

For Information Only

Integrated Human Services Initiatives

Presented To: Community Services Committee

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Recommendation

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Finance Implications

All costs associated with the selected projects highlighted in this report are accounted for within the existing budget of the Community Development Department.

Background

In February, 2013, the Community Development Department (CDD) established four (4) *Integrated Human Services Planning (IHSP) Teams* as working groups to identify opportunities for integrated initiatives within the Department. Teams are composed of staff representatives from the various divisions of the CDD, each focusing on a specific vulnerable target group: children, youth, older adults, and persons with mental health issues.

While considering the social determinants of health identified by Health Canada, as well as the eleven (11) Healthy Community Strategy challenges, the teams were tasked with brainstorming project ideas that promote universal access (where possible) and participation of citizens while ensuring that resources for the projects are available within existing budgets.

VALUE OF THE IHSP TEAM INITIATIVE

The implementation of the project ideas presented in this report is intended to further provide families and individuals of all ages a broader range of choices to access services and/or participate in programs that can enhance their health and wellbeing.

Through this initiative, team members expressed their enlightenment and appreciation for what their peers

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in other divisions and sections of the CDD do and provide to citizens. The cross-sharing of knowledge and resources among team members fostered staff capacity for creativity and innovation in the delivery of quality services and programs that further enhance the health of the community and provide opportunities for integration across the CDD.

OUTCOMES

A list of over 20 project ideas was presented by the team Leads to the CDD's senior management group. Considering feasibility and available resources, projects were then selected and prioritized for further development and potential implementation. For some of these projects, participation from other Departments of the City and/or external partnerships may be sought similar to the *Feel Free to Feel Fit* initiative whereby the CDD and Transit Services team up to deliver this very successful program.

The chart below provides details associated with each selected project idea, including the anticipated benefit(s) it may bring to our community and implementation status. All projects will be funded through existing budgets.

| Project | Benefit to Community |
|--|---|
| Canada Learning Bond Encourage and facilitate low income families to sign up for the Canada Learning Bond (free government funding towards future tuition) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Reduced financial burden on students (and families) · Opportunity to successfully obtain a post-secondary education and secure future employment |
| Mental Health & Anti-bullying Education in Summer Programs Incorporate a mental health component in the summer playground and camp program manuals, including addressing behaviours and bullying | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Enhanced awareness and development of coping skills against bullying · Early and safe intervention · Enhanced life skills regarding mental health at an early age |
| Portable Outdoor Movie Screen Host outdoor, travelling movie nights in parks, at libraries, museums, etc. with the use of a mobile movie screen | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Accessible and affordable activity that promotes social interaction, outdoor leisure, the arts and culture for persons of all ages |
| Play Structure Gap Analysis Conduct a robust analysis of play structure deficits within city parks, schools, and more specifically near/in social housing sites and replenish where highest needs are identified | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Increased accessibility to safe play structures that promote physical and social health · Improved infrastructure |
| Transportation Analysis Conduct an analysis of transportation barriers for persons in receipt of social services assistance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Explore opportunities for affordable transportation to access services and programs for families on a limited income. |
| Youth and Post-secondary School Student Concert Series Host youth concerts across the City of Greater Sudbury (CGS), e.g. parks, recreation centres, etc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Enhanced youth social health · Arts and culture promoted in a safe environment · Youth talent encouraged and exhibited |

| | |
|---|--|
| Concerts in the Park Offer accessible outdoor concerts in outlying community parks that are convenient and age-appropriate for older adults | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Availability within communities alleviating transportation issues · Increased opportunities for outdoor leisure and social interaction for older adults |
| Youth Welcoming Events Welcoming new youths into the community that attend post-secondary schools by promoting all the various opportunities, programs, and facilities available within the CGS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Increased awareness and usage of programs and facilities · Enhanced feeling of belonging with direct and indirect social benefits · Improved retention of post-graduates within Greater Sudbury (reduced outmigration of youth) |
| Targeted Marketing for Older Adults Use effective marketing methods that reach older adults to promote free programs, e.g. walking, swimming, skating, trails, etc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Increased awareness of affordable programs and services available to older adults · Enhanced health and wellness for older adults through participation in recreational, leisure, and health programs/activities |
| Manual for Establishing a Club Develop a manual to assist older adults establish a club and a resource guide in their apartment building | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Organized approach to providing older adults opportunities to access and participate in physical/social activities (sense of engagement and inclusiveness) · Improved quality of life through awareness and accessibility to community resources and services |
| Feel Free to Feel Fit Expansion Expand the current program to include other activities such as free opportunities to access arenas, pools, ski hills, and gyms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Affordable access to physical and social activities that improve overall health and wellness · Inclusive and stigma-free · Increased utilization of municipal facilities |
| Playground Benches Add park benches at all city playground structure locations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Improved accessibility and resting opportunities for older adults · Inter-generational activities and experiences encouraged · Improved infrastructure |
| Teen Play Structures Addition of play structures geared to teens, e.g. half basketball courts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Increased physical literacy and social inclusion in youth · Improved infrastructure |

NEXT STEPS

Although timelines for implementation will differ based on their complexity and budgetary prioritization, it is anticipated that these initiatives will be realized within the next two (2) years.