

Women's Only Swim Pilot**Report Purpose**

To provide Council with a proposal for a six-month women's only swim pilot at the Kinsmen Leisure Centre.

Recommendation

THAT the proposed six-month women's only swim pilot at the Kinsmen Leisure Centre, based on the parameters as set out in the October 25, 2022 Recreation, Parks and Culture report, be approved; and

THAT Administration prepare a report for Council's consideration by the end of 2023 with an evaluation of the pilot and any recommended next steps.

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

Goal 2 - Healthy and Safe Community

Goal 4 - Municipal Excellence

Goal 2 Priority - A diverse, welcoming, inclusive, and an accessible community for all

Goal 4 Priority - A workplace culture that is connected, inclusive, diverse, and promotes employee development

Report

Strathcona County is committed to supporting and developing an inclusive community that embraces, respects, accepts and values differences and works towards removing barriers to participate in recreational activities. A women's only swim pilot aligns and supports the Strathcona County Diversity and Inclusion Policy to ensure that residents can participate in all aspects of community life and the County's Social Framework outcomes to increase access to programs and services, safety, connectedness, and inclusion. In addition, the pilot program supports the Recreation and Culture Strategy's focus on inclusion and pursuit to be accessible for all regardless of age, ability, ethnicity, self-identity, financial circumstance, or geography. The goal offering this women's only swim pilot is to remove barriers to access County aquatic activities for community members who identify as women that could be related to cultural or religious practices or overall comfort during public swimming times. Women's only swims have been successfully implemented in other municipalities in Alberta and across Canada and have resulted in removing barriers for women to access aquatic activities.

Women's Only Swim Pilot - Parameters

Beginning in February 2023, administration is proposing a six-month women's only swim pilot at the Kinsmen Leisure Centre. The swim would take place once per month on the weekend, women-only staff would be present, all windows would be blocked off, and children under the age of eight would be permitted. To ensure multiple options exist, Strathcona County will continue to accept and accommodate private women's only group bookings for those that prefer private/dedicated use for their group or prefer alternative dates.

Leading up to pilot launch date, Strathcona County will continue to have dialogue and engage with local groups to gain a better understanding of their needs and will request user

feedback throughout the duration of the pilot. Administration will report back to Council in 2023 after evaluating the pilot and will provide a recommendation for Council's consideration.

Council and Committee History

April 26, 2022 THAT Administration prepare a report for Council's consideration by the end of the fourth quarter of 2022 on the feasibility of a six-month pilot project for a women's only swim program at the Kinsmen Leisure Centre, based on the following conditions: Swim time to take place once a month, during the weekend; windows must be covered, and an all-female staff be present; and children, male and female, under the age of eight can be included in the swim time.

Other Impacts

Policy: Strathcona County Diversity and Inclusion Policy

Legislative/Legal: n/a

Financial/Budget: n/a

Interdepartmental: n/a

Master Plan/Framework: Strathcona County Social Framework, Recreation and Culture Strategy

Communication Plan

Strathcona County residents will be informed of the women's only pilot program via news release, County website, and various County social media channels. Administration will have conversations with local women's groups before, during and after the pilot to gather feedback.

Enclosure

1 Women's Only Swim Pilot presentation