

## **Community Use of Schools Program**

### **Program Definition 1.0**

#### **.1 Purpose**

The Program has been specifically established to provide assistance to District School Boards to increase affordable access for Not-For-Profit Groups to both indoor and outdoor school space. It is envisioned that these measures will help achieve greater accessibility across the Province with respect to community use of schools at reduced rates. It is recognized that changes to accessibility and costs to users as a result of this program are ultimately intended to benefit the individual participants.

#### **.2 Conditions**

The Sudbury Catholic District School Board covenants that it will:

1. Continue to reduce cost barriers commencing September 1, 2006 for Not-For-Profit Groups
2. Endeavour to increase access for Not-For-Profit Groups.
3. Continue discussions with municipalities on joint use agreements with the intent of improving accessibility and reducing cost barriers where appropriate.
4. Offer Not-For-Profit Groups fair access to school space during non-school hours.
5. Provide priority access for Not-For-Profit Groups serving children and youth and low-income groups.

### **Criteria for Qualifying for Reduced Rates 2.0**

#### **Ministry of Education and Sudbury Catholic District School Board Joint Policy Statement on Community Use of Schools**

##### **.1 Statement on The Need for a Government Policy on Community Use of Schools:**

Non-profit community Groups and organizations depend on affordable access to publicly funded school space to conduct their activities.

Community Groups and SCDSB have identified a number of factors that have resulted in significant decreases in community use of school facilities particularly by Not-For-Profit Groups. These include:

- a) The difficulty community Groups have in accessing school facilities for their activities due to either unavailability of space or unaffordable rental fees;

### **Criteria for Qualifying for Reduced Rates 2.0** (cont'd)

## **.1 Statement on The Need for a Government Policy on Community Use of Schools: (cont'd)**

b) The additional costs which District School Boards incur when keeping schools open in the evening or on weekends as a result of:

1. Heating and lighting costs
2. Custodial costs
3. Greater liability risk with community use of schools
4. Shortage of dedicated funding to offset costs of community use of schools in non-school hours

These factors have created new barriers to community programs and participation in those, programs by members of the public who rely on affordable access to school facilities.

This framework is being issued to guide partnership involvement in preserving the community use of schools as a cornerstone of building strong and healthy communities.

## **.2 Vision**

*"Schools in Sudbury are recognized as hubs for community activity and will be affordable and accessible to communities in order to support the goals of a healthier Ontario, stronger communities and student success."*

## **.3 Policy Goals:**

- a) Remove cost barriers associated with community use of school facilities and increase participation in community programs located in publicly funded school facilities.
- b) Achieve consistency across the City of Greater Sudbury in terms of community access to schools at nominal rates.
- c) Encourage co-operation between the SCDSB and municipalities regarding use of school space.

## **.4 Policy. Principles:**

The following are defining principles and that should guide the implementation of this agreement:

- a) Schools as Hubs of Communities  
Schools are the hubs of their communities and offer an effective use of taxpayers' investment in providing citizens with a place to come together, volunteer, build skills, access community programs, become physically active and build strong and healthy communities.

## **Criteria for Qualifying for Reduced Rates 2.0 (cont'd)**

#### **.4 Policy. Principles: (cont'd)**

b) Fair and Equal Access

Schools are welcoming and inclusive and will offer community organizations and citizens fair access to use of school space at nominal rates or no fees for community purposes in non-school hours.

c) Respect for Roles and Responsibilities

Community use of school facilities will be facilitated by stakeholder partners who respect each other's roles, responsibilities and obligations to the community and education system.

d) School Activities are a Priority

School day activities and extra-curricular activities organized or administered by the school or The Board shall have priority use of school space during and after school hours.

e. Not-For-Profit organizations to be charged no fees or nominal rates.

The SCDSB, where feasible, will ensure that after-hours user fees for school facilities are affordable for Not-For-Profit community users.

#### **.5 Roles and Responsibilities**

Provincial Government - The provincial government has a responsibility to build strong and healthy communities by providing policy direction and supporting and promoting cooperative planning processes and approaches amongst the partners involved in community use of schools.

Municipal Governments - Municipal governments are responsible for providing a range of community, sport, and recreation opportunities by encouraging engagement with the SCDSB to facilitate community use of schools.

SCDSB - The SCDSB is responsible for coordinating community use of affordable school space when not being used for school purposes as a regular part of Board business, and for engaging the municipalities in joint planning to facilitate community use of schools.

Community Groups using school space - Community Groups seeking the use of school facilities are responsible for adhering to The Board's administrative procedures for the use of school space. They are also responsible for ensuring that school facilities are utilized in a responsible and respectful manner.

#### **Criteria for Qualifying for Reduced Rates 2.0 (cont'd)**

## **.6 Community Groups**

### **.1 Not-For-Profit Groups**

Not-For-Profit Groups are corporations incorporated for the purpose of carrying on, without financial gain, objects of a patriotic, charitable, philanthropic, religious, professional, sporting or athletic character.

For the purposes of this document Not-For-Profit Groups shall be further defined to include:

**a) Not-For-Profit Youth-Related Community Groups** -run by local youth groups such as Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, 4H Clubs and Cadets etc., are local youth groups where the activities are intended for participants under the age of 18 (or where the participants are under a disability then under the age of 28).

**b) Not-For-Profit Recognized Children's Sport And Recreation Service Providers-** are as defined by the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation's Recognition Criteria For Children's Recreation Services. (See Below Item 7)

**c) Not-For-Profit Childcare Operations** - groups involved with before and after-school childcare programs delivered by eligible operators (as per the Day Nurseries Act) within the SCDSB.

**d) Other Not-For-Profit Or Charitable Groups** - other groups such as local service clubs, community health associations, seniors Groups etc. as determined by the district school board.

**e) Municipal programs and services eligible under the joint use agreements between the City of Greater Sudbury; Municipality of Killarney; Municipality of Markstay-Warren and The Board.**

Note: municipal programs and services are eligible only if the municipality providing the program has a joint use agreement with the SCDSB.

**.2 Recipient** – The Sudbury Catholic District School Board.

**.3 Program** - Community Use of Schools Program.

**.4 Joint Use Agreement** - Agreement concerning use of facilities as provided for under Section 183 of the Education Act.

## **Criteria for Qualifying for Reduced Rates 2.0** (cont'd)

### **.6 Community Groups**(cont'd)

**.5 Municipalities** - City of Greater Sudbury, Municipality of Killarney; Municipality of Markstay-Warren.

**.6 Charitable Status** - An organization established and operated for charitable purposes, that devotes its resources to charitable activities. The organization must be registrated with Revenue Canada as a charity, under the Income Tax Act.

### **.7 RECOGNITION CRITERIA FOR CHILDREN'S RECREATION SERVICES**

The following are recognized by the SCDSB:

1. Recreation committees appointed by
  - i. the council of a local municipality,
  - ii. the councils of two or more local municipalities,
  - iii. the council of the band,
  - iv. the councils of two or more bands,
  - v. the council of one or more local municipalities and the council of one or more bands,
  - vi. a school board,
  - vii. two or more school boards,
2. Recreation camp organizations accredited by the Ontario Camping Association.
3. Sports organizations that are members or affiliates of provincial sports organizations that are recognized by the Ministry.
4. Organizations that are recognized as children's recreation service providers by a resolution passed by the entity described in subparagraph I, ii, iii, iv, v, vi, vii or viii of paragraph 1 that appointed the recreation committee in the jurisdiction in which the organization operates.