



REPORT TO COUNCIL

To: **Mayor and Councillors**

Subject: **City of Langley Contributions to Township Aquatic Subsidies**

File #: 0110.00

Doc #: 199451

From: Francis Cheung, P. Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer

Date: February 3, 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT City Council direct staff to explore inter-municipal recreation services cost-sharing models, with a focus on aquatic facilities, that may be applicable within the context of the City of Langley and the Township of Langley.
 2. THAT City Council direct staff to report back the findings from the exploratory work referenced in Recommendation 1 to City Council.
 3. THAT this resolution be conveyed to the Township of Langley's Mayor Eric Woodward and further advising that following investigation into this matter, Council will subsequently respond to his request accordingly.
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PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to offer preliminary comment in response to the January 31, 2025 letter from Township of Langley's Mayor Eric Woodward regarding City of Langley contributions to Township aquatic subsidies.

POLICY:

Not applicable at this time.

COMMENTS/ANALYSIS:

In the January 31, 2025 letter from Township of Langley's Mayor Eric Woodward to City of Langley's Mayor Nathan Pachal and City Council, he cited that Township of

Langley (“Langley Township”) taxpayers are subsidizing the annual cost for programming, staffing, maintenance and capital renewal from the frequency of use by non-residents from the City of Langley (“Langley City”). Mayor Woodward requests collaboration from Langley City to jointly fund the true cost by providing an annual, multi-year financial commitment from Langley City to assist with the on-going subsidy needed to support Langley Township’s indoor aquatic facilities. Failing this financial commitment from Langley City by March 21, 2025, Mayor Woodward will recommend to Langley Township’s Council to proceed with a non-resident additional surcharge likely to be considered in 2025.

It would be a logical assumption that Langley City’s residents not only use the aquatic facilities in Langley Township but also in surrounding communities. It is reasonable to assume that Langley Township residents and residents from surrounding communities also use Langley City’s Al Anderson Memorial Pool. Langley City has offered the Grade 5 Swim Program to all students in the school district for well over 50 years. Langley City recognizes the benefits of providing recreational opportunities to all segments of our population and our philosophy has been to offer affordable access to our recreational facilities whether you are residents or non-residents of Langley City.

Langley City staff support exploring an inter-municipal recreation services funding model that is based on best practices, is evidence-based, and benefits the residents of both communities. There are various inter-municipal recreation services funding models in British Columbia and across Canada. Recognizing that there is no “one-size fits all’ model, a City of Langley/Township of Langley model will require significant research, analysis and dialogue between the communities to develop a fair, reasonable and equitable inter-municipal recreation services funding model. Given the scope of work required and complexity of such agreements, it is highly unlikely that Langley City will be able to execute an annual, multi-year financial with Langley Township by March 21, 2025.

Due to committed staff resources to implement Council’s strategic initiatives and other priorities, we will need to prioritize the effort required to conduct the necessary research and analysis. Therefore, it is recommended that City Council direct staff to explore best practices and evidence-based inter-municipal recreation services cost-sharing models, with a focus on aquatic facilities, that may be applicable within the context of Langley City and Langley Township and report back to City Council.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

Not applicable at this time.

ALTERNATIVES:

None provided.

Respectfully Submitted,



Francis Cheung, P. Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment:

1. January 31, 2025 letter from Township of Langley's Mayor Eric Woodward