



# COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE AGENDA

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Community Services Committee Meeting  
**Monday, June 3, 2019**  
Tom Davies Square - Council Chamber

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**COUNCILLOR RENE LAPIERRE, CHAIR**

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**Geoff McCausland, Vice-Chair**

## CANCELLED

6:00 p.m. COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBER

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### **DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF**

## **MANAGERS' REPORTS**

- R-1. Report dated May 13, 2019 from the Interim General Manager of Community Development regarding PLAY Charter. **4 - 10**  
**(RESOLUTION PREPARED)**  
(This report provides a draft PLAY Charter from the recent Children and Youth Program review conducted in 2018.)
- R-2. Report dated May 22, 2019 from the Interim General Manager of Community Development regarding Therapeutic/Leisure Pool Update. **11 - 17**  
**(FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**  
(This report provides an update on the Lionel E. Lalonde Therapeutic/Leisure Pool project, including details of recent funding announcement by Enabling Accessibility Fund.)
- R-3. Report dated May 14, 2019 from the Interim General Manager of Community Development regarding Community Housing Renewal Strategy. **18 - 26**  
**(RESOLUTION PREPARED)**  
(This report outlines the funding received through the Community Housing Renewal Strategy.)

## **MEMBERS' MOTIONS**

## **CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

- I-1. Report dated May 13, 2019 from the Interim General Manager of Community Development regarding Transit Fare Structure . **27 - 30**  
**(FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**  
(The report provides an overview of the new Transit Fare Policy and corresponding fee structure to be implemented as of July 1, 2019.)
- I-2. Report dated May 13, 2019 from the Interim General Manager of Community Development regarding Emergency Food Bank - Update 2019. **31 - 37**  
**(FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**  
(This report provides an update to the Food System Strategy Report presented on July 8, 2018, to the Community Services Committee.)

## **ADDENDUM**

## **CIVIC PETITIONS**

## **QUESTION PERIOD**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

## Request for Decision

### PLAY Charter

Presented To: Community Services  
Committee

Presented: Monday, Jun 03, 2019

Report Date Monday, May 13, 2019

Type: Managers' Reports

### Resolution

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury approves the Greater Sudbury Play Charter as outlined in the report entitled "PLAY Charter" from the Interim General Manager of Community Development, presented at the Community Services Committee meeting on June 3, 2019.

### Relationship to the Strategic Plan / Health Impact Assessment

This proposal supports Council's Strategic Plan in the area of Quality of Life and Place, as it aligns with the Population Health Priority of Play Opportunities. A Play Charter will recognize the importance and benefit of Play across all of Greater Sudbury.

### Report Summary

This report provides background on similar Play Charters from other municipalities. The report provides a draft Play Charter from the recent Children and Youth Program review conducted in 2018. The report also provides an implementation plan for the Play Charter pending Council approval.

### Financial Implications

There are no financial implications related to this report. Any costs associated with marketing and promoting the Play Charter will be covered through existing operational budgets.

#### Signed By

**Report Prepared By**

Cindy Dent  
Manager of Recreation  
*Digitally Signed May 13, 19*

**Health Impact Review**

Cindy Dent  
Manager of Recreation  
*Digitally Signed May 13, 19*

**Division Review**

Jeff Pafford  
Director of Leisure Services  
*Digitally Signed May 13, 19*

**Financial Implications**

Jim Lister  
Manager of Financial Planning and  
Budgeting  
*Digitally Signed May 14, 19*

**Recommended by the Department**

Ian Wood  
Interim General Manager of Community  
Development  
*Digitally Signed May 14, 19*

**Recommended by the C.A.O.**

Ed Archer  
Chief Administrative Officer  
*Digitally Signed May 22, 19*

## Executive Summary

At the Community Services Committee meeting of July 9, 2018, Council received the report entitled “Children and Youth Recreation Programming Review”. The review of current recreation programs offered by the City of Greater Sudbury (City) was conducted by Leading Minds Inc. The report included information regarding industry norms, best practices and leisure trends. The report included a series of key findings and options for consideration relating to children and youth programming offered by the City.

One of the strategic directions for consideration was that the City develop a Play Charter. The Play Charter would guide planning and policy decisions related to programs and facilities and be a lens by which all local leisure providers are invited to think about play programs, facilities, and partnerships.

A play charter sets out a vision for play. It aims to be a catalyst for individuals and organizations to examine and improve how they provide for children and young people's play and informal recreation.

This report will outline the existing City initiatives and programs that support a Play Charter and provide information about other municipalities that have introduced charters or similar play policies. A draft Play Charter for the City of Greater Sudbury is included as well as a plan for implementation.

## Current Status

The City has positioned itself well in order to take this step to formalize the importance of Play in our community. The following programs and initiatives demonstrate the City's commitments made to prioritizing play:

### Population Health

In 2017-2018 the City engaged the community in an extensive consultation process that led to the development of a Population Health report entitled 'Moving Forward with an Upstream Approach - A Call to Action on Community Priorities'. Play Opportunities has been identified as one of the ten priority areas for Population Health. The report describes Play Opportunities as:

*Play is a key factor in positive human development. Play practices risk management, socialization and physical skills development. Emphasis on affordable options for recreation, volunteer opportunities, and grassroots initiatives inspire people to get out and play across all generations. Reducing or eliminating financial barriers, an equal starting point for all.*

The report includes the following Calls to Action in the area of Play Opportunities:

- Inclusion
- Access
- Intergenerational
- Affordable access
- Reduced screen time
- Natural play (physical and social interaction)
- Risk tolerant play

#### Play Equity Research

In 2017, the International Play Association (IPA) hosted an international conference in Calgary, Alberta focusing on Unleashing the Power of Play. Municipal staff attended this conference and gained valuable insights into the value of unstructured play and how it relates to a healthy community and healthier more resilient children. The inherent risk in the aspect of free play was also a common theme throughout the conference and focused on the idea that risk is a valuable component to play in order for children to develop risk-taking skills which help them to become healthier adults.

In recent years, the City has collaborated a number of times with founder/educator, Pierre Harrison from PlayLearnThink. PlayLearnThink is a social enterprise dedicated to fostering creativity, nurturing imagination, promoting science literacy and encouraging life-long learning through play-based and inquiry-based exploration. PlayLearnThink believes that play is the essential element necessary to create a sound foundation on which to build a healthy, fulfilling life of learning.

#### Healthy Kids Community Challenge

The Healthy Kids Community Challenge was an extremely successful and enlightening three year funded project, focusing on healthy and active initiatives for children in our community. Legacies from this program have continued to benefit children throughout our community through new unstructured play opportunities.

#### HIGH FIVE Accreditation Program

HIGH FIVE is Canada's quality standard for children's programs. Before HIGH FIVE, no standard existed and there was a clear need for an innovative approach to help organizations enhance program quality and provide positive experiences for children, which would remain with them for a lifetime. The HIGH FIVE Principles of Healthy Child Development are:

- a caring adult
- the opportunity to make friends
- the opportunity to play
- the opportunity to master skills and
- the opportunity to participate

These principles directly align with the spirit of the Play Charter and allow the City to go beyond its own programs to endorse and advocate to other organizations in the community to do the same. The City has been training summer staff through HIGH FIVE for approximately 15 years with the goal to continue providing this HIGH FIVE training to all areas of front line program service providers.

### Playground Revitalization Strategy

Currently, the Playground Revitalization Strategy will provide a strong foundation for which the Play Charter can be launched. This strategy is in its first year of full operation where the community will see the completion of 12 new playgrounds as part of phase one with another 15 new playgrounds initiated before the end of 2019. These playgrounds were evaluated based on age and condition and prioritized based on community demographics and socioeconomic factors. These facilities will provide play equity throughout our community and dramatically increase the level of unstructured play at the neighborhood level immediately for this generation in Greater Sudbury.

### Northeastern Ontario Recreation Association (NeORA) Forum and Tradeshow 2019

City Council approved the bid to host the 2019 Northeastern Ontario Recreation Association Forum and Tradeshow, here in Greater Sudbury from September 23 – 26, 2019. The theme of this year's conference is The Power of Play, whereby the goal of conference organizers is to showcase our city's efforts to support and provide free play opportunities through our community.

### Other Alignments with Play Charters

In recent years, the City has continued to build on its free play offerings to the community. The City has realized new splash pads such as Capreol, Onaping, Garson and Coniston, new pickleball courts at O'Connor Park, partnered on projects such as Kivi Park, Morel Family Foundation Park, Loughheed Park, and the Adélie Splash Pad in Coniston. Ongoing and historic programs and facilities such as the neighborhood outdoor rinks, the Ramsey Lake Skate path, and Snow Day are winter activities that the community has come to make part of their winter schedule. All of these offerings build the foundation for the creation of Play Charter in order to formally advocate to other partners in our community to join the City of Greater Sudbury in our efforts to create healthier, happier citizens.

## **Comparator Communities**

In developing this report, comparator communities played an important role in guiding the focus of the Play Charter. In Canada, the cities of Calgary AB, Lethbridge AB, and Burlington ON, had charters or initiatives that were specifically related to play opportunities/policies. Common themes were the child's right to play, outdoor focus, using nature as a playground, using measured risk to develop resilience and risk-taking skills, educating and informing the community on the importance of play, and the social and health benefits of play.

The organization Play England also established a Charter for Children's Play. Their charter sets out a vision for play with the aim of being a catalyst for individuals and organizations to examine and improve how they provide for children and youth in the areas of play and recreation.

## Draft Play Charter for the City of Greater Sudbury

Greater Sudbury is committed to promoting play, providing play opportunities, and educating all residents on the importance of play to our community.

### Play LOOKS LIKE:

- Children of all abilities, alone or in groups, engaged, focused, solving problems, having fun.
- It can look physical, imaginary, creative, dramatic, social or energetic.

### Play SOUNDS LIKE:

- Laughter, conflict, imaginative stories.
- It can be boisterous or silent.

### Play FEELS LIKE:

- Excitement and challenge.
- It can be scary, wondrous, doubtful, hesitant and thrilling.

### WE BELIEVE THAT:

- Play develops a core set of skills for healthy well-being.
- Play is a vital component of childhood; it is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated.
- Play is fun, uncertain, challenging and flexible.
- When children have opportunities to play they use creativity, innovation, reflection to learn, experiment, solve problems, create new worlds, test boundaries, assess risk and meet challenges.
- Play is a natural state for a child.

### WE WILL:

- Support play that encourages physical, emotional and social development.
- Understand and communicate that risk is a valuable component to play, and we will encourage, support, and enable play that allows children to develop risk-taking skills.
- Create environments that children can control by providing flexibility in spaces and materials that promote inquiry and evoke curiosity.
- Embrace the natural environment and climate of Greater Sudbury and support children to play outdoors all year round.
- Educate and inform adults on the importance of play.
- Involve children in the decisions that affect their lives as it relates to play.



## **Next Steps**

The Play Charter will act as a catalyst for organizations and individuals across the City of Greater Sudbury to mobilize toward making play a priority in our community. This initiative will have positive outcomes in the areas of child obesity, children's mental health, social inclusion, community engagement, a reduction in marginalization, and create play equity. The City of Greater Sudbury will lead this initiative throughout the community and encourage children and families to do something that they may not be doing as much as they would like to – enjoying the great outdoors and playing together.

Upon the approval of Council, a marketing campaign will be undertaken to brand Play in Greater Sudbury through the Play Charter. The Play Charter will be ingrained in all relevant advertising opportunities within Leisure Services and any other related departments such as Social Services and Children's Services. A communications strategy will be developed to reach into the community to our partners to encourage Play in their programs, facilities and curriculums.

Within the City's programs, free play will continue to be recognized as a fundamental part of our offerings along with fundamental movement skills that offer a more structured approach to activity. In our continued efforts in the area of Affordable Recreation, free play has an extremely close connection as many children in our community do not have the financial resources to participate in organized activities due to financial barriers. Unstructured play opportunities allow the City to provide many other options for children to choose from in order to remain active and engaged in fun activities of their choosing.

A review and understanding of the Play Charter will also be integrated into training for staff delivering programs as well as facility staff where play occurs.

## **Summary**

Over the past number of years, the City of Greater Sudbury has built a foundation for active healthy living through its Strategic Plan, the Healthy Community Strategy and the most recent priority of Population Health, of which Play is one of the ten strategic priorities. Creating a Play Charter will establish the City of Greater Sudbury as the community leader in the advocacy for a child's right to play. It will formalize and recognize the work that has previously taken place in order to invite community organizations and families to prioritize play and build healthier children in our community.

## References:

Child and Youth Program Review, Community Services Committee (July 9, 2018)  
<http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=agenda&action=navigator&id=1264&itemid=12766&lang=en>

PlayLearnThink  
<https://www.playlearnthink.com/plthome.html>

HIGH FIVE  
<https://www.highfive.org/what-high-five>

Population Health: A Call to Action 2018-2028  
<https://www.greatersudbury.ca/city-hall/reports-studies-policies-and-plans/report-pdfs/population-health-call-to-action/>

Play England – Charter for Children's Play  
<http://www.playengland.org.uk/resource/charter-for-childrens-play/>

City of Calgary Play Charter  
[https://calgary.ca/CSPS/Recreation/Documents/Research-and-development/PlayCharter\\_eng.pdf](https://calgary.ca/CSPS/Recreation/Documents/Research-and-development/PlayCharter_eng.pdf)

City of Lethbridge Play Charter  
<https://www.lethbridge.ca/NewsCentre/Pages/Lethbridge-Play-Charter-adopted.aspx>

City of Burlington  
<https://www.burlington.ca/en/live-and-play/play-street.asp>  
<https://www.burlington.ca/en/live-and-play/get-outside-and-play.asp>

## For Information Only

### Therapeutic/Leisure Pool Update

Presented To: Community Services Committee

Presented: Monday, Jun 03, 2019

Report Date: Wednesday, May 22, 2019

Type: Managers' Reports

### Resolution

For Information Only

### Relationship to the Strategic Plan / Health Impact Assessment

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan in the area of Quality of Life and Place, as it aligns with the Population Health Priorities of Families, Play Opportunities and Age Friendly Strategy. The realization of a Therapeutic/Leisure Pool would create play opportunities and positive impacts on resident health and well being by providing a safe and accessible facility for individuals and families to become more active.

### Report Summary

This report provides an update on the status of the Lionel E. Lalonde Centre Therapeutic/Leisure Pool project. The report provides information on funding secured to date. The report also includes information about the operation of existing City of Greater Sudbury pools.

### Financial Implications

Costs associated with architectural services for the therapeutic/leisure pool will be covered by the previous capital budget allocation of \$300,000.

#### Signed By

##### **Report Prepared By**

Jeff Pafford  
Director of Leisure Services  
*Digitally Signed May 22, 19*

##### **Health Impact Review**

Jeff Pafford  
Director of Leisure Services  
*Digitally Signed May 22, 19*

##### **Division Review**

Jeff Pafford  
Director of Leisure Services  
*Digitally Signed May 22, 19*

##### **Financial Implications**

Jim Lister  
Manager of Financial Planning and Budgeting  
*Digitally Signed May 22, 19*

##### **Recommended by the Department**

Ian Wood  
Interim General Manager of Community Development  
*Digitally Signed May 22, 19*

##### **Recommended by the C.A.O.**

Ed Archer  
Chief Administrative Officer  
*Digitally Signed May 22, 19*

## Executive Summary

The creation of a new pool in the former Rayside-Balfour area has been a community vision for some time. The development of a therapeutic pool project plan was listed as a Healthy Community priority project in the City of Greater Sudbury's (City's) 2012-2014 Strategic Plan.

In 2013 the Therapeutic Pool Feasibility study was presented to Council proposing that a Therapeutic/Leisure Pool be built at the Lionel E. Lalonde Centre at an estimated cost of \$4.7 million. The City's Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan Review (2014) includes an action plan to implement the City's Therapeutic Pool Feasibility Study to realize the project.

More recently Council endorsed the project for consideration for any announcements related to recreation infrastructure funding. The City subsequently made a successful application to the Government of Canada's Enabling Accessibility Fund (EAF) for mid-sized projects and received a \$1,000,000 commitment towards the project.

This report will provide further information on the status of the Therapeutic/Leisure Pool project as well as information with respect to the operations and performance of the existing five City pools.

The project is currently identified in the City's 2021 Capital Outlook. With the Enabling Accessibility Funding announcement, the Therapeutic/Leisure Pool will be considered for the 2020 Budget through the capital budget prioritization process and associated business case.

## Background

In November 2013, a consulting team led by Monteith Brown Planning Consultants was retained by the City of Greater Sudbury to prepare a Therapeutic Pool Feasibility Study to identify the potential need and viability for the development of an indoor aquatic facility at the Lionel E. Lalonde Centre in Azilda. The feasibility study explored two indoor aquatic facility types:

- Stand-alone Therapy Pool
- Multi-use Pool (Combination of Therapy Pool/Leisure Pool)

The feasibility study recommended a multi-use pool with an estimated project value of \$4.7 million which would accommodate similar activities to a stand-alone Therapeutic Pool but would also have the advantage of accommodating a wider range of opportunities, specifically for infants, toddlers, and young children to participate in swimming lessons and leisure swimming. The aquatic facility would be approximately 7,400 square feet, including pool tank, deck space, change room, studio, control desk, storage, and mechanical.

In June 2014, Council approved the Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan Review (2014) which included an Action Plan to realize the provision of a therapeutic/leisure

pool at the Lionel E. Lalonde Centre in Azilda. The Plan noted that the business case for the project relied heavily on the fact that the Rayside-Balfour area was underserved and the proposed design would accommodate several new high demand activities.

On February 23, 2016, City Council further confirmed its support of the therapeutic/leisure pool by passing a resolution to encourage fundraising efforts and grant applications for the facility.

More recently, a report entitled "City of Greater Sudbury Pools Infrastructure and Recreation Capital Update" was presented to the Community Services Committee on June 19, 2017. The report provided an update of utilization and capital requirements of existing City pools as well as an update on the Therapeutic/Leisure Therapy Pool project. Council passed the following motion:

*THAT the City of Greater Sudbury endorses the Therapeutic/Leisure pool project as a priority as well as recreation capital funding for aged recreation facilities (i.e. arenas) for any announcements related to recreation infrastructure funding as outlined in the report entitled "City of Greater Sudbury Pools Infrastructure and Recreation Capital Update" from the General Manager of Community Development dated June 6, 2017.*

## **Current Status of Therapeutic/Leisure Pool Project**

In 2018 application was made to the Government of Canada's Enabling Accessibility Fund (EAF) for mid-sized projects. The EAF is a federal grants and contributions program that supports community-based projects across Canada aimed at improving accessibility and safety in public spaces and workplaces. Under the 2018 funding process, the EAF mid-sized projects component provided grant funding of up to \$1 million per project to support construction, renovation or retrofit of facilities or venues that offer programs and services geared towards addressing the social and/or labour market integration needs of persons with disabilities. On April 25, 2019 the Government of Canada announced funding for the Lionel E. Lalonde Centre Therapeutic/Leisure Pool project in the amount of \$1,000,000. As part of the funding received, substantial completion of the project is expected within 24 months.

Application has also been made to the Canadian Tire Jumpstart Foundation for an accessibility grant in the amount of \$1,000,000. Jumpstart's 'Play Finds A Way' is the foundation's movement to help remove barriers for kids with disabilities. One of the programs within 'Play Finds A Way' includes the Jumpstart Accessibility Grants, which are intended to support capital costs of construction and renovations related to improving physical accessibility to, and inclusivity in recreation facilities for children with disabilities in Canadian communities. At the time of this report, no confirmation of funding has been received.

The community fund-raising committee continues to leverage funding for the project. To date, the community group has received donations and commitments in the amount of \$100,500 towards the project.

The following summarizes the funding secured for the project to date:

Source	Amount
2018 City of Greater Sudbury Capital Allocation	\$300,000
HCI Funding	\$80,000
Enabling Accessibility Funding	\$1,000,000
Community Fundraising Campaign	\$100,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,480,500</b>

The project is currently identified in the City's 2021 Capital Outlook at a total construction cost of \$5.5M (original project cost increased for inflation).

## Current Status – City of Greater Sudbury Pools

### CGS Pool Building Condition Assessment Summary

Updated Building Condition Assessments (BCAs) were completed on municipal pool facilities in 2018. The BCA's provide an overall condition assessment for each pool, as well as opinions of probable repair costs required in the immediate term (1 to 5 years) and long term (6 to 10 years). A total of \$8,365,355 in capital repairs were called for over a 10-year period for CGS pools. The following is a summary of the building condition assessments:

Facility	Construction Date	Building Condition	1 to 5 year Costs	6 to 10 year Costs	Replacement Cost
Onaping CC	1967	Fair / Poor Condition	\$1,547,200	\$1,247,770	\$11,686,188 to \$14,283,165
R.G. Dow	1971	Fair Condition	\$387,210	\$481,950	\$2,868,299 to \$3,505,710
Nickel District	1972	Fair Condition	\$606,005	\$68,980	\$2,484,912 to \$3,037,125
Gatchell	1975	Fair / Good Condition	\$840,590	\$213,050	\$4,274,049 to \$5,223,855
HARC	1982	Good Condition	\$1,363,750	\$1,608,850	\$14,739,081 to \$18,014,490
<b>Sub Total</b>			<b>\$4,744,755</b>	<b>\$3,620,600</b>	

Note:

1. Expected capital costs and estimated replacement costs for the Onaping Community Centre and Howard Armstrong Recreation Centre represent projected costs associated with the entire facility.

### CGS Pools Operational Costs and Cost Recovery Information

Revenues, expenses, and resulting cost recovery rates for the operation of CGS pools for the year 2018 are provided below. For comparison, the Therapeutic Pool Feasibility study estimate in 2014 had projected annual revenues of \$203,331 and annual operating costs of \$497,171 for the therapeutic/leisure pool (40.9% cost recovery rate).

	<b>Onaping</b>	<b>RG Dow</b>	<b>Nickel District</b>	<b>Gatchell</b>	<b>HARC</b>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$54,692.82</b>	<b>\$204,497.35</b>	<b>\$297,160.08</b>	<b>\$279,629.50</b>	<b>\$549,640.11</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$313,184.55</b>	<b>\$439,144.36</b>	<b>\$574,190.27</b>	<b>\$524,715.02</b>	<b>\$1,381,632.67</b>
Salaries & Benefits	\$185,131.15	\$345,597.77	\$490,433.95	\$387,453.34	\$956,812.80
Operating	\$55,467.13	\$26,924.17	\$61,941.72	\$51,075.50	\$174,924.00
Energy	\$72,586.27	\$66,622.42	\$21,814.60	\$86,186.18	\$249,895.87
<b>Cost Recovery</b>	<b>17.5%</b>	<b>46.6%</b>	<b>51.8%</b>	<b>53.3%</b>	<b>39.8%</b>

#### Notes:

1. Revenues and operating costs for the Onaping Community Centre and Howard Armstrong Recreation Centre represent revenues and expenses associated with the operation of the entire facility.

### CGS Pool Utilization

City of Greater Sudbury pools offer recreational swimming opportunities through adult lane swims, public swims, family swims and aquafit classes through drop-in passes. The pools offer a full catalogue of learn to swim lessons and aquatic leadership courses. Pools are also available for private rentals for birthday parties, etc. The following is a summary of swim visits by facility and type for the years 2014-2018.

<b>Facility</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Change (2014-2018)</b>
Gatchell	36,598	36,879	37,317	30,754	35,588	-2.76%
HARC	69,015	68,033	72,344	63,929	64,247	-6.91%
Nickel District	35,131	35,443	32,894	36,940	40,032	13.95%
Onaping	10,043	8,806	7,231	5,532	7,051	-29.79%
R.G. Dow	34,246	36,408	36,704	32,579	29,543	-13.73%
<b>Total</b>	<b>185,033</b>	<b>185,569</b>	<b>186,490</b>	<b>169,734</b>	<b>176,461</b>	<b>-4.63%</b>

Type	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Change (2014-2018)
Lessons	68,688	70,896	69,376	64,138	75,528	9.96%
Aquafit/ Aquacises	26,218	25,872	24,881	26,011	24,424	-6.84%
Recreational Swim Visits	68,486	67,125	66,845	52,933	49,993	-27.00%
Rentals	21,641	21,676	25,388	26,652	26,516	22.53%
Total	185,033	185,569	186,490	169,734	176,461	-4.63%

## City Wide Aquatic Needs

The Therapeutic Pool Feasibility Study (2014) suggested a provision standard of one (1) indoor aquatic centre per 25,000 population. Using the 161,531 population figure for the City of Greater Sudbury as per the Canada 2016 Census, the provision standard suggests the requirement for 6.5 aquatic facilities. This results in a surplus of 0.5 facilities when accounting for the five (5) City of Greater Sudbury facilities plus the YMCA Sudbury and Laurentian University facilities.

As part of the City's participation in the Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada (MBNCanada) partnership, the City has comparator information about number of indoor pools operated by municipalities. The average number of operational indoor pool locations per 100,000 population is 2.05 among the 16 reporting municipalities. The City of Greater Sudbury operates 3.1 indoor pools per 100,000 population.

The Therapeutic Pool Feasibility Study (2014) stated that the development of a therapeutic/leisure pool should, at minimum, trigger a review of other municipal pools, with the closure of an aging and/or under-performing pool being one possible outcome. The City's Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan (2014) further states that the decision to close or re-purpose any facility should come after a one-year review period following the development of a new facility.

## Next Steps

A Request for Proposal for Architectural Services for the Lionel E. Lalonde Centre Therapeutic/Leisure Pool will be issued. This contract will result in completion of the schematic design phase of the project and a more accurate project costing. All other phases of the project would be contingent on securing all necessary construction funding.

The Leisure Services Department will continue to support the efforts of the community fund-raising committee and make application for grant funding to achieve the project.

The project will be considered for 2020 capital funding through the capital prioritization process and associated business case.



## References

City of Greater Sudbury Pools Infrastructure and Recreation Capital Update,  
Community Services Committee (June 19, 2017)

<http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=agenda&action=navigator&id=1152&itemid=12672&lang=en>

Therapeutic Pool Update, Community Services Committee (May 5, 2014)

<http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=agenda&action=navigator&id=730&itemid=8601&lang=en>

City of Greater Sudbury Therapeutic Pool Feasibility Study (January 21, 2014)

<http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&attachment=11479.pdf>

Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan Review (2014)

<https://www.greatersudbury.ca/play/parks-and-playgrounds1/parks-open-space-and-leisure-master-plan-review-2014/>

## Request for Decision

### Community Housing Renewal Strategy

Presented To: Community Services Committee

Presented: Monday, Jun 03, 2019

Report Date Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Type: Managers' Reports

### Resolution

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury approves the recommendations outlined in the report entitled "Community Housing Renewal Strategy" from the Interim General Manager of Community Development, presented at the Community Services Committee meeting on June 3, 2019.

### Relationship to the Strategic Plan / Health Impact Assessment

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan in the area of Quality of Life and Place as it aligns with the Population Health Priority of Housing, Holistic Health and Age Friendly Strategy. The Community Housing Renewal Strategy will complement the Corporate Housing & Homelessness Plan.

### Report Summary

This report provides information regarding the province's release of the Community Housing Renewal Strategy and requests approval to move forward with how the funding may be utilized within the social housing portfolio.

### Financial Implications

There is no financial impact to the City as all program costs will be funded by senior levels of government.

#### Signed By

##### **Report Prepared By**

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*Digitally Signed May 14, 19*

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##### **Recommended by the C.A.O.**

Ed Archer  
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## **Purpose**

This report outlines the Community Housing Renewal Strategy funding allocation received from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The report also makes recommendations as to how the funding may be allocated.

## **Executive Summary**

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing announced the launch of the Community Housing Renewal Strategy, a multi-year plan to sustain and grow the community housing system on April 17, 2019. Greater Sudbury was provided with a three (3) year proposed allocation to support the strategy, leveraging federal investments under the bilateral agreement between the Ministry and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Greater Sudbury is expected to receive nearly \$15 million in allocations between 2019-2022 (\$5.75M in 2019-20, \$2.48M in 2020-2021, and \$6.7M in 2021-2022) to support housing and homelessness programs.

This report provides a summary of the strategy and recommendations as to how the funding may be utilized to complement the Corporate Housing and Homelessness Plan. It also seeks authorization for the Manager of Housing Services to submit the City's Investment Plan to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing for funding approval as well as the ability to reflect any further changes and/or recommendations required by the Ministry.

The proposed Investment Plan recommends utilizing the Capital Expenditures Stream of both the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) and the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) to address the shortfalls in capital needs for the existing Urban Native Housing Program as well as the balance of the City of Greater Sudbury's social housing portfolio through the Repair Stream. As well, it is being recommended that the Homeownership Down Payment Assistance funding be used to assist low income households, who are currently residing in rental units, to provide the opportunity to become homeowners, and that a portion of the OPHI proposed allocation be utilized for down payment assistance.

## What is Community Housing?

Community Housing is housing owned and operated by non-profit housing corporations, housing cooperatives and municipal governments or district social services administration boards (DSSABs). These housing providers offer subsidized and/or low end of market rents –sometimes referred to as social housing and affordable housing.

Social housing was developed through federal and provincial government programs from the 1950s through 1995. Across the province, over 250,000 households live in social housing. Approximately 185,000 of these households pay rent-geared-to-income (RGI) rent and the balance pay a moderate market rent.

Since 2002, provincial affordable housing programs have led to the construction of approximately 21,800 rental units with rents maintained at or below 80% of Average Market Rent (AMR) established by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) for at least twenty (20) years. These types of units were built in both the community and market sector.

Greater Sudbury has built six (6) affordable housing projects to date. They are:

- Cedarbrook in Lively,
- Capreol Non Profit Phase 2,
- 192 Copper Street, Sudbury,
- Raiffeisen II on Mont Adam Street, Sudbury
- 1351 Paris Street, Sudbury
- Sudbury Finnish Resthome – Lepokoti in Sudbury

March of Dimes, 2915 Bancroft Drive, is due to complete the seventh affordable housing build by end of 2019. In total, there will be 358 units built through the Affordable Housing Program (309 units affordable/49 units market).

A household is considered in core housing need if its housing falls below at least one of CMHC's standards for adequacy, affordability or suitability standards, and would have to spend 30% or more of its total before-tax income to pay the median rent of alternative local housing.

The hundreds of community housing providers that have created housing through the various programs operate across Ontario and are a vital part of the housing system. They make up more than 20% of all purpose built rental housing in Ontario. The insured replacement value of community housing is over \$30 billion – and this does not include the value of land it is built on.

### **Expiry of original program obligations**

Approximately 60% of the provincial community housing supply was developed through funding agreements between governments and non-profits, housing cooperatives, and private landlords. The remaining 40% was public housing that has been transferred to municipalities and District Social Service Administration Boards to own and manage.

For the non-profit and cooperative housing providers, funding agreements were time limited; typically for 45 to 50 year periods, and many are now coming to an end. Often the original mortgages for the housing projects are maturing about the same time.

Some housing providers will no longer have to provide affordable or subsidized housing once their agreement expires or mortgage matures. This has resulted in a provincial loss of approximately 6,500 community units to date. Over the next three (3) years, 289 non-profit and cooperative providers with 41,000 units are at risk of exiting the provincial community housing portfolio due to reaching the end of their legacy agreements. By 2027, this number increases to 106,600 units at risk. Without provincial action, some housing providers may stop providing subsidized and/or low end of market housing to low income Ontarians when they are no longer legally obligated to do so.

### **Community Housing Renewal Strategy**

On April 17, 2019 the province of Ontario announced the launch of the Community Housing Renewal Strategy, a multi-year plan to sustain and grow the community housing system. Ontario's Community Housing Renewal Strategy is focused on affordable housing for low-income households and the non-profit, cooperative and municipal housing sector. Community housing provides a home to many individuals who have difficulty finding housing in the private market. It provides a home to individuals working low-income jobs, seniors, those living on social assistance, and individuals with developmental disabilities, mental health and addictions challenges and those who have experienced

homelessness. Community housing also provides priority access to those who have experienced domestic violence and human trafficking.

The strategy will help sustain, repair and grow the community housing system, making it work better for the individuals it serves. When individuals have the housing they need, they have better health, education, and employment outcomes. When housing is affordable and in areas near transit, schools, workplaces, and amenities, individuals have the opportunity to manage their lives and raise their families.

### **Outcomes and key priorities**

Ontario's Community Housing Renewal Strategy will focus on:

- repairing and increasing the supply and mix of well-maintained housing that meets people's needs,
- providing opportunity for people to live in housing that meets their needs and supporting them to participate in the economy and their community, and
- increasing efficiency in the system by removing red tape, improving coordination and helping housing providers offer sustainable housing.

The key priorities will be to:

- implement flexible new programs that can respond to different needs across Ontario's diverse communities and can leverage federal funding under the National Housing Strategy,
- create safer communities,
- improve wait lists and help those most in need,
- simplify rent-geared-to-income rules, and
- create incentives for community housing providers to continue to provide housing and become more sustainable.

## **New Programs**

Two (2) new programs are being launched in 2019-2020 to support this Strategy, leveraging federal investments under the bilateral agreement between the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

### **Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI)**

The Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative will provide funding to replace the federal Social Housing Agreement funding that expires each year, beginning in 2019-2020. Total federal funding under this program is \$33.2 million in the current year, \$81.0 million in 2020-2021, and \$112.1 million in 2021-2022.

The federal government has acknowledged that their funding for social housing has declined over time and through their funding of COCHI, federal social housing investments will be maintained at about the 2018-2019 levels. Over the period that federal expenditures have been declining, municipal expenditures on social housing have been growing. As allowed under the bilateral agreement, current municipal spending on social housing will be used to count as the cost-matching required under this program.

This funding can be used to repair, regenerate, and expand community housing through the Capital Expenditures stream. It can also be used to protect affordability support for tenants (rent supplement), which we are currently doing with the Investment in Affordable Housing (2014 extension) funding. COCHI can be used to support community housing providers whose original program arrangements are expiring and help them to become more sustainable. Greater Sudbury currently has one (1) Federal Social Housing Provider who would qualify for assistance. Conversations have taken place with the housing provider who has indicated that they are not interested in accessing funding. Service Managers are given the flexibility to determine local priorities, in consultation with their housing providers. In addition, consistent with the bilateral agreement, Service Managers will be required to give priority to Indigenous providers under the Urban Native Housing Program who have expiring operating agreements, where these exist. In Greater Sudbury, there are no expiring operating agreements in 2019 in the Urban Native Housing Program.

## Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI)

The Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative will also launch in 2019-2020, providing flexible funding to address local priorities in the areas of housing supply and affordability, including new affordable rental construction, community housing repair, rental assistance, tenant supports and affordable homeownership. The design of this program will build on the joint success in the delivery of the Investment in Affordable Housing Program.

The provincial government is committed to fully cost-match this program. Total federal and provincial funding of \$123.3 million in 2019-2020, \$65 million in 2020-2021, and \$99.9 million in 2021-2022 will be available to allocate under this program. Provincial spending of \$34.7 million from existing programs across 2018-2019, and 2019-2020 will be counted towards the cost-matching requirement.

The Capital expenditures funding stream consists of Social Housing Repair and Homeownership Down Payment Assistance.

## Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit

The Province plans to begin negotiations with CMHC to finalize the program design and amend the bilateral agreement for the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit. This will allow housing benefits to begin flowing to Ontario households beginning April 2020, when the federal funding becomes available.

## Funding Allocations

The proposed allocation for Greater Sudbury is as follows:

Program	2019-2020 Confirmed Allocation	2020-2021 Planning Allocation	2021-2022 Planning Allocation
Investment in Affordable Housing for Ontario (2014 extension)	\$838,300	N/A	N/A
Home For Good – Operating	To Be Confirmed	To Be Confirmed	To Be Confirmed
Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI)	\$607,628	\$1,457,726	\$2,486,554
Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI)	\$1,381,900	\$715,900	\$1,114,600



All proposed allocations must be utilized within the program year. Funding cannot be transferred from one year to the next if underspending occurs.

## **Recommendations**

With the work that has been completed through the Social Housing Revitalization Plan, Housing Services is recommending utilizing the Capital Expenditures Stream of both COCHI and OPHI to address the shortfalls in capital needs for the existing Urban Native Housing Program as well as the balance of the City of Greater Sudbury's social housing portfolio through the Repair Stream.

As well, Homeownership Down Payment Assistance funding is being recommended to assist low income households who are currently residing in rental units be provided the opportunity to become homeowners, and that a portion of the OPHI proposed allocation be utilized for down payment assistance.

With the short turnaround time from the late funding announcement, Housing Services commits that all confirmed 2019-2020 allocation will be fully utilized.

Housing Services is required to complete an investment plan to be submitted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing outlining how the allocations provided will be used under COCHI and OPHI. The Investment Plan needs to address gaps that have been identified in the community's Housing & Homelessness Plan.

Upon receipt of confirmation of approval by the Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing, Housing Services will develop application processes for COCHI and OPHI and enter into the necessary program funding agreements with housing providers/proponents/recipients. Payments will be advanced based on agreed upon payment schedules. Housing Services will be monitoring projects to ensure timely completion of all projects. Housing Services will also be adhering to Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing reporting schedule.

## **Conclusion**

In order to ensure all funding is committed through the Community Housing Renewal Strategy, the Manager of Housing Services is requesting authorization to forward the City's Investment Plan to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing for funding approval. We are also seeking authorization for the Manager of Housing Services to adjust the Investment Plan to reflect any further

changes and/or recommendations required by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing.

Annual updates will be brought forward to Council to endorse the proposed allocations received through the Community Housing Renewal Strategy for years 2 and 3.

### **Resources Cited**

Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing, Community Housing Renewal Strategy, <https://www.ontario.ca/page/community-housing-renewal-strategy>

## For Information Only

### Transit Fare Structure

Presented To: Community Services Committee

Presented: Monday, Jun 03, 2019

Report Date: Monday, May 13, 2019

Type: Correspondence for Information Only

### Resolution

For Information Only

### Relationship to the Strategic Plan / Health Impact Assessment

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan in the area of Quality of Life and Place as it aligns with the Population Health Priorities of Families, Compassionate City, Age Friendly and Healthy Streets. Public Transit benefits individuals and the community at large; providing an affordable access option to transit services will reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, increase economic productiveness and promote greater social interaction and social inclusion.

### Report Summary

This information report provides an overview of the new fare structure which addresses some of Council's stated objectives in making the transit fare structure simpler and more affordable.

### Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report. Changes in revenue associated with the new fare structure have been included in the 2019 Council approved budget.

#### Signed By

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##### **Recommended by the C.A.O.**

Ed Archer  
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*Digitally Signed May 22, 19*

## Executive Summary

During the February 19, 2019 Finance and Administration Committee meeting, Council approved a new Transit Fare Policy along with a corresponding fee structure to be implemented as of July 1, 2019. This information report provides an overview of the new fare structure which addresses some of Council's stated objectives in making the transit fare structure simpler and more affordable.

## Fare Policy

The Transit Fare Policy is based on the following guiding principles:

- Reward frequent transit customers;
- Equitable in its offering of discounts;
- Encourage ridership growth; and
- Easy to implement, comprehend and operate.

Further to the above guiding principles, the Transit Fare Policy goals are to:

- Support a mission of providing high-quality and accessible public transportation services for the benefit of the individuals and the community that it serves.
- Apply to the family of services provided by Greater Sudbury Transit, which includes Conventional, Specialized and On-Demand services.
- Contribute to and support ridership growth strategies that result in net new ridership and revenue, and provides a social good.
- Provide discounts through concession fares, while recognizing the need to meet business objectives and affordable access to transit service.

## Fare Structure

Building from this framework, the table below provides the new fare structure which was approved by Council on February 19, 2019. This new fare structure will come into effect on July 1, 2019.

Category	Fee	Fare Details
Base Cash Fare	\$ 3.50	Includes 90 minute transfer
Day Pass	\$ 10.00	1 Adult + 4 Youths Ride all day
Ticket Unit Price	\$ 2.90	Get 6 rides for the price of 5
Ticket Unit Price - Concession	\$ 2.50	Get 6 rides for the price of 5, less 15%
31 Day Monthly Pass	\$ 88.00	Pay for 25 Rides
31 Day Monthly Pass - Students	\$ 75.00	Pay for 25 Rides, less 15%
31 Day Monthly Pass - Concession	\$ 56.00	Pay for 16 Rides
Upass	\$ 200.00	8 Month Pass

Under the Miscellaneous User Fee By-Law, the following definitions are outlined:

- "Adult" means a person 18 years of age or older other than a Student or a Disability Pensioner;
- "Concession" means a reduced fare. Proper proof of eligibility must be presented;
- "Youth" means a person who is 5 to 12 years of age;
- "Student" means a person who presents a current and valid student identification card from a high school or post-secondary educational institution;
- "Senior" means a person who is 65 years of age or older;
- "Disability Pensioner" means a person who is a recipient of the Ontario Disability Support Program (O.D.S.P), Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities (A.C.S.D), Canada Pension Plan Disability (C.P.P.D), Veteran's Disability Pension or Canadian Institute for the Blind (C.N.I.B).

The Base Cash Fare applies to all those accessing Transit Services.

31 Day Monthly passes are valid for 31 days from date of activation. The Adult and Student 31 Day Monthly passes have been reduced by five (5) and nine (9) dollars respectively, while the Concession 31 Day Monthly pass is maintained at a substantially discounted price.

In addition to the above mentioned fares, transfer times will be extended to 90 minutes and offer the passenger the ability to travel in any direction.

This Fare Structure seeks to reward frequent transit customers, offer equitable discounts, encourage ridership and is easy to implement, comprehend and operate.

## **Supporting Programs**

Supplementing the fare structure, the following programs are available:

- A Support Person Assistance Card is available to persons who require assistance while travelling on Conventional Services through an application process. The Card belongs to the cardholder and permits one support person to travel with them free of charge.
- An Employer Pass program offers an Employer the ability to purchase 100 or more Adult passes at a 10% discount, if they agree to provide an additional 10% discount to the employee. This would mean that an employee could receive an additional 20% discount and could obtain these passes through a payroll deduction through the Employer.
- Two affordable pass programs have been approved by Council on a pilot basis for an 18-month period:

- Family Travel Program enables any adult or senior travelling with a Monthly Pass to bring up to four youths age 12 and under to ride for free.
- Transferrable Adult Monthly Pass Program provides an incentive to families by issuing a photo-free adult monthly pass that allows family members to share the pass when not travelling together.

## **Next Steps**

Staff will prepare and distribute communication materials prior to July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 to ensure that both current and future passengers are informed of the incentives and new fee structure.

## For Information Only

### Emergency Food Bank - Update 2019

Presented To:	Community Services Committee
Presented:	Monday, Jun 03, 2019
Report Date	Monday, May 13, 2019
Type:	Correspondence for Information Only

### Resolution

For Information Only

### Relationship to the Strategic Plan / Health Impact Assessment

This report refers to operational matters.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan in the area of Quality of Life and Place for Citizens of the City of Greater Sudbury as it aligns with the Population Health Priority of Resiliency.

### Report Summary

This report will provide an update to the Food System Strategy Report presented on July 8, 2018, to the Community Services Committee that directed staff to engage community stakeholders to identify an action plan for improved access across the City of Greater Sudbury and sustainability of the emergency food system.

### Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

#### Signed By

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##### **Recommended by the C.A.O.**

Ed Archer  
Chief Administrative Officer  
*Digitally Signed May 22, 19*

## Executive Summary

This report responds to the Food System Strategy presentation and report to Community Services Committee on July 8, 2018, which directed Social Services to engage with community stakeholders for consultation and develop an action plan for improved access across the City of Greater Sudbury (CGS) and sustainability of the emergency food system in the second quarter of 2019.

<http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=agenda&action=navigator&lang=en&id=1264&itemid=14598>

The City has no mandated role in the emergency food bank system but has provided several supports directly and indirectly to the system. The City does provide funding for, and works in partnership with, the emergency food system through different means including HCL, bus passes, meals at the emergency shelter, one time funding to the distribution hub for transportation and ad-hoc funding.

The following action plans are identified in the report.

### **Action Plan: Improved Access**

Meetings were scheduled with the Community Action Networks as well as other groups, in neighbourhoods identified as having a high prevalence of low-income earners with a high or possible gap in service access. The following capacity building opportunities were identified as preferred rather than development of a short-term relief option, ie., emergency food bank or soup kitchen model:

- Continued support to increase the number of community gardens on city property
- Continued support for the good food box for Ontario Works recipients
- Support for the expansion of the fair food market
- Support system coordination for the delivery/transportation for those groups who are members of the food rescue program within the social housing cluster

### **Action Plan: Sustainability of the Emergency Food System**

Access to dedicated and reliable transportation of available food donations continues to be a concern for those emergency food banks that have to depend on volunteers for delivery.

Through the budget process, the Banque d'aliments Sudbury Food Bank (BDSFB) received a one-time grant of \$100,000 to assist in costs associated with the collection and delivery of donated food. It is expected that through this grant, better system coordination will take place and a model for delivery will be created with future funding opportunities from an additional source other than CGS.



## Improved Access: Consultation with Community Stakeholders in Neighbourhoods and Food Banks within Municipal Sites

Throughout the fall of 2018 and into the spring of 2019, discussions were held with Community Action Networks in each location and additional allied associations to gather community stakeholder input into those areas identified as having a possible gap in Service as listed below:

Neighbourhood	Prevalence of Low Income (%) <sup>i</sup>	GAP	Short Term Relief Options (Food Banks, Soup Kitchens)	Capacity Building Actions (Community Gardens, Community Kitchens, Food Buying Clubs, Food Rescue)
Copper Cliff	9.1%	High	<p>Food Bank: Inner City Site on Elm Street. There was talk of opening a food bank but there were no viable locations to support the initiative.</p> <p>There are several community meals that have a nominal cost – No One Eats Alone, Messy Church, and many spaghetti suppers</p>	<p>Community Gardens – there are two run out of VALE property and one at Copper Cliff Public School would like to have more</p> <p>Access to the Good Food Box</p>
Kingsmount-Downtown-Bell Park <sup>ii</sup>	19.1%	High	<p>Services from Samaritan Centre</p> <p>Meal programs through out of the cold</p>	<p>Community Gardens are in some businesses</p> <p>Access to the Good Food Box</p>

Minnow Lake	13.5%	Possible	Food Bank: Holy Redeemer within Minnow Lake	<p>Several Community Gardens</p> <p>Collective kitchens – Our Children Our Future</p> <p>Looking to establish an urban farm</p>
South End	8.6%	Possible	Food Bank: the Salvation Army on Notre Dame. There was talk of reopening a food bank within 1960 Paris Street block, however, a location was not available.	<p>Several Community Gardens</p> <p>South end Housing - have a freezer/fridge; space linked to food rescue need help with transportation</p> <p>Access to Good Food Box</p> <p>Programs for Collective Kitchens Our Children Our Future</p> <p>Fair food market established by NOAH Community Hub has brought fresh food at a reasonable price to those in social housing and is seeking to expand</p>
West End	20.3%	High	Food Bank: Inner City Site on Elm Street	<p>Two Community Gardens with over 175 members</p> <p>Fruit Forest</p> <p>Access to Good Food Box</p>

## **ACTION AREA - 1**

### **Steps Toward Increased Access**

Each location recognized that short-term relief options (emergency food banks and meals) will always have barriers such as access to transportation or hours of operation. The logistics in establishing food banks (location, volunteers, funding etc) were just as significant.

Through dialogue, it is apparent that most of the neighborhoods have spent their time focused on capacity building actions, with all of them having a focus on community gardens and some having knowledge about the Good Food Box Program. A significant number recognized the role of the Greater Sudbury Food Policy Council as helping to inform and guide capacity building, and discussed the challenges of having a volunteer group leading ideas without dedicated staff to assist in the navigation work.

At each meeting, materials about food rescue were handed out and for some this was new information. The most progress was found in the South End where actions include a food buying club approach through a Fair Food Market and the establishment of a food pantry that will leverage the food rescue system.

## **Step 1 - Continued Support to Increase the Number of Community Gardens on City Property**

Through the work of FoodShed Project (<https://foodshedproject.ca/>) the City of Greater Sudbury has over 30 community gardens that rely on the dedication of volunteers who work to increase opportunities and access to community gardens across the City. The continued support for the development of community gardens on City property is seen as one of the critical ingredients for this capacity building action.

Linked with the increase in the number of community gardens is also the need to continue to highlight and share the Food Access Map:  
(<https://www.greatersudbury.ca/live/environment-and-sustainability1/earthcare-sudbury/food-access-map/>)

## **Step 2 - Continued Support for the Good Food Box for Ontario Works Recipients**

Starting in 2010, the Social Services Division (Social Services) provided 50 authorizations for good food boxes (GFB) to singles and families on Ontario Works in the City of Greater Sudbury. The cost of this program per year is \$11,400 and is provincially funded.

In late 2018, a survey with a random sample of clients found that overall people were satisfied with the good food box experience and provided the following comments as to what they enjoyed the most:

- The fresh stuff
- Was happy when I was receiving it – really helped out
- Use new ingredients that I probably wouldn't buy
- It changed how I feed my family
- Food was very good
- Very happy with location and parking available
- Always something new

The least enjoyed parts were around process, pickup location, and not knowing what to do with some of the items. A few clients indicated that help with transportation would be beneficial.

An internal review of the program found that approximately 24% of the good food boxes are not picked up (these boxes were donated to the Salvation Army for their meal programs). These challenges can be overcome with modernization of the internal process - from eligibility criteria to ensuring flexibility in pick up location. These changes will take place in the fall of 2019.

### **Step 3 - Support for the Expansion of Fair Food Market**

The Fair Food Market is a volunteer run non-profit project sponsored by the Social Planning Council/NOAH Community Hub in partnership with the 1960 Paris Street Positive Connections Tenant Group and the Greater Sudbury Housing Corporation that brings affordable produce to families and individuals who have limited accessible options. The project is just over a year old and is continuing to expand across the community with the assistance of outside funding sources.

### **Step 4 - Support System Coordination for the Delivery/Transportation for those Groups who are Members of the Food Rescue Program within the Social Housing Cluster**

In March 2018, Food Rescue (<https://betterbeginningssudbury.ca/food-rescue/>) was launched in Sudbury and introduced a match-making site of business with food to not-for-profits who can use the food. This web-based program allows for food diversion from landfill and has helped to bridge a gap for many of the organizations that have come on board. Through capacity building options, along with some out of the box strategic thinking, the South End rationalizes this as a way to mitigate not having a food bank within that neighbourhood.

## **ACTION AREA – 2**

### **Sustainability of the Emergency Food System**

The City has no mandated role in the emergency food bank system but has provided several supports directly and indirectly to the system. The City does provide funding for, and works in partnership with, the emergency food system through different means including HCI, bus passes, meals at the emergency shelter, and ad-hoc funding.

The four emergency food banks that were established prior to amalgamation that reside within municipally owned facilities are run by volunteers who are confident in the depth of the rank and file to maintain the current flow of members who will step up to continue the good work. Identified as challenges were sustainability of location and transportation of donations from the Lorne Street distribution site (Banque d'aliments Sudbury Food Bank).

## **Step 1 - Ensure Dedicated Space Agreements Are in Place**

In the late summer of 2018, direction was given by Council to ensure that the four sites would be granted continuation of dedicated space agreements. Dedicated space agreements have been issued through Leisure Services facility booking system.

Leisure Services will support these agencies as required and will address any matters related to dedicated space such as maintenance issues, garbage collection and/or facility partnership issues.

## **Step 2 - Financial Support toward Establishing a Delivery System**

In the fall of 2018, a Business Case was submitted to provide a grant to the Banque d'aliments Sudbury Food Bank to assist in costs associated with the collection and delivery of donated food. The Business Case was approved through the 2019 budget process for a one-year period. The deliverables include a report describing the accomplishments of the project during the payment period, including particulars of: formation of new partnerships, integration of the project with food rescue technology, increased utilization of donated food, and increased numbers of people serviced by the member organizations.

## **Next Steps**

The Social Services Division will input policy changes with regards to the Good Food Box Program by the fall of 2019.

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<sup>i</sup> (based on LIM, after tax, 2016 Census of Canada, Statics Canada)

<sup>ii</sup> Kingsmount Downtown- Bell Park area does not have a Community Action Network