



For Immediate Release
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Town of Ponoka and Ponoka County Sign New Shared Recreation Services Funding Agreement

Framework Identifies Shared Services Provided to Residents in Both Municipalities

(February 28, 2020 – Ponoka, Alberta) – Ponoka Town Council and Ponoka County Council have signed a new five-year Shared Recreation Services Funding Agreement which outlines an equitable shared funding model for recreation services that are utilized by Ponoka citizens in both the Town and County.

“Meetings between Town and County representatives over the last several months on the creation of a new Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) naturally led to a review of shared funding levels for recreation facilities and services in Ponoka,” said Town of Ponoka Mayor Rick Bonnett. “The Town of Ponoka appreciates our longstanding partnership with Ponoka County and its support of recreation services that are enjoyed by citizens in both municipalities,” said Mayor Bonnett.

Funding Formula Based on Operating Costs

A detailed review of the operating costs associated with the Ponoka Culture and Recreation Complex (Arena), the Ponoka Aquaplex, the Ponoka Splash Park and sports fields in town resulted in an agreed upon funding formula based on per capita operating costs for the facilities. Town recreation facilities serve approximately 13,000 residents in the Town of Ponoka and the eastern portion of Ponoka County.

Under the agreed upon phased-in funding formula, Ponoka County will increase its current annual recreation funding contribution to \$75 per capita (from the current \$55 per capita) toward the shared funding of recreation services provided in the Town of Ponoka in 2020. That amount will increase to \$85 per capita in 2021 and to \$95 per capita in 2022 with a population adjustment based on the 2021 Statistics Canada Census. In 2023, that \$95 amount will be adjusted to reflect any increase in the Edmonton Consumer Price Index (CPI) as calculated by Statistics Canada for the most recent calendar year.

The Town will put 10 per cent of the County’s annual funding contributions into a capital reserve for the maintenance of recreation facilities. That amount will be matched by equal annual reserve contributions by the Town of Ponoka.

“Ponoka County has always supported the funding of recreation services in Ponoka. The process of creating an ICF provided an opportunity to review that funding model and to create a more formalized funding agreement to best serve the citizens of both municipalities,” said Ponoka County Reeve Paul McLauchlin.

Under the new agreement, both Town and County residents will benefit from shared recreation services based on the current published Town of Ponoka rates and fees for recreation services and facilities. The Town will

continue to operate and maintain recreation facilities for citizens in both municipalities. The new Shared Recreation Services Funding Agreement can be renewed in five-year intervals.

For Media Inquiries:

Sandra Smith
Communications Manager
Town of Ponoka
P: 403-783-0158
C: 403-913-5847
sandra.smith@ponoka.ca