

PUBLIC RECREATION POLICY STATEMENT - OCTOBER 1968.

Public recreation must be given higher priority as an essential city service which is of vital importance to an expanding population who are faced with increasing leisure.

1. Recreation policies must be extended to include many new types of "community programs" in addition to traditional recreation programs.
2. Greater emphasis within the Board of Parks and Public Recreation should be given to recreation and community programs including the creation of a more senior position for Director of Recreation. A senior Department of Community Programs should be established.
3. Community recreation programs must be integrated with other "programs for people" as part of the community service district concept.
4. A higher percentage of operating recreation budgets should go toward direct leadership costs.
5. A policy of decentralization should be continued and extended to encourage program planning by local citizens that will meet particular local needs.
6. Income operations in local centres should be responsible to the local Community Centre Board. Central Income operations should be responsible to the Director of Recreation.
7. Redevelopment projects must include co-operative planning for the recreation and social needs of people.
8. Income operations in local centres should be responsible to the local Centre Board. Central Income operations should be responsible to the Director of Recreation.
9. Long range goals should include a major review of the Board of Parks and Recreation and its relationship to city government.

TEAM POLICY STATEMENT - BACKGROUND PAPER PUBLIC RECREATION - "COMMUNITY PROGRAMS"

Public recreation must be given higher priority as an essential city service which is of vital importance to an expanding population who are faced with an increasing amount of leisure time.

1. The policies of public recreation must be extended to include many new types of community programs in addition to traditional recreation activities. The term "Community Programs" is recommended to replace "Public Recreation" to indicate this enlarged responsibility.

Community programs should include day care centres for pre-schoolers and for retired citizens, and after-school care for children of working parents with financial subsidy from the province. Community information services, educational and occupational upgrading programs, baby sitting services and home helps, libraries, community work shops, health clinics and social services should also be offered from community centres or community school complexes, with provincial or municipal subsidy.

2. A Department of Community Programs should be established as a senior city department rather than operating as a subsidiary of the Parks operation.

The administrative structure of the Board of Parks and Public Recreation should be reviewed and reorganized to establish a Director of Community Programs and Recreation either as a parallel position or as a senior position to the Superintendent of Parks. The appropriate future relationship of ~~this~~ Department to City Council and to the Department of Social Planning and Community Development should also be reviewed and established. Review should consider the possible future merger of the Board of Parks & Recreation with City Council. This would facilitate integrated long range planning for physical development of Parks and facilities using research and capital resources of the city planning department.

3. Community recreation programs must be integrated with other "programs for people" as part of the community service district concept.

Policies and programs of the Dept. of "Community Programs" should be integrated with those of the School Board. If necessary the B.C. School Act should be changed to facilitate integrated planning and operation.

Maximum year round use of school and community centre facilities must be encouraged on a non-rental, shared basis. A single local administrative and maintenance service for multi-purpose facilities is desirable.

Community school complexes (e.g. Britannia School) should be built in future to include large facilities such as gyms, indoor pools and ice rinks replacing the need for separate, expensive community centre complexes. Close co-operation with social services and other services in the preventive field is essential.

4. A higher percentage of the operating budget for public recreation and community programs should go toward direct leadership.

Recreation staff should be freed of building administration as much as possible so as to work directly with community groups. Professional staff should train and use citizens as recreation aides for many community programs. Voluntary agencies should be encouraged to provide leadership for special community programs (e.g. detached youth work, or day care) which are an adjunct to public recreation.

5. A policy of decentralization of recreation should be continued and extended with citizen involvement in program planning.

The local Community Centre Board or Community Association should have the major say in the operation of a local centre and the development of local community programs.

The local Director of Recreation should be responsible to local boards and community groups in developing programs.

Decentralized neighbourhood programs should be developed using community halls, field houses, elementary schools, churches etc. Buses should be made available for out-trips to city resources, camps etc.

The Central Board of Parks and Recreation should assist in the development of local programs and should administer operating funds from general taxes. The Central Board and staff must avoid superimposing central policies, plans or programs in local communities.

A policy of area representation to the Board of Parks and Public Recreation should be implemented in the future with each commissioner assuming responsibility to act as liaison person to specific local areas.

6. Redevelopment projects must include co-operative planning for recreation and social needs of people.

Public housing developments must include on-site activity rooms and near by recreation facilities and programs.

Federal and provincial funding for redevelopment should include funds for additional community facilities and necessary services. Extra subsidized community programs are needed in low income communities.

7. Income operations in local centres should be responsible to the local community Centre Board. Central Income operations should be responsible to the Director of Recreation.

8. As on attached summary of policy statement.