUTHORIZE** the Lord Mayor and Town Clerk to execute the Agreement between Niagara Region and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake;

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Commissioner of Niagara Region Community Services reached out to the CAO's office regarding the possibility of establishing a fee subsidy agreement for municipally-run childcare camps.
- An agreement between the Niagara Region and the Town would provide eligible low-income families access to the Town's recreation programming at a discounted rate through a regional subsidy.
- Town staff reviewed the Niagara Region Fee Subsidy - Recreation Services Agreement (**Appendix I**), and there is no cost to the Town for providing this service.
- The subsidy of program fees will improve access to our recreational programs by eliminating an entry barrier.

3. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to request approval of an Agreement (**Appendix I**) between Niagara Region and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake to establish a fee subsidy program for municipally run child care camps.

4. BACKGROUND

In January 2025, Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Parks & Recreation staff and Niagara Region – Community Services staff met to discuss a fee subsidy program available to clients in the Niagara Region's Child Care Services program. This program could be offered to clients looking to enroll in Town recreation programming; all it requires is an agreement with the Niagara Region.

5. DISCUSSION / ANALYSIS

Staff reviewed the program presented by the Niagara Region. This program would provide clients of the Niagara Region's Child Care Services with discounted or fully subsidized program fees for recreational programs offered by the Town, including Summer Camp, March Break Camp, December Camp, Aquatics, and Registered Programs. This program is only available for youth enrolled in the Niagara Region subsidy program.

Staff would be responsible for reporting specific requirements to the Region, such as attendance, injuries, and serious occurrences.

This program aligns with Council's Strategic Plan through the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Lens by removing systemic barriers and fostering community partnerships under the Vibrant & Complete Community Pillar.

6. STRATEGIC PLAN

The content of this report supports the following Strategic Plan initiatives:

Pillar

1. Vibrant & Complete Community

Priority

1.2 Economic Development & Community Partnerships

Action

1.2 b) Community Partnership

7. OPTIONS

7.1 Option 1: Council approve the fee subsidy agreement between the Niagara Region and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. **(Recommended)**

7.2 Option 2: Council does not approve the agreement between the Niagara Region and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. *(Not Recommended)*

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct cost implications to the Town for this program. The Niagara Region bears all the costs associated with this program. This program will provide opportunities to the clients of the Niagara Region's Child Care Services program, resulting in potentially more revenue for Town programs.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications with this report.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

The Town will advise the Niagara Region of the approval of the agreement. Staff will work with the Niagara Region on how they would like the program to be promoted (if applicable).

11. CONCLUSION

Staff recommend that Council approve the Agreement for Fee Subsidy from the Niagara Region and authorize the Lord Mayor and Clerk to sign the agreement and the corresponding By-law (**Appendix II**).

12. PREVIOUS REPORTS

N/A

13. APPENDICES

- Appendix I – Niagara Region Fee Subsidy – Recreation Service Agreement
- Appendix II – 2025-0XX – DRAFT BY-LAW – Niagara Region Fee Subsidy

Respectfully submitted:

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Recommended by:



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Submitted by:



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