

## Powell River Regional District Recreation Initiative



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## 1. Executive Summary

Parks, recreation and culture are essential to the quality of life in communities. The spaces, services, and facilities—both indoor and outdoor—provide enjoyment, allow a sense of belonging for all ages and abilities, encourage physical activity, and foster social connections. They contribute to our well-being and make our communities attractive places in which to live, work, play, and invest.

The Powell River Regional District (PRRD) is no different. The PRRD is comprised of the City of Powell River and five electoral areas.

At the Powell River Regional District Board meeting held on December 19, 2012; the following resolution was adopted: “THAT the Board concur with the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole to direct staff to issue a call for proposals to conduct a review of the recreational services and facilities in the region and city, and bring forward recommendations for potential changes to the governance structure and cost sharing options for consideration”. It was at this point in time that the PRRD made the decision to develop a Regional Recreation Strategy.

The firm of Gary Young and Associates was selected for this project.

The proposed strategy in this report should be considered a blueprint to assist in the evaluation of how to organize, manage and fund parks, recreation, and cultural services in the Powell River Regional District, including the City of Powell River.

The process utilized in this review was as follows:

1. Interview all elected officials, community leaders and staff (total of 25 individuals).
2. Complete a “Best Practices” review with eleven selected Regional Districts in British Columbia.
3. Analyze the significant data from various studies, budgets and other material made available to the consultant.
4. Complete a random community survey
5. Complete a Service Review of the Powell River Recreation Complex
6. Prepare a final report and associated recommendations.

This study comes to the conclusion that the City of Powell River and Powell River Regional District have many common interests. In order to protect, develop and maintain the quality of life in the community, the two elected bodies should seriously consider the development of a joint recreation commission that will be responsible for overseeing recreation services in four of the five Electoral Areas, as well as the City.

The Powell River Recreation Complex should be part of this shared-use proposal given that there is significant use by regional residents which warrants some form of funding partnership.

Both the City park services and the PRRD park services should be exempt from this shared service. An exception might be made for the active parks such as the track, and playing fields and the various campgrounds.

We have put forward a recommended composition for such a recreation commission and a set of roles that such a commission would play.

Finally we have put forward various funding models and have recommended that the very successful and well-accepted 'library' formula be adopted for this new joint recreation commission.

## 2. Context

### a) Socio-demographic Profile of Powell River

- The 2011 population for the PRRD was 19,906. The City of Powell River population was 13,165.
- The population grew by 1.6% from 2006 to 2011.
- The population, as a whole, is older than the average age in BC (median age 50.6 years compared to 41.9 years).
- The average number of children per household is 0.8 compared to 1 in BC.
- School population is projected to decrease from 4,000 to a projected 1,800 in the next few years.

### b) Philosophy for Investing in Public Parks and Recreation

Recreation is defined as “all those things a person or group chooses to do in order to make their leisure time more interesting, more enjoyable, and more personally satisfying.”<sup>1</sup> Recreation is “not confined solely to sports and physical recreation programs, but includes artistic, creative, cultural, social and intellectual activities.”<sup>2</sup> There are eight primary benefits associated with recreation that are substantiated by rigorous research.<sup>3</sup> They provide a strong rationale for investing in recreation as well as the venues for recreating (e.g., parks, trails, and indoor facilities):

1. Recreation and active living are essential to personal health, a key determinant of health status.
2. Recreation is key to balanced human development and helps individuals reach their potential.
3. Recreation and parks are essential to quality of life.
4. Recreation reduces self-destructive and anti-social behaviour.
5. Recreation and parks build strong families and healthy communities.
6. Pay now or pay more later! Recreation reduces health care, social service, and police/justice costs.
7. Recreation and parks are significant economic generators for communities.
8. Parks, open spaces, and natural areas are essential to ecological survival.

<sup>1</sup> Action Challenge Committee (1990).

<sup>2</sup> Canada's Federal and Provincial Recreation Ministers (1987), *The National Recreation Statement*.

<sup>3</sup> National Benefits Catalogue.

It is evident that those who use recreation facilities, spaces, parks, and trails gain direct benefit from these venues and the activities offered within. What is sometimes less recognized is that those who do not make use of these facilities also gain a benefit, albeit indirectly. These benefits include items such as: visually pleasing communities, lower crime rates, and reduced medical costs from a less stressed health care system. Therefore, there is strong support for investing in parks and recreation as it benefits all residents in the region.

When studying trends, the information should not be used to determine decision-making, but rather to influence. Trends provide insight into potential opportunities and challenges. The information below is based on extensive work in monitoring trends, researching best practices, hosting numerous community focus groups, facilitating and attending trend discussions at provincial, national, and international conferences, and tracking census data.<sup>4</sup>

### c) National and Provincial Trends

#### *Community Trends*

- Increasing disparity between the “haves” and “have-nots”
- Perception of being rushed
- Shift in demand from formal to informal activities
- Need for residents to be more involved
- Dramatic decline in volunteerism

#### *Age-Specific Trends*

- Patchwork of early-childhood development programs and support systems
- Uniqueness of “tweens”
- Youth physical inactivity epidemic
- Increase in family-centred activities
- Healthier aging population

#### *Service-Delivery Trends*

- Requirement of integrated solutions
- Connections being made between health and recreation
- Changing preferences in recreation and cultural activities

#### *Outdoor-Recreation Trends*

- Increasing popularity of trail usage
- Challenges related to parkland supply

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<sup>4</sup> Socio-demographic information is based on an analysis of BC Stats and Census information. Youth inactivity data is derived from *Child and Youth Report Card on Physical Activity* (2009). Preferences and expectation information is based on many needs assessments conducted by JW Consultants Ltd. and POV Ltd.

- Increase in dog ownership and resulting service demands
- Growing interest in urban agriculture
- Outdoor activities gaining in popularity

#### *Indoor-Recreation Trends*

- Shift in demand for activities within indoor spaces
- Expectation for green buildings and sustainable design
- Shift toward a variety of facility-provision strategies (i.e., collaboration with not-for-profits, the private sector, etc.)
- Aging infrastructure

#### *Parks and Recreation Workplace Trends*

- A focus on delivering benefits
- Lack of instructors
- Greater expectations for excellence
- Highly fragmented consumer demand
- Increased accountability to community

#### *d) Community Challenge*

The City of Powell River is experiencing an unfortunate 'new reality'. When the local mill went into bankruptcy protection in summer of 2012 the primary source of employment and taxation was drastically reduced. To the community credit a new arrangement created a much smaller but still functioning mill. As a result of the significant downsizing of the mill the city has seen mill related tax revenues decrease from \$5.5M in taxes to \$2.25M in five years.



As well, the City is experiencing financial challenges related to the need to maintain the community infrastructure.

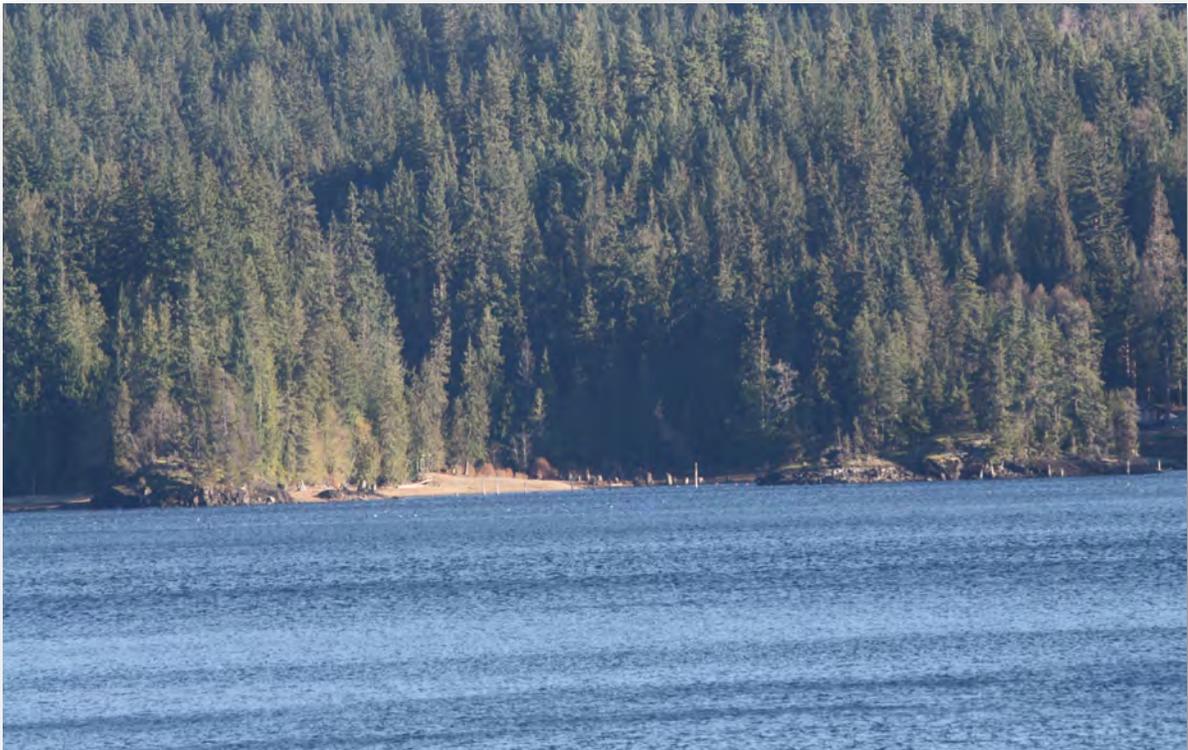
The impact of this lost taxation revenue combined with a new mill related retiree group on fixed income will require a restructuring of municipal services. This will impact all city recreation and park services including those enjoyed by residents outside the city boundaries.

### 3. Usage of City and Regional District Facilities

#### *a) Campsites*

##### *Haywire Bay Campground*

Haywire Bay is a busy campground located in Electoral Area B and managed by PRRD. It includes 35 single sites, nine double sites and two group sites. It operates on average 16 weeks per year. It is a popular campsite for locals and serves tourists from around BC and beyond. The primary users of this campground are locals (83%) and of that group 95% are City residents. In 2013, residents of the City of Powell River booked 79%, or 2543 campsite nights. A resident caretaker and support staff operate this campsite on a day-to-day basis on behalf of the PRRD.



Origin of Campers	2010		2011		2012		2013	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Regional District	71	3%	113	4%	181	5%	107	3%
City	1702	65%	1843	63%	2650	80%	2543	79%
Not Identified	421	16%	597	20%	13	0%	10	0%
City / Reg. Dist.- Total	2194	84%	2553	87%	2844	86%	2660	83%
Visitors - BC	344	13%	278	10%	397	12%	501	16%
Visitors -Out Of Province	74	3%	88	3%	84	3%	60	2%
Total	2612	100%	2919	100%	3325	100%	3221	100%

### *Shelter Point Regional Park*



Shelter Point Regional Park is a popular beachfront campground located in Electoral Area D. The park consists of the main campground and the Bella Maria campground. The park is open for camping year-round, though many of the facilities are only available during the summer camping season from April 1 – October 15.

The largest users of the campground are city residents (40%) and tourists from BC (38%). Texada Island residents make up half of all the Regional District campers (19%) and City of Powell River residents make up 64% of the Powell River users.

A resident caretaker employed by the PRRD also staffs this campsite.

Origin of Campers	2010		2011		2012		2013 (not complete)	
	No.	% total	No.	% total	No.	% total	No.	% total
Regional District	271	11%	354	14%	417	19%	174	19%
City	899	35%	811	33%	757	35%	374	40%
City & Reg Dist. total	1170	46%	1165	47%	1174	54%	548	59%
Visitors - BC	1199	47%	1111	45%	899	41%	354	38%
Out of Province	131	5%	142	6%	81	4%	21	2%
Not identified	63	2%	50	2%	18	1%	6	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2563</b>		<b>2468</b>		<b>2172</b>		<b>929</b>	

### b) Powell River Recreation Complex



The Powell River Recreation Complex is a multi-purpose, multi-sport complex. It opened December, 1975 by the City of Powell River.

The complex includes:

- Two full-size ice rinks with seating for 1,312
- Two concessions
- 25 meter pool with seating up to 300 people
- Leisure pool
- Free-form swirl pool
- Sauna
- Fully equipped weight room
- Theatre with seating for 725
- Several multi-purpose program rooms

When the complex was built, the City focused on providing recreation services to a growing city population. However, the complex by its nature also became the primary recreation centre for residents as a whole living on the Powell River mainland.

When the City faced a downturn in annual taxation with the dramatic reduction in operations at the local mill, City Council looked to participants from the region to contribute more to the operating costs since no PRRD tax funds were directed to operational costs. In the meantime, the City levied a surcharge of 33% to admissions, membership packages and registered programs for those users from the PRRD electoral areas.

Other services such as room bookings, theatre charges etc. were not a part of the surcharge program. This concept of charging a surcharge to non-contributors has been attempted in several areas in BC with mixed results. The surcharge has a tendency to reduce participation and increase the administrative funds required to collect the surcharge.

A surcharge is intended to be discriminatory and often thought justifiable by policy makers when levied against those who do not contribute financially to services. Several are in place in various regions in BC. After eight years, the Powell River City Council abandoned the practice; however, they have periodically approached PRRD for funding assistance for the complex although no specific proposal for a shared funding model has been tabled.

A brief review of the Complex's history indicates that at one time this was a very active building. After analyzing various data and observations our consulting team concluded that the recreation complex is currently functioning well below its capacity.

The primary catchment for the Complex is 18,728 residents, of which the City makes up 70% and Areas A, B, C and D comprise 30%.

### c) Community Organizations Contribution to Parks, Recreation, and Culture



The two local governments lease or loan out assets and often provide funding through grant in aid programs to local various community organizations. These volunteer driven groups in turn provide essential recreation services to the communities. The following list represents in part the services of these groups and is based on staff and community leader interviews:

- Bloody Old Men Brigade (BOMB Squad)
- Outdoor Recreation Users Group (ORUG)
  - Working on green space mapping
- Lund Community Society
  - Provides services though Lund Community Hall
- Lasqueti Community Hall Society
  - Provides services supported by the PRRD who pay insurance
- Heritage Site
  - Official heritage village designation
- Sunshine Coast Trail Society
  - Built significant trail system recognized throughout the province
  - Major local and tourist destination
  - Volunteer-driven
  - Requires maintenance support
- Paradise Exhibition Park Society
  - Operates park under five-year lease
  - Sub-leases/partner operators

- Trail Riders
  - 64 members
  - Operate stables and riding ring on behalf of PRRD
  - Low fees (children \$20)
- Powell River Therapeutic Riding
  - 100 members, 60 volunteers
  - Need help with clubhouse and water
- Track and Field Club
  - 75 members
  - Use Timberline Track (City)
  - \$140 fee
- Powell River Music Academy
  - Society purchased decommissioned school
  - 900 members – 80% city residents
  - Full facility for teaching and small performance theatre
  - Supports concert series and bi-annual choral festival
- Texada Recreation Commission –
  - Eight members appointed by PRRD for two-year terms (strive for a balance in age, place of residence on the island and personal interests) plus the Area Director
  - Texada Community Hall used for occasional tai chi and exercise classes (very irregular)
  - Gillies Bay baseball field used for an annual slo-pitch tournament
  - Trails and outdoor parks used for general recreation purposes
  - Baseball fields are constantly in need of draining, smoothing or other work
  - Tennis courts are no longer regularly inspected by PRRD staff, poor maintenance is leading to court damage
  - Residents contribute to recreation via property taxes
  - No fees charged, except for private classes

### Sports and the Arts

Two other clusters of community-based organizations provide a significant number of recreation opportunities to the communities. These groups fall under either the banner of Community Sport or Community Culture. Often these groups access public facilities and receive subsidized rates or grant in aid funds to support their programs and access public recreation facilities. Given the significant numbers of groups feedback was gathered through surveys and focus groups.

### Not For Profit and Service Groups

Another group of not for profit organizations own or lease facilities, often receive grant in aid funding and provide need meeting recreation services to the community. These groups were also invited to participate in a focus group to help inform both this report and the Complex Service Review accompanying report.

*Key messages from group leaders:*

- Need a seamless parks and recreation system
- Looking for support – prefer to go to one source
- Need collective recreation vision for area
- Policy makers need to think of benefits and community values
- There is a growing need for more ‘one-stop’ facilities to help alleviate the barrier of travel (i.e., have everything at one location).
- Marketing and promotions should be a top priority.
- Regular drop-in programs are needed for visitors to the community.
- Offer more opportunities to youth that are current and of interest to them.
- Look at the population demographics and plan accordingly.
- Partnerships are essential with Vancouver Coastal Health, Inclusion Powell River and Tourism Powell River.
- Sports groups needs the City’s help for long-term planning including development of a sport council
- Need to look at best model programs for sports in communities and move towards it.



## 4. Budgets – City and Regional District Facilities

The PRRD spends a total of \$515,577 on parks, recreation and culture. Of that total, the City contributes 50% and the remaining 50% is spread among the service areas.

### PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE - 2013 REQUISITIONS

Service	Requisite	Participating Areas							Total
		SIGD	A	B	C	D	E		
<b>Tax Base</b>		196,007,909	637,490	90,463,602	23,768,080	8,646,783	25,787,258	13,449,444	388,760,566
<b>% of Total</b>		50.42%	0.16%	23.27%	6.11%	9.94%	6.63%	3.46%	
Regional Parks	293,660	148,059	482	68,334	17,954	29,193	19,479	10,159	293,660
Comm Recreation	53,762					45,031		8,731	53,762
Northside Recreation	50,000			50,000					50,000
Texada Recreation Com.	93,000						93,000		93,000
Texada Heritage	10,155						10,155		10,155
Economic Development									-
Cultural Events	13,004			7,589		3,250	2,165		13,004
Area B Grants to Culture	1,996				1,996				1,996
<b>Totals</b>	<b>515,577</b>	<b>148,059</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>125,923</b>	<b>19,950</b>	<b>77,474</b>	<b>124,799</b>	<b>18,890</b>	<b>515,577</b>
<b>Other Tax Bases</b>									
Northside Recreation				64,064,486					
Texada Recreation							25,741,998		
Residential Tax Rate / \$1,000 NTV		0.08	0.08	0.16	0.08	0.20	0.48	0.14	
<b>Household Taxes</b>									
Regional Dist. P.R.C.		94,360	478	56,981	16,606	58,321	64,620	17,953	309,318
City Parks, Rec, Culture		1,729,121							
<b>Totals</b>		<b>1,823,481</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>56,981</b>	<b>16,606</b>	<b>58,321</b>	<b>64,620</b>	<b>17,953</b>	<b>309,318</b>
Population		13165	22	1008	1488	2014	1053	426	19176
Cost / Capita		\$139	\$22	\$57	\$11	\$29	\$61	\$42	\$16

The Residential Tax Rate per \$1,000 NTV is based on the 2013 Revised Roll Values

*City Budget Towards Parks, Recreation, and Culture*

	<b>2013 Budget</b>	Tax rate Per 1000/NTV	<b>2013 Budget</b>	Tax rate Per 1000/NTV	<b>2013 Budget</b>	Tax rate	Average Home
	<b>City Parks</b>	Parks	<b>City Recreation and Culture</b>	Recreation and Culture	<b>Totals</b>	Totals	236,000
2013 budget (Expenses less revenues)	792,682		1,835,200		2,627,882		
Residential (1,251,564,237 NTV)	<b>521,577</b>	0.4167	<b>1,207,544</b>	0.9648	1,729,121	1.3816	326.05
Utilities	<b>1,838</b>	2.1827	<b>4,256</b>	5.0533	6,095	7.2360	
Major Industry	<b>122,770</b>	1.1807	<b>284,235</b>	2.7336	407,005	3.9143	
Light Industry	<b>4,269</b>	0.8686	<b>9,883</b>	2.0111	14,151	2.8797	
Business/Other Managed Forest Land	<b>139,339</b> <b>748</b>	1.1314 2.6330	<b>322,595</b> <b>1,731</b>	2.6194 6.0958	461,934 2,478	3.7508 8.7287	
Recreation/ Non-Profit	<b>2,114</b>	1.1069	<b>4,894</b>	2.5627	7,009	3.6696	
Farm	<b>27</b>	0.3050	<b>62</b>	0.7061	89	1.0111	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>792,682</b>		<b>1,835,200</b>			<b>2,627,882</b>	

Tax Base \$1,486,737,906

	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
<u>Revenue</u>		
Parks	19,095	27,363
Recreation	898,378	879,095
Culture (Theatre and Meeting Rooms)	74,722	89,076
Willingdon Beach Campsite	168,420	192,899
Total Revenue	1,160,615	1,188,433
<u>Expenses</u>		
Parks	812,406	837,267
Recreation	2,504,125	2,377,614
Culture (Theatre and Meeting Rooms)	456,862	439,811
Willingdon Beach Campsite	176,625	161,245
Total Expenses	3,950,018	3,815,937
Deficit	(2,789,403)	(2,627,504)

*Overall cost of Parks, Recreation, and Culture*

Cost per capita

	City	A	B	C	D	E
City Parks, Rec, Culture – Household taxes	1729121					
Total	1877180					
Population	13165	1008	1488	2014	1053	463
Cost / capita	\$139	\$57	\$11	\$29	\$61	\$42



## 5. Previous Discussions Among the Parties

### a) 2005 Discussions

Previous discussion between the City of Powell River and the PRRD occurred in 2004 and 2005. Staff conducted a survey through open houses and by mail to collect feedback on joint parks and recreation services from PRRD taxpayers. The sample size was 841 households and Ipsos Reid confirmed the survey validity. The following conclusion is an excerpt from that study:

### Support for Municipal Recreation Facilities and Associated Taxation

As indicated in the preceding summary of results, the respondents were not necessarily frequent users of the Complex and sports fields but a good majority [69%] considered the facilities important to people in the rural areas and even more agreed the facilities contributed several benefits to the Region as a whole.

This same strong support for the facilities and what they contribute to the Region was not reflected in support for contributing towards their costs through taxation. In this regard, respondents overall were evenly split for and against.

Considering support for taxation by electoral area, the results indicate that voters in Areas A, B and C may approve a tax of about \$25 but getting approval for anything much higher could be a struggle. Only in Area B did the majority of respondents [51%] indicate support for a tax exceeding \$25.

Area D [Texada Island] support for taxation is highly unlikely. This is not surprising, given the distance from the facilities and the fact that Texada already supports its own Recreation Commission which manages and maintains several facilities. However, it does have implications for determining the boundaries of any future service area, should the Regional District move in that direction.

The correlation between property value and tax support indicates that, generally, owners of higher valued properties are more willing to pay more than \$25 than owners of lower valued properties. This would lend some support to a tax based, at least in part, on property values.

The level of tax voters may support must be considered in conjunction with the amount of contribution the Municipality would be willing to accept in order to cancel its two-tier user fee system and conclude this debate. This is a matter that must be settled with the Municipality before a decision about putting this issue to referendum can be finalised.

#### In summary

- Based on the number and rate of responses the questionnaire results can be considered valid
- Rural residents consider the Recreation Complex and sports fields valuable to the Region, whether or not they use them
- More people consider the facilities important than are willing to pay for them
- Overall, respondents are equally divided on the issue of taxation
- Area D clearly does not support taxation
- While there is some support for higher taxes, particularly among owners of higher valued properties, it appears the majority of voters would not likely support a tax of more than about \$25
- The community is equally divided on the issue of taxation. Results do not provide any certainty that voters would approve any level of taxation if this matter is put to a vote.

## b) Other Factors to Consider

- Some policy makers interested in bike trail system – could be covered in Regional Transportation Strategy (if trails are for commuting, they could access gas tax funding).
- Perception that many parks are underutilized.
- Treaty with Sliammon Nation is ready to sign but Federal Government won't ratify until March 2015 – impediment to creating three-way partnership.
- Canoe route and hiking trails essential to tourism and attraction of new families and businesses.
- Leisure needs of First Nation (e.g. youth, adults and families)
- Active population supports availability of free activities.



## 6. Functional Comparatives

A review of other regional district data provides a useful set of information. When looking at comparisons, it is important to be mindful that every Regional District has unique factors impacting the level of service such as the existence of adjacent recreation and cultural services, the mandate of the community in terms of investing in health and wellness, the economic health of the area, willingness to pay, the existence of private sector options, the range of services provided for expenditures spent, the characteristics, priorities and expectations of the community, the community's recreation patterns, and the age of the facilities (i.e., newer facilities are designed to save supervision staff, front-line staffing and energy costs, etc.).

### a) Regional District Size and Population

Four regions were selected for comparison with PRRD based on similarities in the size of the various cities, the primary recreation complex components and their catchment area populations including those living beyond the city boundaries.

#### 2011 Regional District Population Data

Key Attributes	Powell River (PRRD)	Sunshine Coast (SCRD)	Central Kootenay (RDCK)		Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN)		Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD)	
Land Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	5092.1	3776.62	22094.94		2038.014		1700.576	
Population - Regional District	19,906	28619	58,441		62764		63,538	
Cities, towns, and rural communities	City of Powell River 13,165	Gibsons 4437	Castlegar 7816		Parksville 11977		Comox 13627	
	Area A 1,008	Sechelt 9291	Creston 5306		Qualicum Beach 8687		Courtenay 24099	
	Area B 1,488	Sechelt (Part) 797	Kaslo 1026		Indian Res 949		Cumberland 3398	
	Area C 2,014	Indian Reserves 0	Nakusp 1569		Nanaimo A 6908		Indian Reserves 251	
	Area D 1,053	Sunshine Coast A 2678	Nelson 10230		Nanaimo B 4045		A 6899	
	Area E 463	Sunshine Coast B 2675	New Denver 504		Nanaimo C 2834		B (Lazo North) 6939	
		Sunshine Coast D 3244	Salmo 1139		Nanaimo E 5674		C (Puntledge - Black Creek) 8325	
		Sunshine Coast E 3482	Silverton 195		Nanaimo F 7422			
		Sunshine Coast F 2015	Slocan 296		Nanaimo G 7158			
			Indian Reserves 113		Nanaimo H 3509			
			Central Kootenay A 2030					
			Central Kootenay B 4464					
			Central Kootenay C 1372					
			Central Kootenay D 1413					
		Central Kootenay E 3781						
		Central Kootenay F 3976						
		Central Kootenay G 1597						
		Central Kootenay H 4289						
		Central Kootenay I 2570						
		Central Kootenay J 2996						
		Central Kootenay K 1759						

The ‘recreation behaviours’ do not reflect what the population distribution data might imply.

#### SCRD

On the Sunshine Coast, both rural and urban community members tend to access services throughout the Sunshine Coast; however, there is a desire to have more services located within local communities.

#### RDCK

In the Central Kootenays, multi-purpose facilities are located in each of the three urban centres (i.e., Castlegar, Nelson and Creston). Rural community members do, and expect to, travel to the urban areas closest to them for recreation opportunities.

#### RDN

In the Regional District of Nanaimo, the largest urban area is Nanaimo. The smaller communities of Parksville and Qualicum and the surrounding rural areas have an arena complex located Parksville and an aquatic facility located in Qualicum. The staff structure is being reviewed to provide a greater presence and connection with rural communities.

#### CVRD

In the Comox Valley, the services are generally located in the urban areas of Comox, Courtenay and Cumberland. These urban centres are located in close proximity to each other. These communities are served by both regional district and local recreation services and facilities. With the exception of Cumberland (located approximately 10 minutes away from Comox and Courtenay), community members find the services in the urban areas very accessible.

#### PRRD

Powell River Regional District only has one urban centre. The vast majority of the residents access parks and recreation facilities within one moderate size catchment area. The notable exceptions are the communities of Hernando, Savary that are relatively self-sufficient. Lasqueti Island residents access additional recreation services through Qualicum.

#### Summary

In summary, the services found in these examples all support the recreation wants and needs of both urban and electoral area residents. While there is only one major centre in the P.R.R.D., rural electoral residents in the Powell River mainland tend to travel to the City provided facilities to participate in both their structured and unstructured recreation activities in a similar manner to the other examples selected for comparative purposes.



**b) Taxation Comparisons**

To contextualize the relative tax burden, taxation data was collected from the selected regions.

**Cost Per Capita - Operations**

	2011
City of Powell River	\$139(2013)
PRRD	\$22
SCRD - 4 Facilities 2 Pools & 2 Arena/CC	\$ 131.52
RDCK Castlegar - Aquatics	\$ 55.43
RDCK Nelson & District - Arena & Pool	\$ 106.27
RDCK Creston & District - Arena & Pool	\$ 108.73
RDN Ravensong Qualicum - Pool	\$ 22.20
RDN Parksville - Arenas	\$ 18.11
CVRD Complex - 2 Facilities 2 Pools & 2 Arena	\$ 50.71

SCRD - 4 Facilities 2 Pools & 2 Arena/CC	\$ 62.87
RDCK Castlegar - 2 Facilities Arena & Curling Rink	
RDCK Castlegar - Aquatics	
RDCK Nelson & District - Arena & Pool	\$ 43.40
RDCK Creston & District - Arena & Pool	\$ 80.62
RDN Ravensong Qualicum - Pool	\$ 19.59
RDN Parksville - Arena	\$ 10.64
CVRD Complex - 2 Facilities 2 Pools & 2 Arena	\$ 19.27

### c) Facility Features

The following chart summarizes the features of each facility within the other regional districts.

Facilities	Powell River Recreation Complex	Castlegar & District Community Complex	Creston & District Community Complex	Nelson & District Community Complex	Gibsons Aquatic & CC	Sechelt Aquatics Centre	Sunshine Coast Arena	RDN Ravensong Aquatic Centre - Qualicum <sup>5</sup>	RDN Oceanside Place - Parksville	CVRD Aquatics Centre	CVRD Sport Centre
Lap Pool	6 lane 25M	✓ - 6 lanes/25 m	➤ - 5 lanes/25 m	➤ - 6 lanes/25m	✓ - 20 m	✓ - 6 lanes/25 m		➤ - 6 lanes/25 m		➤ - 8 lanes/25 m	➤ - 6 lanes/25 m
Leisure Pool	✓	➤	➤	➤		✓		➤			
Meeting Rooms	✓	➤ 9	➤ several	➤ 1	✓	✓	✓	➤		➤	➤
Gymnasium									➤		
Seniors Centre		✓	➤								
Youth Centre					✓						
NHL	✓ 2	✓ 2	➤	➤(Plus City also has 1 rink next door)	✓						➤ 2
Other Ice Sheet									➤ 2		
Leisure Ice									➤		
Curling			➤								Don't operate
Weight room	✓	➤	➤	➤	✓	✓				➤	➤
Track	✓			➤ Walking circuit							➤

#### Observation

Most regional districts have community complexes. The concept is to have community gathering and multi-purpose spaces within a precinct of facilities. The alternative is to locate different types of facilities in each community providing that the community members naturally travel between communities.

While gymnasiums are not commonly located in the above recreation facilities, gymnasiums and flexible spaces for indoor sports is vital. Access to school gyms are an important strategy where gyms are not part of the multi-use facility.

<sup>5</sup> 2009 data due to facility renovations

## 7) Organizational/Service Comparatives

The consultant also gathered information about how various regions in the province are structuring their organizations to provide Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services. We gathered information from eight regions. All eight regions have interesting models to help inform a proposed model for PRRD.

### *1) Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD)*

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District provides funding for two regional parks – both are crown licensed. The TNRD also supports some limited recreation programming in participating areas and provides funding to two ice arenas (Merritt & Clearwater). Parks and recreation services committees function in two areas supported by staff. As a result, there are some limited recreation programs offered.

Volunteer organizations must be registered societies in order to receive grant funding from the District.

### *2) Peace River Regional District*

This Regional District operates five regional parks which provide opportunities for camping, boat launches, fishing, swimming, etc. under the direction of a Parks Advisory Committee which consists of two directors appointed by the Board. Parks are a regional function with taxation based on improvements only. The Grant In Aid (GIA) program has a service area, which includes only the four rural areas.

Each of the recreation facilities has a specified service area. There is a Civic Properties Commission for the Chetwynd Recreation Centre that provides oversight for the service and consists of appointed Board members, Council members and a few volunteers from the public.

The North Peace Leisure Pool Commission also provides governance and oversight for that facility and commissioners are appointed by the Regional District Board and consist of Board members or City of Fort St. John Council members.

A “committee” which includes the Electoral Area Director and School Trustee as well as representatives from the non-profit society that oversee the budget recommendations manages rural ice rinks. Volunteers or their societies’ employees operate rural ice rinks.

There is a tri-party agreement with the North Peace School District and two non-profit societies for the operation of two rural ice arenas. In this partnership, the Regional District provides contract administration and operational support and advice. The Regional District owns the Chetwynd Arena and North Peace Leisure Pool and contracts to the District of Chetwynd and the City of Fort St John for the operation of these facilities. There is also a large service area for the Dawson Creek multiplex that includes the rural area.

Oversight of the Grant In Aid (GIA) program runs through a Standing Committee of the Board, which consists of the four Electoral Area Directors. The Regional District provides \$455,000 in recreational and cultural grants to 50+ rural recreation and cultural program providers (gymkhanas,

golf courses, community halls, fall fairs and historical societies) and also provides support and advice on an as needed basis to these groups as well as the administration of the GIA program.

Each of the municipalities within the Regional District operate their own community parks (i.e., baseball fields, playgrounds), biking and walking trails within their boundaries as well as recreation centers, ice rinks and swimming pools.

### *3) Northern Rockies Regional Municipality (NRRM)*

The Northern Rockies Regional Municipality is an interesting model as it has assumed all local government responsibilities for the region. As a consequence, facilities, parks and recreation services provide maintenance and management of all recreational programming, regional parks and campground and outhouse maintenance etc.

### *4) Regional District of Fraser Fort George (RDFFG)*

The RDFFG operates a regional parks system. The overseeing Parks Board is a standing full committee of regional board members. The parks program is funded equally by all seven electoral areas and the municipalities on an assessment basis.

With regard to recreation, the regional district supports community parks and community halls and have a recreation centre in both McBride and Valemount. These two recreation centres are funded jointly via assessments by the municipalities and a defined local service area that surrounds them. The two recreation centres each have an executive management committee composed of a representative from each municipality, the Electoral Area Director and representatives from the user groups.

### *5) Cariboo Regional District (CRD)*

The Cariboo is divided into three sub-regions:

#### 1) North Cariboo Recreation and Parks (NCRP)

Policy decisions related to existing NCRP services are made by the North Cariboo Recreation and Parks Commission. The Commission authority is limited primarily to the delivery of existing services at the arts and recreation centre and twin arenas and does not include proposed service expansions like the multi-centre. Policy decisions outside the delegated authority of the Commission are considered by the North Cariboo Joint Planning Committee (NCJPC) with recommendations made to the Cariboo Regional District Board for ratification.

While the Commission has delegated authority within defined parameters, budget approval requires ratification of the CRD Board. Prior to ratification of the budget, the NCJPC reviews and makes its recommendations to the CRD Board. The NCJPC does not have delegated authority and all of its recommendations must be ratified by the CRD Board.

The NCRPC consists of two CRD directors from Electoral Areas A, B, C and I, two members of Quesnel City Council, one School Board #28 representative, and two members of the general public, one selected by the CRD Northern Rural Caucus and one selected by Quesnel City Council. The NCJPC consists of the CRD Directors from Electoral Areas A, B, C and I and the Quesnel City Council.

The City of Quesnel manages the function on behalf of the CRD. A new five-year management agreement between the City of Quesnel and CRD was signed in 2012.

The Quesnel and District Leisure Services Department's mandate is to provide a variety of recreational services to the residents of the City of Quesnel and Cariboo Regional District (CRD), Electoral Areas A, B, C and I within a defined recreation boundary for the North Cariboo Recreation and Parks (NCRP) function. These services are primarily offered through the Quesnel and District Arts and Recreation Centre and the Quesnel and District Twin Arenas. School and outdoor facilities are also utilized.

Additional recreation commissions exist in Bouchie Lake, Barlow Creek, Parkland and Alex Fraser Park. They provide services with funding support obtained through NCRP. Pioneer Park is operated by the Quesnel Archery Club. They have operated the park with no operational cost to North Cariboo Recreation and Parks with the exception that NCRP pays for their public liability insurance and may provide funding for some capital improvements.

The NCRP function is funded through taxation and user fees. The tax component of funding is allocated among the participating jurisdictions on the basis of hospital assessment. The taxation limitation is the greater of \$3,680,000 or an amount of \$3.70/\$1,000 of total assessed value of land and improvements. A referendum to increase the taxation limit to \$4.9 million and to borrow up to \$15 million for the proposed Multi-Centre was approved by the electorate on November 15, 2008.

## 2) Central Cariboo Recreation and Leisure Services

The Central Cariboo Recreation and Leisure Services function was established in 2007 to complete major renovations to the Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex.

The Recreation and Leisure Services function has a mandate to provide the following services:

- Swimming pool complex
- Twin ice arena facility
- Recreation and cultural programming
- Trail development and maintenance
- Sports fields, facility development and maintenance

The City of Williams Lake provides the facility management and recreation programming components of the service under a five-year contract.

Services are generally provided from the recreation complex in Williams Lake, which includes the twin arenas, pool and multi-purpose space.

The function also includes the sports complex, which includes slo-pitch, soccer and minor fastball fields under use and occupancy agreements with local associations. These groups also receive field maintenance funding on an annual basis to complement the work of volunteers and their own financial resources. Various other community projects, such as neighbourhood outdoor rinks, trails or bike parks are also supported on a project-by-project basis.

Participants in the service include portions of Electoral Areas D, E, and F and the City of Williams Lake. Requisition is by way of a tax rate applied to the assessed value of land and improvements utilizing hospital district assessment. The requisition limit is the greater of \$2,559,480 or a rate of \$2.0577/1,000.

The Directors for Electoral Areas D, E, and F and the City of Williams Lake are responsible for the governance of this service, which is provided through the Central Cariboo/City of Williams Lake Joint Committee with advisory support from volunteers on the Central Cariboo Recreation Advisory Committee. The Central Cariboo Joint Committee (CCJC) holds an open, public meeting once per month.

### 3) South Cariboo Recreation function

The South Cariboo Recreation function was established through Bylaw No. 4617 in 2010 through the merger of three existing recreation services: Arena (Bylaw No. 3703 - 2001), Curling Rink (Bylaw No. 4616 - 2010, LP No. 29 - 1976) and Programming (Bylaw No. 3952 - 2004). The merger was undertaken to create a common taxation boundary and for administrative efficiency of the three existing services.

The Stan Halcro Arena function was expanded in 2001, which also provided for an increased maximum requisition and the borrowing of \$3 million to construct a new facility. The debt is scheduled to be fully repaid in 2023. The new South Cariboo Recreation Centre (SCRC), which includes a geothermal ice plant and heating system for the arena, curling rink and meeting rooms, was completed in 2003. Major capital improvements to facilitate event hosting were completed in 2009 including installation of projection screens, wireless connectivity, bleacher heating and a digital advertising sign as well as the purchase of tables and chairs and a dry floor to cover the arena ice. A modular stage and storage capacity was added in 2011-2012.

The arena and adjacent curling rink are operated by Canlan Ice Sports under a management contract with the Cariboo Regional District.

The 100 Mile and District Curling Club currently manage the curling rink facility during the ice season and by Canlan Ice Sports during the off-season through agreements with the Cariboo Regional District.

The programming function was originally established in 1973 to provide recreation and leisure activities for residents of the South Cariboo and to support the efforts of community groups in their related pursuits. Included in the recreation function is a maintenance agreement with the District of 100 Mile House for Lumberman's Park and Robinson Park, which are multi-use fields adjacent to the recreation centre. The agreement with the District includes maintenance of the fields, outdoor washrooms and wooded picnic area. Scheduling use of the baseball fields is included in the recreation management agreement with Canlan Ice Sports.

The 108 Beach Program is also part of this function and is provided through an agreement with the 108 Mile Ranch Community Association.

Portions of Electoral Areas G, H, and L and the District of 100 Mile House participate in this service, which is funded by means of a tax applied to the assessed value of land and improvements

within the local service area utilizing hospital district assessment. The maximum requisition is the greater of \$600,000 or \$0.5617/\$1,000.

The Directors for Electoral Areas G, H and L and the District of 100 Mile House are responsible for the governance of this service.

#### *6) Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD)*

The SCRD provides regional parks to the mainland through a collective tax on all participating areas and all local governments. They operate all recreation facilities, including those facilities previously owned and operated by a local government.

All of the local governments and most of the areas contribute to the SCRD who manage these indoor and outdoor facilities through a parks and recreation department. The SCRD takes advice on the operation of this department from an advisory board made up of appointed citizens and elected officials.

Two areas have chosen to provide recreation through individual service area functions and staff report to the Regional District and take guidance and advice from a local advisory committee.

The municipalities provide their own park services.

#### *7) Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK)*

The RDCK provides a number of parks throughout the region. They also support local recreation halls funded by local service areas and operated by volunteer advisory groups. The recreation function in the three urban centres of Castlegar, Creston and Nelson are all operated in a partnership with the three local governments. In each case, they have established a recreation commission. Service area agreements are in place however there are exceptions where an area consumes but does not contribute. All staff are RDCK staff.

The three local governments manage municipal parks.

#### *8) Squamish Lillooet Regional District (SLRD)*

The SLRD has three major population bases. Squamish and Whistler operate independent parks and recreation departments. Whistler facilities also support the ice and aquatic needs of Pemberton and Area C. Due to the lack of financial support, Whistler has recently introduced a surcharge on SLRD based users. Pemberton participates in a partnership with the SLRD in the operation of a community centre with one area participating through a service area tax.

The SLRD does operate a few regional parks and supports a few community halls and provides limited support to Squamish.

## a) Summary

### *Parks*

All regional governments that we surveyed have some regional park functions funded through a regional or sub regional context. Most municipalities operated a local park system funded by municipal taxation.

This is consistent with the Powell River scenario.

### *Recreation*

Many regional governments offer local recreation provided through community halls supported by some form of service area function. In most cases, volunteer recreation commissions or committees supplied primary leadership. There were a few exceptions where the rural recreation services were supported by the entire region.

Again, this modeling appears to reflect that of the Powell River area.

The operation of other recreation services to villages, towns and cities followed one of the following models:

- Regional District does not participate in local government services.
- Regional District provides funding to local government via specific service area agreements who operate recreation services.
- Regional District owns recreation assets and appoints governance committees to include local governments who provide funding.
- Regional District owns and operates all facilities (in one case the Regional District has assumed all local government functions).

Typically, service agreement funding comes from tax assessments. In one case a hospital assessment is used.

In summary the majority of Regional Districts surveyed support regional recreation in one form another.

## 8. Community Values

In order to tailor recommendations to meet specific situations, it is important to understand local community values. The following values were identified during the interview process with community leaders:

- Self sufficient and independent
- Leaders in new initiatives
- Value quality of life
- Strong arts and culture delivery system
- Sustainable development
- Inclusive
- Contribution from Sliammon First Nation important
- Family-oriented
- Volunteer-oriented



## 9. Community Survey

It was important to this study to be informed as to what the current recreation patterns and associated priorities are in the various communities.

Points of View Consulting were retained to complete a community survey. The City of Powell River and Areas A, B, C and D and the Tla'Amin First Nation participated. A random selection of residents from these areas were invited to participate. The survey was completed in March and April of 2014. 397 responses were received. The results are accurate at least plus or minus 4.9 percentage points 19 times out of 20. The reliability of results for the areas and demographic sub-groups will be less reliable than the results for the total sample. Unfortunately there were not enough responses from the Tla'Amin First Nation to provide community specific results. However their responses were included in the overall survey data.

The detailed survey results are found in appendix II of this report.

Some of the data in this survey was utilized for the City of Powell River Recreation Complex Service Review.

The following survey results are intended to provide an informed overview of the recreation patterns of all regional district residents except those living in Electoral Area E given that they look to have their recreation needs met on Lasqueti Island or Vancouver Island.

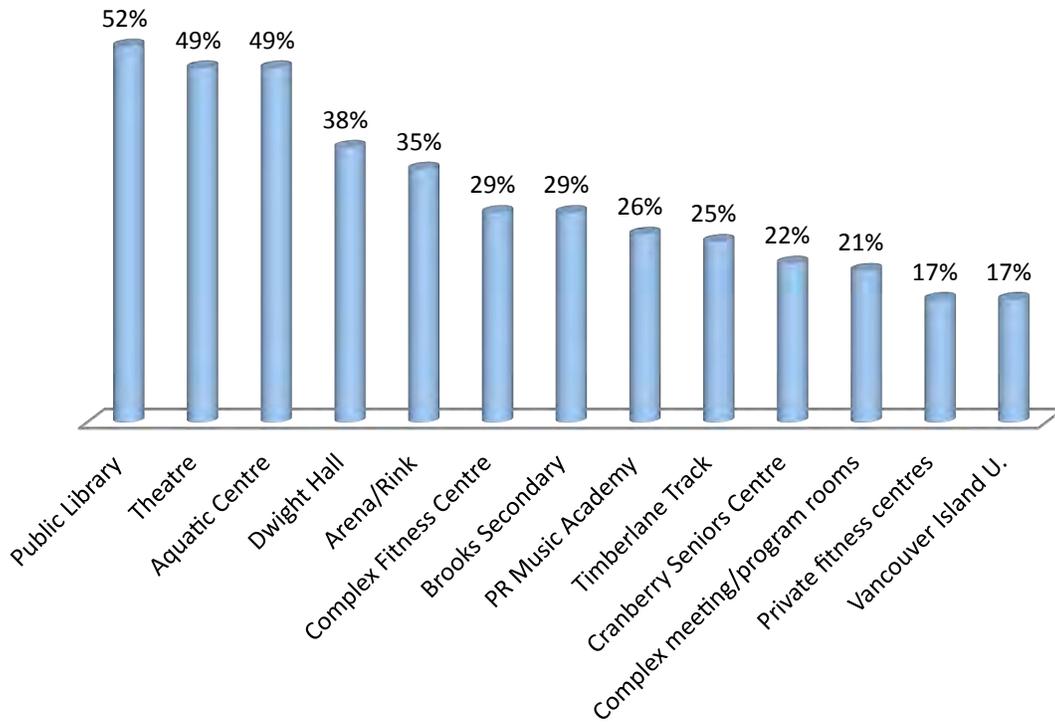
The results included below also shed more light on the actual participation patterns of area residents at the Powell River Recreation Complex.

There is a host of information beyond that which is included in the body of the report, which can be found in appendix II.

Survey respondents were asked if they or anyone in their households use any of 29 regional facilities (or parts of facilities and facility types) to participate in registered or drop-in programs now or during the past year.

□

### Regional Facilities Used by Largest Percentages of Households



Household use of the top five regional facilities

City	Electoral Area A- D
53% - public library -	47%
50% - Evergreen Theatre -	47%
46% - Aquatic Centre -	54%
38% - Dwight Hall -	40%
32% - ice arena -	40%

Three-quarters (75%) of the survey sample reported use of one or more parts of the Powell River Recreation Complex. Use was about the same for City of Powell River residents (74%) and residents of other areas (77%).

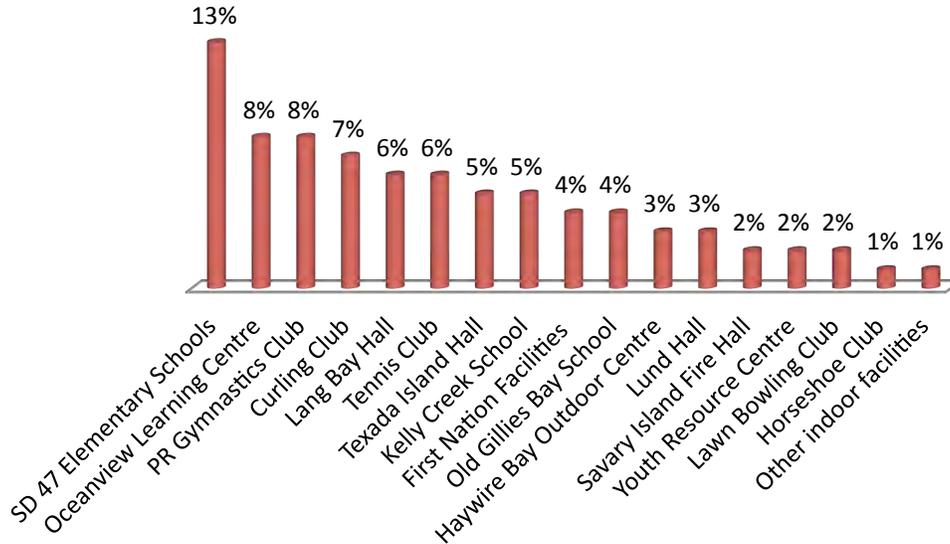
### Visits in Past Year to Powell River Recreation Complex by Region

	Total Sample	City of Powell River	Area A	Area B	Area C	Area D
Recreation Complex – any part	75%	74%	68%	87%	84%	47%
Evergreen Theatre	49%	50%	33%	59%	59%	27%
Complex Aquatic Centre	49%	46%	49%	70%	52%	30%
Complex arena/rink	35%	32%	39%	60%	37%	17%
Complex Fitness Centre	29%	28%	23%	41%	27%	2%
Complex program and meeting rooms	21%	19%	23%	47%	27%	10%

- Households with children living in the home were highly likely to use the Recreation Complex (90%) and significantly more likely to use the facility than those with no children in the home (70%).
- Use was higher among households with children for the Aquatic Centre (75%) in comparison with households with no children (41%) and the ice arena (58% of those with children and 28% of those with no children at home).
- Use of the Aquatic Centre and ice arena tended to decline as age of survey respondents increased, but use held steady regardless of age for the Evergreen Theatre.
- Use of the Fitness Centre peaked for the 45 to 54 year age group (51%) but was similar among the other age groups. Use of meeting and program rooms was higher for the 55 to 64 year group (29%) and the 19 to 44 year age group (24%) but was similar among the other two age groups.

Facilities used by 13% or fewer households are shown in the next chart.

### Household Use of Less Used Facilities



The following data captures frequent use. This changes the patterns for example Evergreen Theatre is used once a year by 49% of the households but only 6% on a frequent basis.

### Frequent Use in Past Year of Powell River Recreation Complex by Region

	Total Sample	City of Powell River	Area A	Area B	Area C	Area D
Recreation Complex – any part	47%	46%	50%	69%	49%	18%
Complex Aquatic Centre	35%	34%	38%	53%	36%	15%
Complex Fitness Centre	18%	18%	19%	15%	21%	2%
Complex arena/rink	13%	12%	16%	28%	10%	5%
Evergreen Theatre	6%	6%	1%	6%	9%	0%
Complex program and meeting rooms	2%	1%	3%	5%	4%	0%

The next chart shifts focus from facilities to program activities.

### Household Participation Rates by Area for Popular Activities Within the City

	Total Sample	City of Powell River	Area A	Area B	Area C	Area D
Community gathering, festival, special events, or theatrical production in the Recreation Complex or in a local park	52%	47%	61%	74%	63%	46%
Public swimming	40%	38%	44%	64%	45%	24%
Fitness classes, yoga, wellness programs	27%	35%	28%	39%	43%	14%
Weight / Fitness room	24%	23%	27%	39%	26%	2%
Public skating	19%	17%	23%	39%	19%	8%
Volunteer for a recreation activity or program now or in the past year	16%	15%	22%	21%	13%	12%
General interest programs	15%	14%	18%	13%	19%	7%
Music or music lessons	13%	13%	10%	30%	8%	5%
Swimming lessons or other guided classes	13%	12%	20%	23%	11%	3%

#### Non-Users by area:

- 27% of City of Powell River residents reported no participation in any of these activities in the past year.
- 17% of all other areas reported no participation in these activities in the past year, which included:
  - 22% of Area A
  - 13% of Area B
  - 14% of Area C
  - 33% of Area D.

## Participation Rates for Types of Activities Offered by the City or that Use City Facilities

### SUMMARY OF DISSATISFACTIONS WITH AND SUGGESTIONS FOR PROGRAMS

**Recreation programs.** The main requests expressed by residents for recreation programs included:

- provide more programs and more variety in general interest programming
- offer better times for working adults/parents (evening and weekend programs) and for those travelling from outside of the City and
- deliver more programs in the region.

	Total Sample	City of Powell River	Area A	Area B	Area C	Area D
Recreation programs or activities offered by the private or not-for-profit sectors	47%	44%	42%	70%	52%	43%
Registered sports leagues or clubs or not-for-profit organizations that use City recreation facilities or fields	31%	34%	29%	43%	24%	3%
Registered programs offered through the Complex Leisure Guide	28%	25%	32%	46%	31%	20%
City of Powell River drop-in activities	25%	24%	33%	28%	30%	15%
No participation in registered programs	72%	74%	68%	52%	69%	80%
No participation in drop-in programs	75%	75%	67%	71%	70%	85%

Other interesting suggestions were as follows:

**Places to display art.** Popular suggestions were to designate space in a new library for displaying local artists' art works or build a freestanding public art gallery.

**Community festivals, events, etc.** This was the most popular recreation activity. Some respondents suggested hosting even more events throughout the region.

**Volunteering opportunities.** Again, there were not a lot of comments about volunteering opportunities, but the main concern was finding out about them. Apparently, more publicizing of volunteering opportunities is needed.

**Health and fitness programs.** The majority of dissatisfactions had to do with the scheduling of classes and conflicts in timing with work or ferry schedules.

Suggested improvements at the Powell River Recreation Complex have been included in the Service Review that has been presented to City Council.

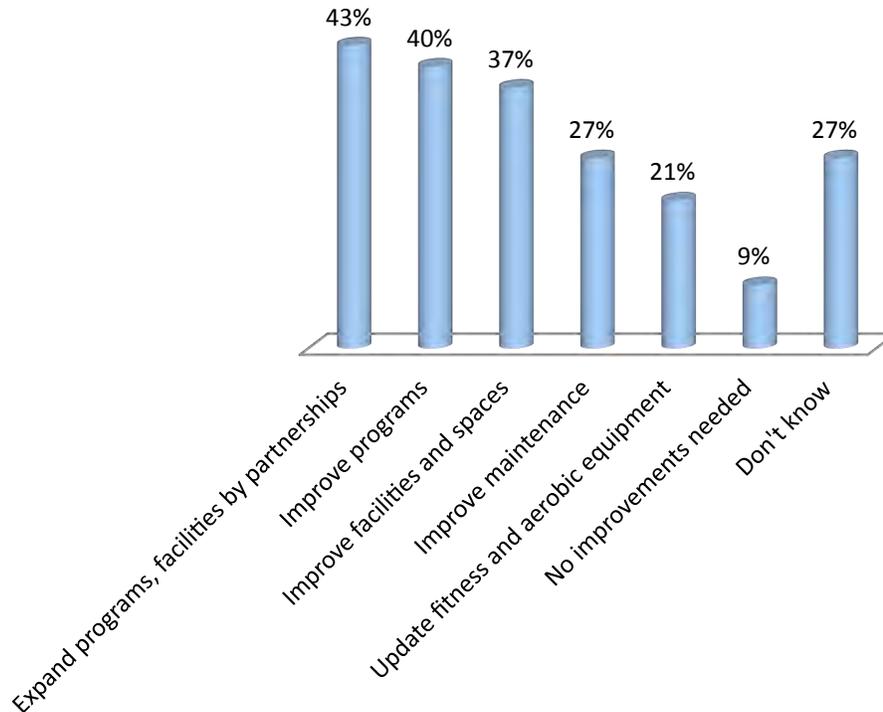
**Use of schools for community programs.** Residents, especially those living outside of the City of Powell River, would like to see more community access to school gyms and use of schools for programs, meetings and neighbourhood gatherings.

**Community halls.** Dissatisfactions with community halls included:

- Lack of access to a hall facility on Savary Island,
- Upgrades to the hall, equipment or furniture at Texada Island, Lund Hall, Timberlane Barracks, Lang Bay Community Hall, and Cranberry Hall
- Community halls were described as under-funded and under-used in general, and more programming in community halls was requested



## Percentage that Ranked the Improvement #1, #2 or #3



### IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED FOR COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

The main requests for the number one priority are to use local schools to deliver recreation programs. Another popular idea was to allow the schools to use the ice arena and aquatic centre to run school-based skating, swimming and fitness programs for their students. Following are suggestions by residents of each area and Tla'Amin First Nation for expanded program and facility use through collaborative partnerships.

### IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED FOR RECREATION PROGRAMS

The main concerns of those dissatisfied with recreation programs was a lack of enough variety, particularly, general interest or non-sport activities, a need for more programming for specific age groups, and the scheduling that is not convenient for employed people or people who reside outside of the City. Affordability is an issue for some residents, and there were requests for more programming to be delivered throughout the region and for more organized outdoor activities. A few made suggestions for improving advertising and the effectiveness of information about recreation.

## IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED FOR FACILITIES AND SPACES

There were many specific requests for improvements. Those mentioned more than one time tended to be items such as: upgrade the Recreation Complex, equipment, pool and theatre, build a library, and upgrade community halls. There were quite a few suggestions for improved or new outdoor recreation amenities as well.

### 10. Basis for Success

#### a) Current Successful Partnerships

There are current successful partnerships functioning between the City and the PRRD that are useful in any consideration of future relationships in parks and recreation.

##### *i) Library Services*

The first examples is the Joint Library Service in which an 11 members board is composed of the following governing members: 2 elected (1 - city, 1 - RD), 9 Citizens (2 - regional, 7 – City).

The library services the city and the areas on the mainland. The Service pays the rent for the Texada library, which is managed by volunteers. It also supplies a grant to the Sliammon Nation. It does not extend the services to Lasqueti.

The Chief Librarian is a City staff person and participates on the City management team but not Regional District team.

A funding model that includes a provincial grant and a local taxpayer contribution supports library services split 70/30 between the City and Regional District.

##### *ii) Regional Emergency Management Services*

The Regional Emergency Management Services provides support to all of the Regional District including the City. The coordinator is a Regional District employee. The service is funded by assessment, 51% from the City and 49% from the Powell River electoral areas.

##### *iii) Powell River Hospital*

Similarly, the Powell River Hospital is funded under the 51/49 formula.

##### *iv) Waste Management*

The Regional District uses 9% of the services and pays 49%.

## b) Possible Community Roles

Community resources are often capable of playing significant roles in dealing with community issues. We asked community leaders if there were roles that they could play in solutions to the issues facing the parks and recreation system. The leaders provided the following responses:

- Recognize and support volunteers who play major roles in managing trails in the backcountry.
- Encourage more special events offered by community.
- Note and support volunteer involvement through sport tourism and cultural plans.
- Provide more support to sport council
- Look to Arts community for more leadership – possible management of theatres
- Review and duplicate best practices within region (e.g., Diversity Music festival on Texada Island).
- Increase citizen involvement in governance as advisors.
- Connect more communities.
- Educate and listen to community. Create dialogue groups etc.
- Be responsive to needs of citizens (e.g., youth, seniors).
- Consider inclusion or support from Community Forest (\$500K/Yr.)
- Promote more rural outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Consider inclusion of the museum and golf course in any future service delivery models.

In summary the community leaders indicated that any new model for parks and recreation should be based on the following three principles:

1. Fair and equitable
2. Committed to serving real needs
3. Involve all three local governments

## 11. Issues

Conditions in the community have changed rather dramatically in the last few years. The following are issues that are currently being faced:

- Powell River Recreation Complex
  - Residents of Electoral Areas A, B, and C use complex on a regular basis and are looking for more and better programming but don't support complex with taxes. (any reduction in service from the complex may require the PRRD to build additional facilities.
  - Residents of Electoral Area D also use the complex and are looking for more programming closer to home
  - The Complex is expensive to operate and generates low revenue.
- City believes that there is a need to rebalance relationship between City and Regional District (i.e., tourism, economic development, emergency services, waste management).
- New emphasis needs to be placed on economic development and tourism opportunities.
- Trail facilities developed by volunteers but will need govt. involvement to sustain
- School population has decreased significantly. Youth are leaving the community; new strategies such as better programming could help to retain youth.
- Volunteers staff Community Halls.

### a) Management of Parks

The residents of the Powell River Regional District including the City of Powell River are very active outdoor people. Based on the national and provincial trends we would suggest with some level of confidence that this trend will continue in the PRRD.

A strong volunteer base is supporting these recreation activities with a focus on using outdoor areas in the mainland of the Regional District.

The City has also developed an excellent set of parks in very good condition. Most of these parks are serving city-focussed services. The exceptions would include the active playing fields and track that serve the regional areas on the mainland.

The Regional District continues to expand its park services. They are developing a series of access points to the water that will be well utilized by the city, Regional District and tourists in the future. There does not seem to be any driving force to manage the parks as one entity and the two systems are functioning well. They currently share equipment where appropriate. Other jurisdictions in the province in the main keep park systems separate.

This is a service that is functioning well. In the future a proposed partnership relationship could grow to encompass parks. However no changes are proposed at this time.

#### *Recommendation*

*1) Bookings of active fields continue to be assigned to the recreation staff otherwise no changes be made in the current park management operations.*

### b) Operation of Community Halls

The Regional District owns and supports several community halls. A volunteer committee operates each of these halls. In the case of Electoral Area D a volunteer Recreation Commission manages the services. The halls support community gatherings and special events, not for profit community groups. In some cases recreation programs are provided to the local residents. Often the community rally around these halls to provide materials and work parties.

The community study revealed that a number of community residents would like to see more programming offered in these halls 'closer to home'.

The services provided by volunteers who manage these community halls should be highly valued. Some of the best services around BC are provided from community halls where support is provided by professional recreation staff. The staff efforts should be focussed on supporting the efforts of volunteers and adding services that are complimentary to the current community services, meet community recreation needs and maximize the facility capabilities.

#### *Recommendation:*

*2) Assign community recreation staff services to support and extend the services provided through the community halls.*

### c) Contributions to the Delivery of Recreation Services

The funding of the Recreation Complex was identified as the major issue.

The Powell River Recreation Complex Service Review prepared for the City of Powell River put forward the following recommendations to build attendance and increase the Return on Investment.

1. Develop a mission and vision statement with staff, elected officials and key community recreation leaders. Include: the concept of partnerships, support for other recreation providers, protection of infrastructure, meeting community needs etc.
2. Commission an architectural study to complete a building conceptual plan that would include: the addition of a library, a complex update, alterations to the theatre, improvements to the pool and change rooms, creation of a youth space, improved and expanded fitness spaces, and full building accessibility.
3. Develop a master plan for the complex site and park to include: new tennis courts, open site to ocean and city views, additional access point, new signage program throughout the site and the addition of a readograph sign.
4. Revise complex maintenance program with the intended outcome of improving the public view of building cleanliness.
5. That Powell River consider joining a recreation software purchasing group to secure a replacement software product.
6. Develop annual budget plan at the service delivery level tied to annual work plan that is measured.
7. Revise and simplify the fees and charges to encourage membership passes.
8. Seek out potential sponsors for the members card program.
9. Direct staff to bring forward a revised financial assistance program intended to encourage higher use with measurable objectives.
10. Develop a funded community grant in aid program.
11. Update fitness equipment on an annual basis (if necessary consider leasing or lease to own).
12. Redesign the fitness programs to complement those offered by the private sector.
13. Recruit, and if necessary, train new fitness instructors to build programming in prime time.
14. Create joint rehab style programs in partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health.

15. Put a call for expressions of interest in partnering on the establishment of a community youth centre at the Recreation Complex.
16. Direct staff to conduct a detailed review of current program offerings to resolve programming concerns and participation barriers.
17. Establish participation target increases, remove all but essential administrative tasks from the program team and challenge them to meet new targets over the course of the next three years through the establishment of new program initiatives at the complex and throughout the community and improve the quality of the current programs.
18. Establish a task force to include relevant cultural providers and operators to develop a Powell River Theatre Collective five-year operations plan for implementation with theatre use growth targets.
19. Provide support for the establishment and funding of a Powell River Sport Council and the development of a Powell River Sport Development Plan.
20. Put a call out for the development and implementation of a marketing and implementation plan.
21. Create a hub for all recreation related information (e.g., free or low cost 'advertising' for not for profits, links to all recreation group websites, and paid links to commercial recreation providers).
22. Establish customer service training and secret shopper programs aimed at improving services at the complex.
23. Create a joint task force with School District #47 to develop a reciprocal joint-use agreement that is balanced for all parties.

It is clear from the survey results that all four areas in the regional district are users of the complex. If a new library was added to the complex site that would increase the participation rates at the complex further and could increase library participation as well. It should be noted that the city is conducting a separate new library location study. This recreation study does not presume to intrude into that process except to note what information was gathered through the random recreation survey and experience from other jurisdictions where services have been combined.

The suggestion of financial participation from the PRRD seems to be a matter that should be addressed under the principles of fairness and equity.

The study also revealed an expectation that the community halls be utilized more to extend recreation services to those persons living further from the complex. Often recreation teams are charged not just with managing the major complex but rather encouraging the delivery of recreation services throughout the community. This includes maintaining, supporting and where necessary providing recreation services in community halls.

In discussions with community leaders some of the following models were suggested.

### *Possible Funding Models*

- Use population model for recreation complex.
- Use assessment model to pay for recreation (industry pays more).
- Establish an equitable share position among all taxpayers utilizing current shared services formula
- Use participation numbers and recalculate contributions from the City of Powell River and the Powell River Regional District annually

Financial contributions to capital and operating budgets are always a challenge. The taxing option provided to regional taxpayers to vote on participating in services makes the process more challenging. Some Electoral Area taxpayers may consider the opportunity to continue to participate without contributing additional taxes.

It is important to note that the City of Powell River situation has changed as a result of experiencing significant losses in tax revenues. Further as noted in the City Recreation Complex Service Review the complex requires additional investments to build participation, which will also contribute to the bottom line.

The survey respondents from the City and Electoral Areas A-D have indicated that they want to see more and better programs and an upgraded complex.

The financial participation of Electoral Areas A – D would help to ensure an improved set of recreation services. However it is important that the other steps recommended in the City Complex Service review are also given consideration.

Electoral Area D does use the complex but not at a rate similar to others. This community has expressed a desire to see extended recreation services on Texada Island. It is recommended that any equitable funding model would recognize that the majority of taxes collected from the island would be reinvested in Area D recreation services.

One of the hallmarks of the Powell River communities is the arts community. It is quite strong and vibrant. As an example this segment of the recreation community to a great extent produces the Special Events that are so popular with the public. The music academy is an example of one of the best cultural providers in the province and provides services to the city and surrounding areas. It would be proposed that any redefinition of the Powell River Recreation Services should also include support for this sector.

The one missing piece of real data upon which to build a recommendation were the recreation patterns of the Sliammon first nations. We simply could not gather the required number of responses. Staff from the complex do believe that there is a significant number of clients who are members of this community. Given the strong relationship among the parties it would be appropriate to invite Tla'Amin First Nation to participate in any recreation partnership discussions.

If the Library were added to the complex it would give more weight to the concept of building on the current library-funding model and extend it to the full complex and recreation services.

*Recommendation*

3) *Enter into a 70 / 30 (Library funding model) to Electoral Areas A, B, C, D to fund a full set of recreation services including the community halls and recreation complex.*

4) *Invite the Tla'Amin First Nation to participate in any partnership discussions*

*1. Principles of Governance*

Any shared recreation funding model should be accompanied by an opportunity for some form of shared decision-making. The City Powell River Recreation Complex Service review noted that the need to renegotiate a shared services agreement with School District #47. If this occurs then the SD #47 should be considered in any future governance model.

It is proposed that the following principles be utilized to establish a joint Recreation Commission partnership.

- 1) The decision makers will ensure universal access to the programs and services
- 2) Fairness and Equity will be a primary hallmark of the system
- 3) All three local governments and School District #47 will be involved
- 4) The governance will be effective (doing the right things)
- 5) The authority will be tied directly to the responsibility for the specific actions
- 6) The citizens will have a clear, understandable and easy access to the policy makers
- 7) The decisions will result in an efficient service delivery.

*2. Governance Options*

We considered and analyzed several governance options. The following matrix illustrates our ranking of these options. We have provided additional comment on the top three options.

### Scoring Matrix

Based on all of the work to date the consultants have developed the following scoring matrix which was used to reach a final set of recommendations.

	Universal Access	Fairness & Equity	Effective	Authority = Responsibility	Citizens Access	Efficiencies	Score	Rating
1) Status Quo	6	2	4	4	3	4	23	4
2) Recreation Commission	10	8	8	8	9	8	51	1
3) City as operator	7	6	4	5	4	8	34	3
4) Introduction of Community Services Commission	10	8	9	9	6	8	50	2

#### 1. Status Quo:

This is not seen as an acceptable option given the unfairness of the current funding when consideration is given to the usage patterns of households from the surrounding Electoral Areas (A-D). As well it must be recognized that the financial challenge facing the City could otherwise require an actual reduction in services that are valued by a significant number of households in both the City and the surrounding Electoral Areas.

#### 2. Establish a Recreation Commission

This option includes a role for citizens to play in the governance. It is intended to draw the community groups who manage facilities closer to the actual elected and appointed decision makers. In the Powell River Recreation Complex Service Review report we have recommended to the City that the arts groups be asked to take on a management role with Evergreen Theatre. And the sports groups are ready to be united under a Sport Council banner given the right encouragement. As well we have proposed the development of a new Joint Agreement with School District #47. If such an agreement is developed the SD would probably seek a seat on a joint decision making body.

The following 8-person board is suggested as the composition of a new recreation or community services commission:

- 2 seats for the regional district elected reps
- 2 seats for the city council members
- 1 seat for a school trustee
- 1 seat to organized sport
- 1 seat allocated to the Arts Community
- 1 seat to rep from community halls

The Recreation Commission would be responsible for all recreation operations. They would be responsible for presenting an annual budget to the PRRD and the City of Powell River. The budget would need to be approved by both bodies after which the Recreation Commission and their staff would be responsible for managing the operations in a manner that meets all of the requirements of local governments. The senior staff person would report to the City CAO who would oversee the operation in consultation with the CAO of the PRRD.

### 3. City as Operator

This option would shift all responsibility for the provision of recreation services to the City under an operating contract to the Regional District. This should include the operation of the community halls. The city is seen as the more appropriate operator if one of the jurisdictions is tasked to take the lead role because of their ongoing knowledge and experience in operating the largest facility namely the recreation complex. Needless to say the Powell River Regional District also could manage the full operation given the skills of the senior staff and elected board.

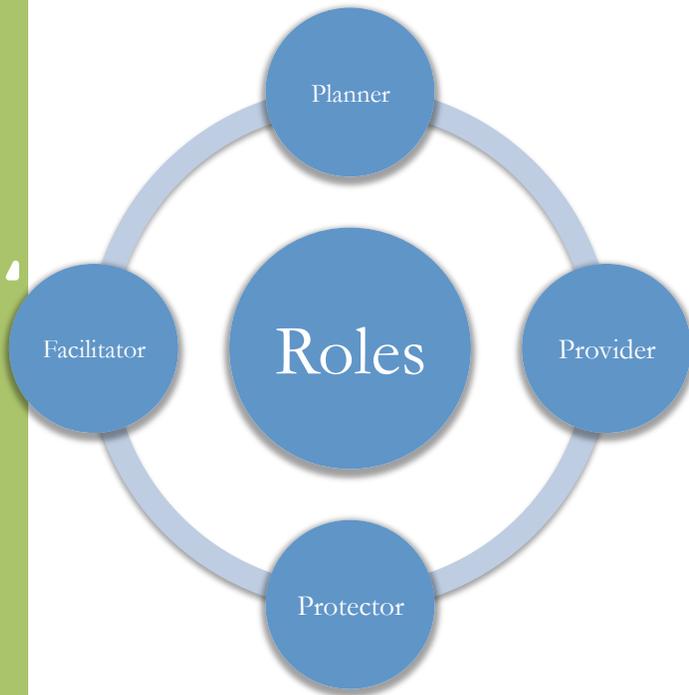
### 4. Community Services Commission

The parties have had great success in finding joint partnerships in areas such as the library and emergency services. Some of the new thinking in partnerships between cities and regional districts is focussed on having one committee oversee all community services. The intent is to measure and coordinate all such efforts of teams such as libraries, recreation, emergency services etc. to maximize services and minimize costs.

#### *Recommendation:*

5. *As part of a new joint recreation service establish an 8 person Recreation Commission made up as follows:*
  - 2 seats for the regional district elected reps*
  - 2 seats for the city council members*
  - 1 seat for a school trustee*
  - 1 seat to organized sport*
  - 1 seat allocated to the Arts Community*
  - 1 seat to rep from community halls*

If the Recreation Commission model is chosen it is proposed that the new Recreation Commission and their staff should play four roles in order to meet the goals and deliver services effectively. The selection of the most appropriate role will depend on the particular situation. For example, if another service provider is better positioned to provide a specific activity or opportunity and can provide similar benefits, then the Commission should shift from being a provider to being a facilitator.



### Planner

In this role, the Commission is responsible for defining the short, medium, and long term direction for recreation services. It must do this through conducting research, analyzing data, getting input from the community, and seeking technical expertise.

### Protector

As a protector, the Commission preserves, maintains, and manages important indoor spaces, in a manner that supports community participation. This would include all community halls.

### Facilitator

The most important role that the Commission should play is that of facilitator. Powell River and Electoral Areas A-D have numerous leisure services provided by the private sector, not-for-profit organizations and community groups. The survey confirmed that between 47% of households use private / not for profit recreation services, and 31% participate in recreation activities organized by registered leagues, clubs etc. The Sports and Arts Groups are asking for more support and assistance.

As a facilitator, the Commission should support external entities—the private sector, not-for-profits, community groups, societies, contractors, and individuals—providing leisure services or facility spaces as long as their visions, goals, and principles are complementary to the Commission's. Working together like this helps to build community capacity and skills, broadens leadership in the community, taps into new expertise and new connections with people, and leverages resources not funded by taxpayers.

To be an effective facilitator requires staff to embrace a “community-development” philosophy and to be competent in community-engagement practices. Community development is a resource-intensive pursuit, and it requires patience. It takes effort and time to reach out to the community, to build trust, and to mobilize a diverse group of laypersons. Participation in these groups tends to ebb and flow, and therefore different skills and approaches are required over time.

When the Commission requires staff members to work as facilitators, expectations must be adjusted. The Commission has to be comfortable with longer timelines, shifting control to other entities, and measuring success differently, e.g., performance measures should include the process of building community capacity.

### Provider

Only when no other agency can deliver the same benefits to the community does the Commission deliver services directly, e.g., programs in pools and arenas.

## 12. Conclusions and Recommendations

With the loss of significant tax revenues there is a real need to look at how best to develop the region in a manner that will ensure that the quality of life for all residents is maintained.

As well there has been substantial planning completed in the areas of Economic Development and Tourism. The proposed actions to further build the economic life of the area relies on maintaining and improving the quality of life factors for current and future residents. Included in these plans is an emphasis on better promotion and utilization of all indoor and outdoor recreation amenities (e.g., the arts, sports, tourism, small business etc.) The Parks, Recreation and Culture Services are seen as a cornerstone of the new economic development plans. As such, recreation needs to be managed in a partnership to meet the collective needs of the citizens of the Powell River Regional District.

In addressing the possibility of one or more Electoral Areas being asked to consider contributing to the complex operations the following table suggests that household usage from four of the electoral areas is significant and on a percentage basis actually exceeds the City from Electoral Areas B and C.

Household	User	Frequent User
City	74%	46%
Area A	68%	50%
Area B	87%	69%
Area C	84%	49%
Area D	47%	18%

In the case of recreation, as it pertains to the various community halls and other recreation operations in the PRRD; there would be no need to disrupt the workings of the local committees and commissions. However, it is necessary to ensure that there is an adequate building maintenance program in place to protect these assets. As well, the citizens have requested additional and complementary programs offered through these valuable community facilities

To achieve these outcomes it is necessary to revisit the structure of the delivery system, which is the focus of this study. Our review of other jurisdictions indicates that it is quite common for regional districts to be more involved in the provision of recreation services than is the case with the PRRD.

Further it is interesting to note that the current tax levels dedicated to the provision of parks and recreation services are low compared to other regional districts that we reviewed.

A number of policy makers encouraged this study to work towards a simplification of government. Short of recommending one government, which is well beyond the scope of this study, we have proposed some options for the parties to consider that are intended to ensure a healthy and ever improving set of community recreation services.

We attempted to score the options and have recommended a joint partnership built on the library model managed by a joint recreation commission. This 70/30 split in in keeping with the population split of City / Areas A-D. (City – 13,165 / City + Electoral Areas A,B,C,D – 18,728). The parties may want to use the same matrix and re-score the options.

### *Summary of Recommendations*

- 1) Bookings of active fields continue to be assigned to the recreation staff otherwise no changes be made in the current park management operations.
- 2) Assign community recreation staff services to support and extend the services provided through the community halls.
- 3) Enter into a 70 / 30 (Library funding model) to Electoral Areas A, B, C, D to fund a full set of recreation services including the community halls and recreation complex
- 4) Invite the Tla'Amin First Nation to participate in any partnership discussions
- 5) As part of a new joint recreation service establish an 8 person Recreation Commission made up as follows:
  - 2 seats for the regional district elected reps
  - 2 seats for the city council members
  - 1 seat for a school trustee
  - 1 seat to organized sport
  - 1 seat allocated to the Arts Community
  - 1 seat to rep from community halls

## Appendix 1 Inventory of Parks and Recreation Facilities

### 1a) City of Powell River

#### 1) DEFINITIONS OF CATEGORIES

The following information is a guide to be used for categorizing our parks and open spaces.

##### 1) SUB-NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

- i) REFERENCE - Passive area meeting the needs of young children and adults.
- ii) AREA - Generally small open space - under 1 acre.
- iii) PROXIMITY - 400m - walking distance
- iv) DESCRIPTION - Corner lots, decorative areas, parkettes, greens and squares.

##### 2) NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

- i) REFERENCE - Playfields, playgrounds with active play areas.
- ii) AREA - 1 to 4 Acres.
- iii) PROXIMITY - 400 to 800m - Walking distance - next to schools.
- iv) DESCRIPTION - School & neighbourhood play fields.

##### 3) COMMUNITY PARKS

- i) REFERENCE - Sports fields - usually containing specific spectator areas - suitable for a variety of athletic or recreational activities.
- ii) AREA - 4 to 25 Acres.
- iii) PROXIMITY - Within one mile of residents - services a group of neighbourhoods - may or may not be adjacent to senior secondary school.
- iv) DESCRIPTION - Community athletic facilities - large school multi-purpose fields.

2) DEFINITIONS OF CATEGORIES

4) CITY PARK

- i) REFERENCE - Passive park area - generally containing natural wooded areas and could be adjacent to lake or ocean.
- ii) AREA - Varied sizes, generally more than 5 acres.
- iii) PROXIMITY - Within a short driving distance of all residents.
- iv) DESCRIPTION - Wooded park area containing passive play equipment, picnic area. Generally located on beachfront or wooded area with varied topography.

5) SPECIAL AREAS

- i) REFERENCE - Specific parks or unique open spaces.
- ii) AREA - n/a
- iii) PROXIMITY - n/a
- iv) DESCRIPTION - Historical, ecologically unique or sensitive features. Includes shorelines, beaches and watercourses.

LISTING BY CATEGORY

1) SUB-NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AREA DESCRIPTION</u>
Grief Point Park	.568 Acres - Parkette - Adventure playground. - Beach - Miscellaneous playground equipment.
Joyce Gardens	.311 Acres - Rose garden. - Benches
Alberni/Marine Park	.06 Acres

	- Parking Lot
Harbour Park	.351 Acres - Boat Harbour land - Primarily parking
Firehall grounds	- Grass areas, some shrubs, plant beds.
City Hall	.409 Acres - Grass areas, plant beds, seating area
RCMP	- Grass areas, shrubs and floral displays
Dwight Hall Cenotaph	.5 Acres - Shrubs, trees, ornamental garden area
Cranberry Centre grounds	.519 Acres - Grass area, some shrubs.
Whyte's Beach	.016 Acres - Lake Front - Parking area

## 2) NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AREA DESCRIPTION</u>
James Thomson School	- 1 Soccer pitch - 1 Softball pitch with backstop - 1 Paved play area - Miscellaneous playground equipment
Townsite Park	1.5 Acres - 1 Mini soccer pitch - Adventure playground - Auto sprinkler
Henderson School	- 1 Soccer Pitch - 1 Softball pitch with backstop
Cranberry Field	- 1 Soccer/rugby pitch - 2 Softball pitches, with backstops - Paved play area

Edgehill School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- K33 Sprinkler system</li> <li>- 1 Soccer pitch</li> <li>- 1 Softball pitch with backstop</li> <li>- Playground</li> </ul>
Grief Point School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 Soccer pitch</li> <li>- 2 Softball pitches with backstops</li> <li>- 1 Hard surface hockey box</li> </ul>
Oceanview School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 Soccer pitch</li> <li>- 1 Softball pitch</li> </ul>
McAndrew Park	2.73 Acres - Undeveloped
Westridge Park	1.87 Acres - Undeveloped
Tripark Park	2.46 Acres - Undeveloped

### 3) COMMUNITY PARKS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AREA DESCRIPTION</u>
Sunset Park	20.5 Acres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2 Soccer pitches</li> <li>- 2 Softball diamonds, c/w backstops</li> <li>- Public washroom/change rooms</li> <li>- Adventure playground (1981)/swings, teeter-totter, benches</li> <li>- Auto sprinkler (1981)</li> </ul>
D.A. Evans Park	3.9 Acres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 Baseball pitch (Permanent homerun fence)</li> <li>- Small public washrooms</li> <li>- Adventure playground (1994)</li> <li>- Swings/slide</li> <li>- Auto sprinkler</li> </ul>
Timberlane Park	9 Acres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 8 lane Athletic Track and all Associated facilities</li> <li>- 1 Soccer pitch and practice area</li> <li>- Concession stand</li> <li>- Washroom/change rooms</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Resident caretaker</li> <li>- Auto sprinkler</li> </ul>
Gouthro Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 Regulation soccer pitch</li> <li>- 1 Practice soccer pitch</li> <li>- 1 Baseball pitch with temporary homerun fence</li> <li>- 2 Softball diamonds c/w backstops</li> <li>- Playground equipment</li> <li>- Auto sprinkler (1/2 park)</li> </ul>
J.P. Dallos Park	<p>4.2 Acres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2 Mini pitches running across the width of the field</li> <li>- 2 Softball diamonds, c/w backstops,</li> <li>- Public washrooms</li> <li>- Outdoor pool building (Pool not in operation)</li> <li>- Auto sprinkler</li> </ul>
Westview Elementary School	5 Acres
Brooks School	<p>26.65 Acres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Upper field</li> <li>- 1 Artificial turf field</li> <li>- Soccer pitch</li> <li>- Lower field</li> <li>- 1 Soccer pitch</li> <li>- 1 Softball pitch with backstop</li> <li>- Tennis court - 4 courts adjacent to lower field (fair condition)</li> </ul>
Townsite Tennis Courts & Lawn Bowling Club	<p>1.9 Acres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4 Tennis courts</li> <li>- Public washrooms</li> <li>- Lawn bowling green adjacent to tennis courts</li> <li>- Clubhouse</li> <li>- Auto sprinkle</li> </ul>
4) <u>CITY PARKS</u>	
Gibsons Beach	<p>7.29 Acres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Swimming</li> </ul>

	- Boat launching (Boat ramp not paved. Suitable for small boats)
	- Picnic tables
Valentine Mountain	12.26 Acres
	- Hiking
	- Picnic tables
Mowat Bay	16 Acres
	- Swimming (Boomed swim area)
	- Adventure playground
	- Public washrooms
	- Boat launching (2 ramps)
	- Beach area
Scout Park	5.86 Acres
	- Hiking
Willingdon Beach	10.4 Acres
	- Swimming
	- Adventure playground
	- Water Park
	- Swings/play equipment
	- Fishing pier
	- Public washrooms
	- Stage area
	- Concession (Lease operator)
	- Nature trail
Recreation Complex	100 Acres
	- Horseshoe pitches
	- Recreation Complex
	- Museum
	- Considerable undeveloped land
	- Nature trail
Lindsay Park	1.8 Acres
	- 1 Small backstop for tee ball
	- Play equipment
	- Lakeside (No swimming)
5) <u>SPECIAL AREA PARKS</u>	
Cranberry Lake Wildlife Sanctuary	9.75 Acres
	- Bird Sanctuary (Closed to public access)

Marine Avenue  
Viewpoint &  
and Waterfront

- 1.2 miles
- Swimming along waterfront
- Walking
- Garden area

Willingdon Beach  
Campsite

- Year round camping
- 80 sites – 15 Tenting
  - 11 unserviced
  - 6 hydro only
  - 36 full hook up
  - 12 Beachfront
- 2 Washroom/shower facilities
- Laundromat
- Resident caretaker
- Beachfront

## 2b) Powell River Regional District

### MAINLAND PRRD Properties Owned/Leased

PURPOSE	SIZE	OWNER OR TENURE HOLDER	Annual Operating Budget
Old Lund School Lund Community Centre	1.85 acres <i>or</i> .749 ha.	Powell River Regional District	
Palm Beach Park	6.54 acres <i>or</i> 2.647 ha.	Powell River Regional District	
Palm Beach Park Parking Lot	1.013 acres <i>or</i> 0.41 ha.	Powell River Regional District Licence #240627	
Paradise Exhibition Park Plus Fire Hall	36.09 acres <i>or</i> 14.605 ha.	Powell River Regional District Licence #235197	
Haywire Bay Park (Upland)	60.79 acres <i>or</i> 24.6 ha.	Powell River Regional District	
Myrtle Rocks Park	71.39 acres <i>or</i> 28.89 ha.	Powell River Regional District Licence #237334	
Haywire Bay Park (Foreshore) L/O	19.77 acres <i>or</i> 8 ha.	Powell River Regional District Licence #232244	

Craig Park	34.198 acres <i>or</i> 12.49 ha.	Powell River Regional District Licence #241826	
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TEXADA  
PRRD Properties Owned/Leased

	SIZE	OWNER OR TENURE HOLDER
Old Gillies Bay School Library/Preschool/Senior's Centre	4.25 acres <i>or</i> 1.72 ha.	Powell River Regional District
Gillies Bay Ball Field & Strip of land across School Road	3.78 acres <i>or</i> 1.53 ha.	Powell River Regional District
Texada Community Hall	.82 acres <i>or</i> .33 ha.	Powell River Regional District
Gillies Bay Tennis Courts	.97 acres <i>or</i> .392 ha.	Powell River Regional District
Shelter Point Park (upland)	38.44 acres <i>or</i> 15.556 ha.	Powell River Regional District
Shelter Point Park (upland)	413.42 acres <i>or</i> 167.31 ha.	Powell River Regional District
Park Land (Given to PRRD by TIFR at time of subdivision)	1.443 acres <i>or</i> .584 ha.	Powell River Regional District
Park Land (Given to PRRD by TIFR at time of subdivision)	1.084 <i>or</i> .439 ha.	Powell River Regional District
Adjacent to Van Anda Ball Field	.282 acres <i>or</i> .114 ha.	Transferred to PRRD from Texada Island Community Society on April 25, 2000
Van Anda ball field	1.53 acres <i>or</i> .62 ha.	Powell River Regional District Licence #232808
Van Anda Bay Park	Lot 1 .08 acres <i>or</i> .032 ha. Lot 2 .096 acres <i>or</i> .039 ha.	Powell River Regional District
Erickson Beach (upland)	.34 acres <i>or</i> .138 ha.	Powell River Regional District
Horse Ring (Texada Saddle Tramps)	8.6 acres <i>or</i> 3.48 ha.	Powell River Regional District Licence #233525
Sturt Bay Park	6.99 acres <i>or</i> 2.83 ha.	Powell River Regional District Licence #231864

Blubber Bay Boat Launch	.544 acres <i>or</i> .22 ha.	Powell River Regional District Licence #241200
Shelter Point Park (foreshore)	103.2 acres <i>or</i> 41.80 ha.	Powell River Regional District Licence #241621
Emily Lake (Public Recreation and Historical Site Protection)	32.123 acres <i>or</i> 12.99 ha.	Powell River Regional District Licence #240741

## LASQUETI

PRRD Properties Owned/Leased

[no civic addresses on Lasqueti]

	SIZE	OWNER OR TENURE HOLDER
McCaskill donation	.04 acres <i>or</i> .016 ha.	Powell River Regional District
Lasqueti Island Legion property	.95 acres <i>or</i> .384 ha.	Powell River Regional District



## Appendix II Community Survey

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# INTRODUCTION

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## BACKGROUND

The Tla’Amin First Nation, the Powell River Regional District and the City of Powell River sponsored a community recreation survey to provide information to support strategic planning for the Recreation Complex and future delivery of recreation services in the entire Powell River urban and rural area for the next five years. A random selection of residents was invited to participate in the survey in one of two ways. An online survey could be accessed from the City of Powell River website or a mailed printed questionnaire could be requested by phoning a toll-free survey request line. This report summarizes the findings of the public survey.

## RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the survey was to provide up-to-date information on the recreation behaviours and priorities of residents of the Powell River region. The main objectives of the survey were to:

- measure the levels of household use of indoor recreation facilities,
- measure the levels of household participation in indoor recreation activities in the City of Powell River and surrounding area,
- measure the levels of household participation in private and not-for-profit recreation programs and activities,
- measure the levels of household participation in City Parks, Recreation and Culture Programs offered through the Complex Leisure Guide,
- measure the frequency of participation in City programs,
- measure the levels of household participation in sports leagues, clubs etc. that use City recreation facilities and fields,
- identify barriers that limit or prevent participation in programs and activities,
- measure levels of awareness of financial assistance programs for recreation,

- 
- determine levels of satisfaction with City Parks, Recreation and Culture programs,
  - determine levels of satisfaction with City Parks, Recreation and Culture facilities,
  - identify residents' priorities for improvements to recreation facilities, spaces and programs, and
  - measure the effectiveness of communication to the public about indoor recreation opportunities.

## RESULTS

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Survey respondents read the following introduction to the survey, which describes the purpose of the survey and its role in the strategic planning process for recreation and the Recreation Complex located in the City of Powell River.

The Powell River City and specifically the Recreation Complex are embarking upon a Strategic Planning process to support “*the Pursuit of Quality Leisure for a Healthy Community*”. The specific purpose of the plan is to “*set strategic work plan directions for the next five years for recreation*”. An important part of this planning is to understand the needs and preferences of residents, and this survey provides an important opportunity for you to give your input.

Throughout this report, the actual wordings of survey questions appear in boxes, followed by a summary of survey results for the question.

### HOUSEHOLD USE OF RECREATION FACILITIES IN PAST YEAR

6a. Do you or anyone in your household currently use any of these recreation facilities to participate in registered or drop-in programs? Include any used now or in past year from January 2013 to end of December 2013. *Check all that apply.*

Survey respondents were asked if they or anyone in their households use any of 29 regional facilities (or parts of facilities and facility types) to participate in registered or drop-in programs now or during the past year.

Three-quarters (75%) of the survey sample reported use of one or more parts of the Powell River Recreation Complex. Use was about the same for City of Powell River residents (74%) and residents of other areas (77%).

Nearly half of survey households (49%) had used the Aquatic Centre and/or the Evergreen Theatre, and over a third (35%) had used the ice arena.

- Households with children living in the home were highly likely to use the Recreation Complex (90%) and significantly more likely to use the facility than those with no children in the home (70%).

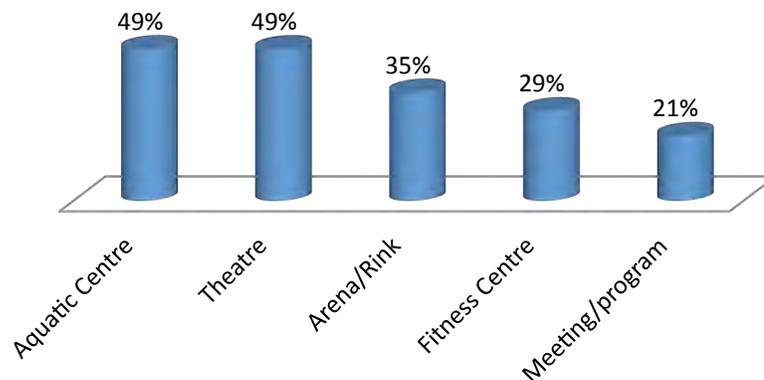
Use was higher among households with children for the Aquatic Centre (75%) in comparison with households with no children (41%) and the ice arena (58% of those with children and 28% of those with no children at home).

- Use of the Aquatic Centre and ice arena tended to decline as age of survey respondents increased, but use held steady regardless of age for the Evergreen Theatre.
- Use of the Fitness Centre peaked for the 45 to 54 year age group (51%) but was similar among the other age groups. Use of meeting and program rooms was higher for the 55 to 64 year group (29%) and the 19 to 44 year age group (24%) but was similar among the other two age groups.

The next chart shows the percentages of households reporting use of the various parts of the Complex.

□

### Household Use of Powell River Recreation Complex in Past Year Title



The next table gives the percentages of households of each area that reported use of the Powell River Recreation Complex in the past year.

- Use of the Recreation Complex was significantly higher for residents of Area B (87%) and Area C (84%). Use was lower for residents of Area A (68%) and very much lower for Area D residents (47%).
- Use of the Aquatic Centre was higher among Electoral Area residents (54%) than City residents (46%). Use was very high among Area B residents (70%), and lowest for Area D households (30%).

- Areas B and C were the heaviest users of Evergreen Theatre, both were 59% of households, while lightest use was found for Area A (33%) and Area D (27%).
- Significantly more Area B households use the ice arena (60%), Fitness Centre (41%), and meeting and program rooms (47%), while significantly fewer households in Area D use these facilities (17%, 2% and 10%). Use of the ice arena and Fitness Centre were similar for Areas A and C, 39% and 37%, for ice arena and 23% and 27% for Fitness Centre use, and exactly the same, 27%, for meeting and program room use.

**Visits in Past Year to Powell River Recreation Complex by Region**

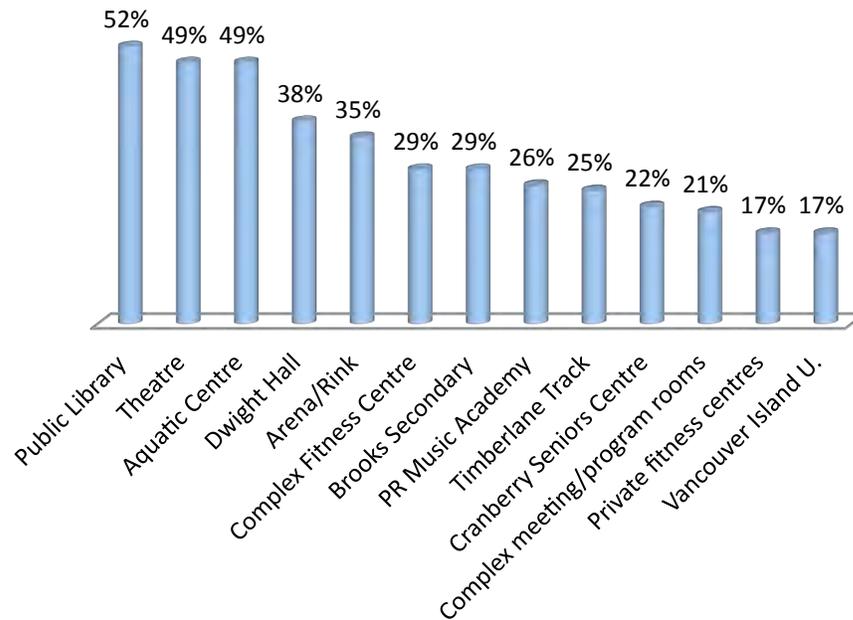
	Total Sample	City of Powell River	Area A	Area B	Area C	Area D
Recreation Complex – any part	75%	74%	68%	87%	84%	47%
Evergreen Theatre	49%	50%	33%	59%	59%	27%
Complex Aquatic Centre	49%	46%	49%	70%	52%	30%
Complex arena/rink	35%	32%	39%	60%	37%	17%
Complex Fitness Centre	29%	28%	23%	41%	27%	2%
Complex program and meeting rooms	21%	19%	23%	47%	27%	10%

As shown on the next chart, the top five regional facilities are the public library, Evergreen Theatre, the Aquatic Centre, Dwight Hall, and the ice arena/rink.

Household use of the top five regional facilities by City residents was as follows: 53% used the public library, 50% used the Evergreen Theatre, 46% used the Aquatic Centre, 38% used Dwight Hall, and 32% used the ice arena.

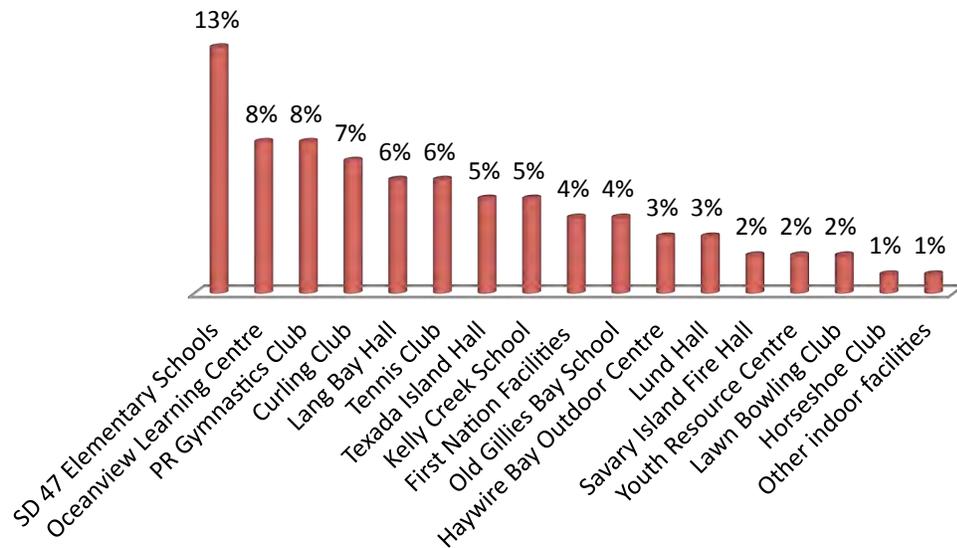
Household use of the top five regional facilities by Electoral Area residents was as follows: 47% used the public library, 47% used the Evergreen Theatre, 54% used the Aquatic Centre, 36% used Dwight Hall, and 40% used the ice arena.

## Regional Facilities Used by Largest Percentages of Households



Facilities used by 13% or less households are shown in the next chart.

## Household Use of Less Used Facilities



9% of the survey sample reported no use in the past year of the facilities asked about in the survey. The results for non-use by area are:

11% of City of Powell River residents reported no facility use in the past year  
 5% of all other areas reported no facility use in the past year, which included:  
 12% of Area A  
 4% of Area B  
 7% of Area C and  
 2% of Area D.

Other facilities not on the list asked about in the survey but mentioned by survey respondents as facilities they use are various gyms, the Community Resource Centre, church halls and private facilities.

**6b. For any used, please indicate if the use is once a month or more on average.**

The next chart shows the percentages of households in the total sample that use a particular facility frequently. Frequently was defined as an average of once a month or more often. All other facilities not shown in the chart were used by 2% or fewer households on a frequent basis.

According to the survey results, the Powell River Recreation Complex is used frequently by 46% of City residents and 50% of Electoral Area residents.

Frequent household use of the Aquatic Centre was 34% of City households and 38% of Electoral Area households.

Frequent household use of the Fitness Centre was the same for City households and Electoral Area households, both 18%.

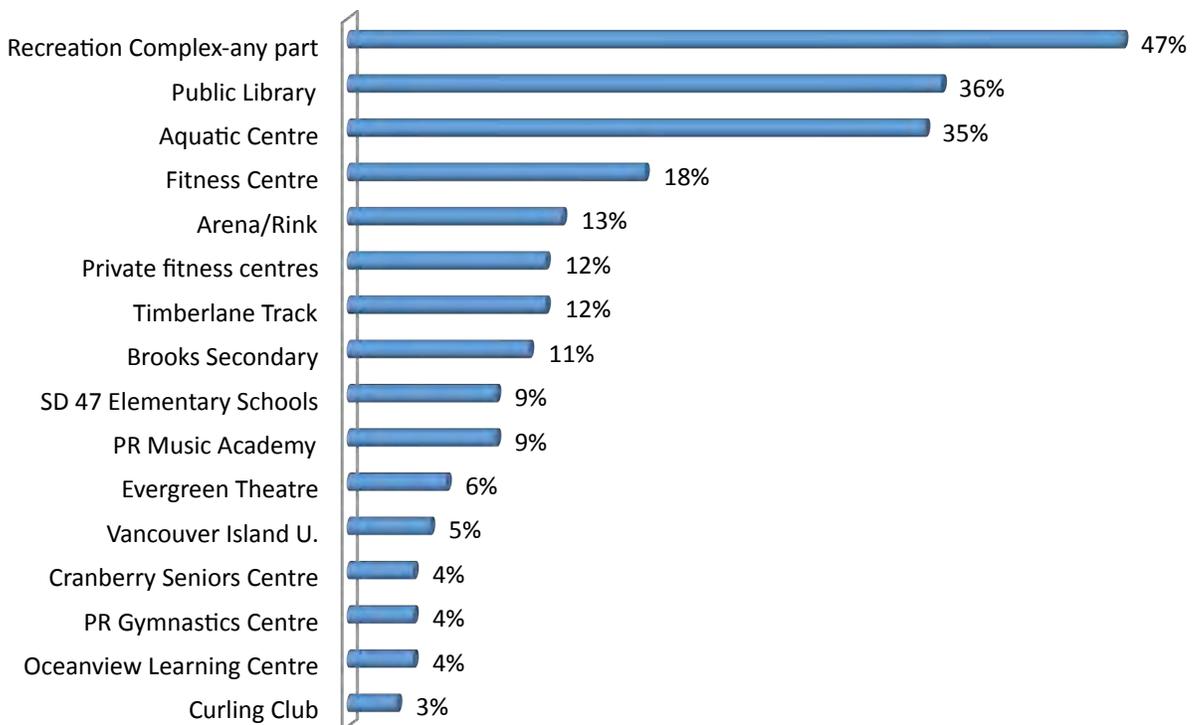
Frequent household use of the ice arena was 12% of City households and 16% of Electoral Area households.

Frequent household use of the Evergreen Theatre was about the same for City households and Electoral Area households, 6% and 5%.

Frequent household use of meeting and program rooms was 1% of City households and 3% of Electoral Area households.

□

### Frequent Use of at Least Once a Month



The next table gives the percentages of households of each area that reported frequent use of the Powell River Recreation Complex in the past year.

- Frequent household use of Powell River Recreation Complex is highest among Area B households at 69% and lowest for Area D at 18%.
- Frequent household use of the Aquatic Centre is highest among Area B households at 53% and lowest for Area D at 15%.
- Frequent household use of the Fitness Centre is about the same for the City (18%), Area A (18%), Area B (19%) and Area C (21%). It is lowest for Area D (2%).
- Frequent household use of the ice arena is highest for Area B households (28%) and lowest for Area D (5%).
- Frequent household use of Evergreen Theatre is highest among Area C households at 9% and no frequent use was reported for Area D.
- Frequent household use of meeting and program rooms is highest among Area B households at 5% and no frequent use was reported for Area D.

**Frequent Use in Past Year of Powell River Recreation Complex by Region**

	Total Sample	City of Powell River	Area A	Area B	Area C	Area D
Recreation Complex – any part	47%	46%	50%	69%	49%	18%
Complex Aquatic Centre	35%	34%	38%	53%	36%	15%
Complex Fitness Centre	18%	18%	19%	15%	21%	2%
Complex arena/rink	13%	12%	16%	28%	10%	5%
Evergreen Theatre	6%	6%	1%	6%	9%	0%
Complex program and meeting rooms	2%	1%	3%	5%	4%	0%

**PARTICIPATION IN RECREATION ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE CITY OF POWELL RIVER AND SURROUNDING AREA**

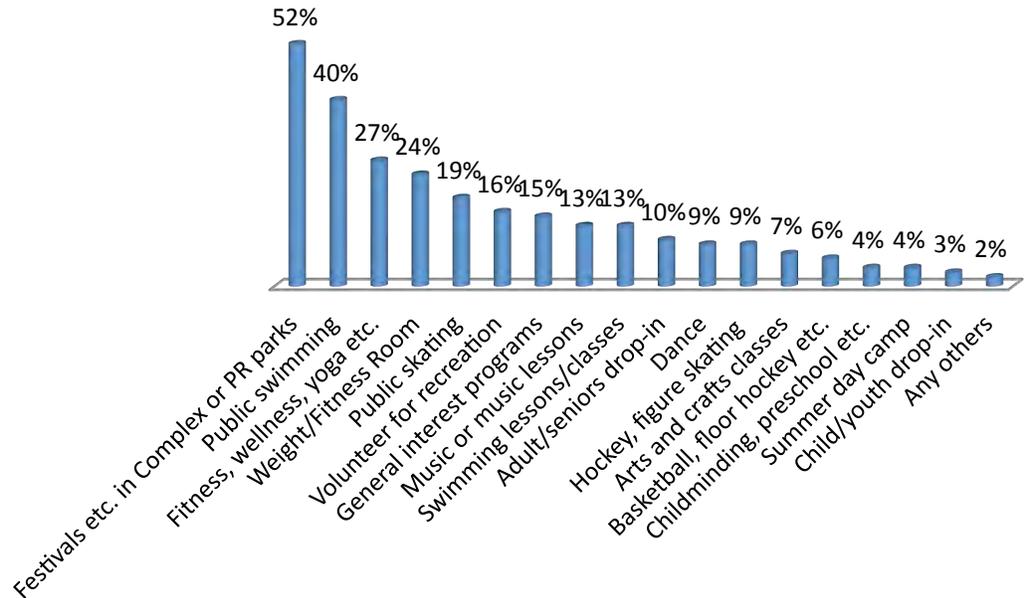
7a. Do you or anyone in your household participate in any of the following recreation activities offered within the City of Powell River or surrounding area? Include any

participated in now or in the past year, from January 2013 - December 2013. *Check all that apply.*

As shown in the next chart, over half of households in the survey (52%) had participated in a community gathering, festival, special events, or theatrical production in the Recreation Complex or in one of the local parks. The second largest percentage (40%) had participated in public swimming.

- Those with children at home were more likely than those without children to participate in most of the activities. Exceptions to this generality were use of the weight/fitness room, participation in general interest programs and adult/senior drop-in.
- Participation in most of the activities decreased with increasing age. Exceptions to this generality were participation in general interest programs and adult/senior drop-in.
- A larger percentage of those living outside the City of Powell River (62%) than residents of the City (48%) had participated in a community gathering, festival, special events, or theatrical production in the Recreation Complex or in one of the local parks.

## Household Participation in Recreation Activities Within City or Surrounding Area



The next table shows the household participation rates by area of residence for the most popular activities.

- Participating in a community gathering, festival, special events, or theatrical production in the Recreation Complex or in one of the local parks was reported by substantial majorities of survey respondents living in Areas A, B and C.
- Public swimming was reported by a substantial majority of survey respondents living in Area B.
- A larger percentage of residents of Area B used the weight/fitness room, participated in public skating and music or music lessons.
- Swimming lessons or other guided classes were utilized by proportionately more residents of Areas A and B.

### Household Participation Rates by Area for Popular Activities Within the City

	Total Sample	City of Powell River	Area A	Area B	Area C	Area D
Community gathering, festival, special events, or theatrical production in the Recreation Complex or in a local park	52%	47%	61%	74%	63%	46%
Public swimming	40%	38%	44%	64%	45%	24%
Fitness classes, yoga, wellness programs	27%	35%	28%	39%	43%	14%
Weight / Fitness room	24%	23%	27%	39%	26%	2%
Public skating	19%	17%	23%	39%	19%	8%
Volunteer for a recreation activity or program now or in the past year	16%	15%	22%	21%	13%	12%
General interest programs	15%	14%	18%	13%	19%	7%
Music or music lessons	13%	13%	10%	30%	8%	5%
Swimming lessons or other guided classes	13%	12%	20%	23%	11%	3%

24% of households did not participate in any of these activities in the past year. The results for non-use by area are:

27% of City of Powell River residents reported no participation in any of these activities in the past year.

17% of all other areas reported no participation in these activities in the past year, which included:

- 22% of Area A
- 13% of Area B
- 14% of Area C
- 33% of Area D.

#### 7b. For each activity participated in: In which age categories are the participants?

The next chart shows the age brackets of adult participants in the various activities. The activities are listed in descending order for the youngest adult age group of 19 to 34 years.

The activities with the largest percentages of participants that are 19 to 34 year olds are:

- Volunteer for a recreation activity or program now or in the past year (38% of participants are who are 19 to 34)
- Public skating (35%)
- Hockey, figure skating, or lessons (31%)
- Fitness classes, yoga, wellness programs (30%)
- Community gatherings, festivals, special events, theatrical productions in Recreation Complex or local parks (24%) and
- Basketball, floor hockey, badminton, etc. (24%).

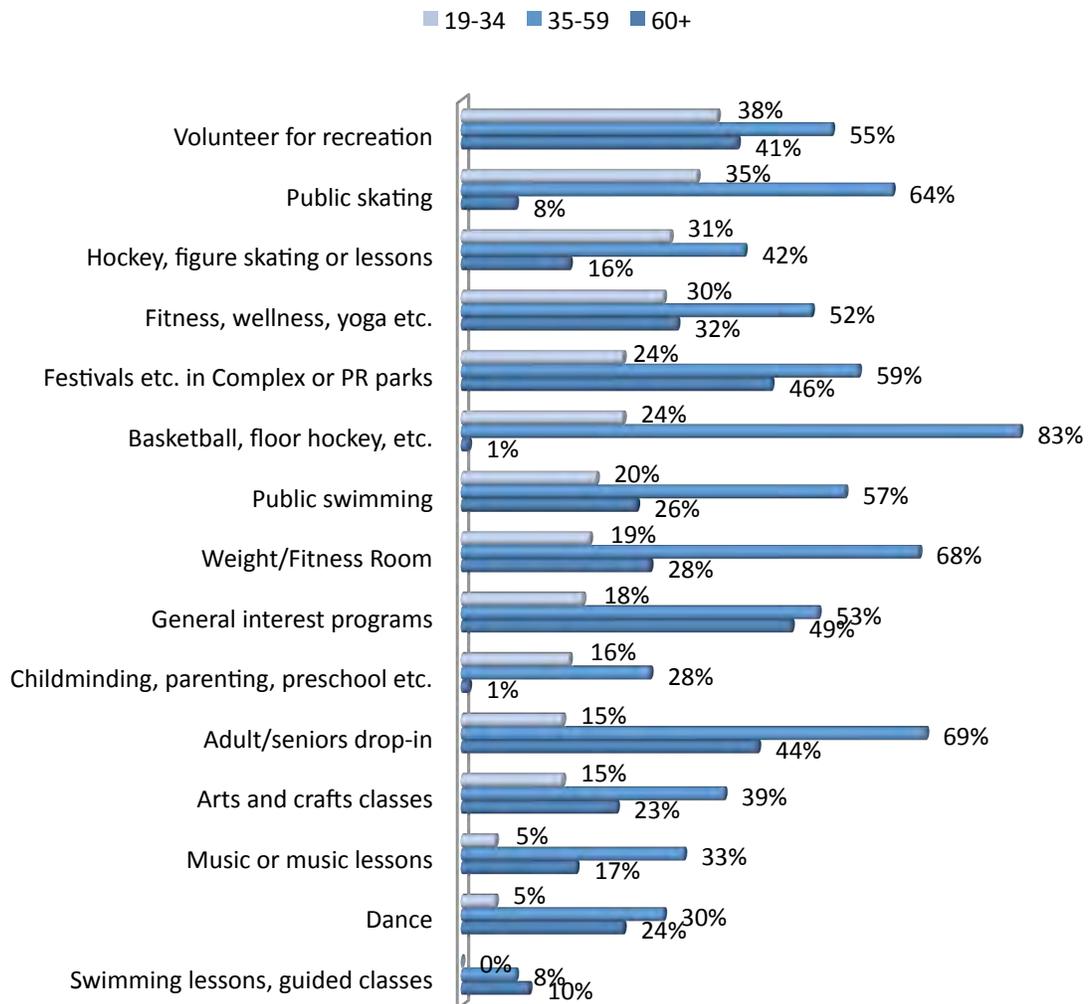
The 35 to 59 age bracket is a large age span, and for nearly all activities the largest percentages of participants were in this age group. The activities with the largest percentages of participants that are 35 to 59 year olds are:

- Basketball, floor hockey, badminton, etc. (83% of participants are 35 to 59)
- Adult/seniors drop-in (69%)
- Weight/Fitness Room (68%)
- Public skating (64%)
- Community gatherings, festivals, special events, theatrical productions in Recreation Complex or local parks (59%)
- Public swimming (57%)
- Volunteer for a recreation activity or program now or in the past year (55%)
- General interest programs (53%) and
- Fitness classes, yoga, wellness programs (52%).

The activities with the largest percentages of participants that are 60 years and older are:

- General interest programs (49% of participants are 60 and older)
- Community gatherings, festivals, special events, theatrical productions in Recreation Complex or local parks (46%)
- Adult/seniors drop-in (44%) and
- Volunteer for a recreation activity or program now or in the past year (41%).

## Age Bracket of Activity Participants: Adults



The most popular activities for different age groups are as follows. Note that the age brackets are different from those of the previous analysis. The percentages are the proportions of people in the age group in the survey sample that participated in the activity in the past year.

19 to 44 year olds:

61% - Public swimming

58% - Community gatherings, festivals, special events, theatrical productions in Recreation

Complex or local parks

41% - Public skating

38% - Fitness classes, yoga, wellness programs

31% - Swimming lessons or other guided classes

26% - Music or music lessons

24% - Volunteer for a recreation activity or program now or in the past year

21% - Weight/Fitness Room

19% - Did not participate in any of these activities in past year

45 to 54 year olds:

45% - Weight/Fitness Room

45% - Public swimming

44% - Community gatherings, festivals, special events, theatrical productions in Recreation

Complex or local parks

30% - Fitness classes, yoga, wellness programs

25% - Public skating

22% - General interest programs

12% - Did not participate in any of these activities in past year

55 to 64 year olds:

53% - Community gatherings, festivals, special events, theatrical productions in Recreation

Complex or local parks

26% - Public swimming

26% - Fitness classes, yoga, wellness programs

21% - General interest programs

19% - Weight/Fitness Room

28% - Did not participate in any of these activities in past year

65 years or older:

50% - Community gatherings, festivals, special events, theatrical productions in Recreation

Complex or local parks

- 28% - Public swimming
- 16% - Weight/Fitness Room
- 16% - Fitness classes, yoga, wellness programs
- 12% - Volunteer for a recreation activity or program now or in the past year
- 12% - Adult/ Seniors drop-in
- 33% - Did not participate in any of these activities in past year

The next chart shows the age brackets of child and youth participants in the various activities.

The activities with the largest percentages of participants that are 0 to 4 years old are:

- Childminding, parenting, family or preschool programs now or in the past year (99%)
- Swimming lessons or other guided classes (38%)
- Public skating (29%)
- Arts and crafts classes (27%)
- Dance (26%)
- Music or music lessons (25%)
- Public swimming (23%)
- Child/youth drop-in (21%) and
- Community gatherings, festivals, special events, theatrical productions in Recreation Complex or local parks (15%).

The activities with the largest percentages of participants that are 5 to 12 years old are:

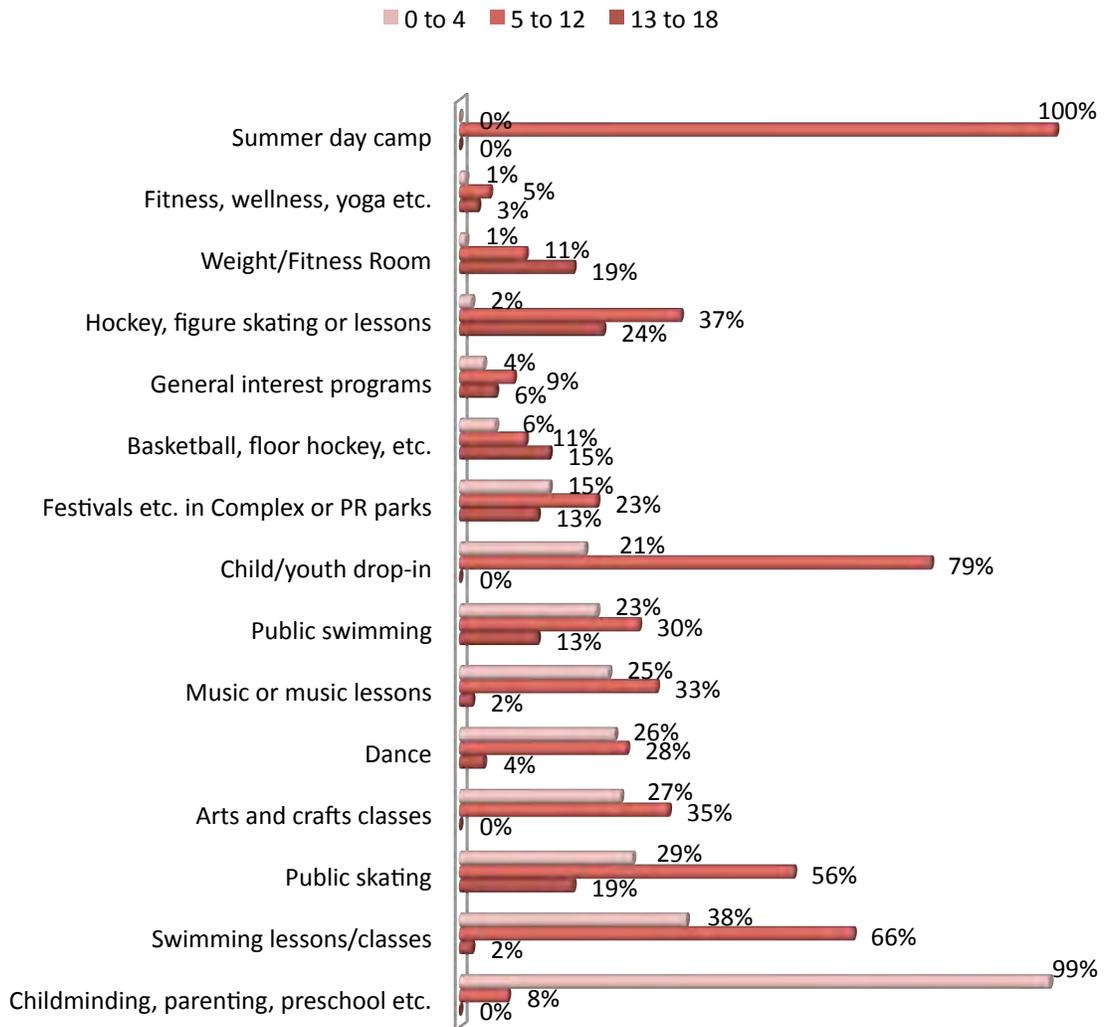
- Summer day camp (100%)
- Child/youth drop-in (79%)
- Swimming lessons or other guided classes (66%)
- Public skating (56%)
- Hockey, figure skating or lessons (37%)
- Arts and crafts classes (35%)
- Music or music lessons (33%)
- Public swimming (30%)
- Dance (28%) and
- Community gatherings, festivals, special events, theatrical productions in Recreation Complex or local parks (23%).



The activities with the largest percentages of participants that are 13 to 18 years old are:

- Hockey, figure skating or lessons (24%)
- Public skating (19%)
- Weight/Fitness Room (19%)
- Basketball, floor hockey, etc. (15%)
- Public swimming (13%) and
- Community gatherings, festivals, special events, theatrical productions in Recreation Complex or local parks (13%).

## Age Bracket of Activity Participants: Children and Youth



## PARTICIPATION IN PRIVATE/NOT-FOR-PROFIT AND CITY OF POWELL RIVER PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

8. Have you or anyone in your household participated in any recreation programs or activities offered by the private or not-for-profit sector in the past year that is from January 2013 to now? Examples are, health and various wellness programs offered at the hospital, privately (a business) or by a not-for-profit. Include any if participated in anywhere in our local surrounding area. *Check all that apply.*

9. Do you or anyone in your household participate in any City of Powell River Parks, Recreation and Culture programs offered through the Complex Leisure Guide? Include any participated in now or in the past year, from January 2013 - December 2013.

a. Did anyone in these age groups participate in Registered Programs? *Check all that apply.*

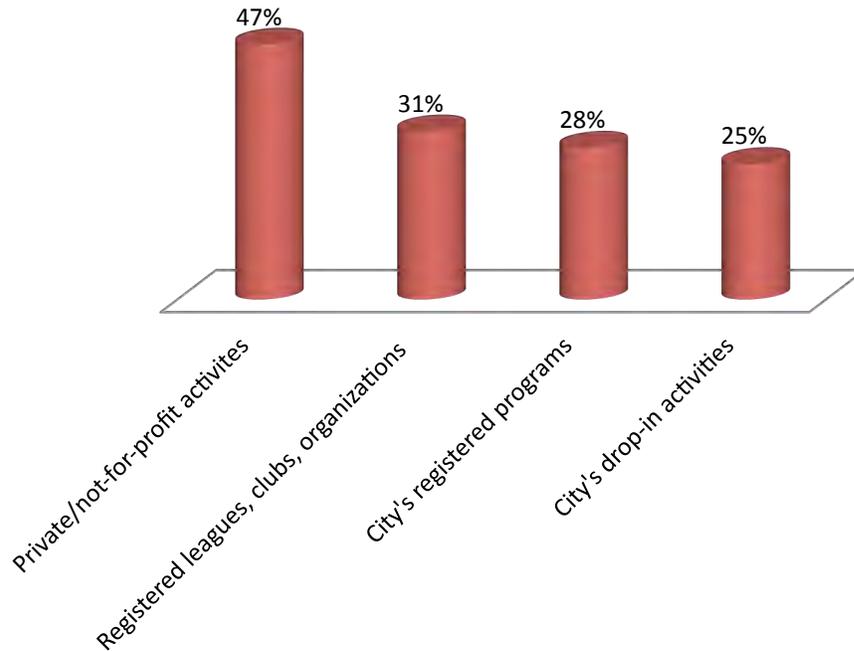
b. Did anyone in these age groups participate in Drop-in Programs? *Check all that apply.*

11. Have you or anyone in your household participated in any registered sports leagues or clubs or not-for-profit organizations that use City recreation facilities or fields? Include any participated in now and in the past year, from January 2013 - December 2013. Did anyone in these age groups participate in registered sports leagues or clubs? *Check all that apply.*

As shown in the next chart, the household participation rate for recreation programs or activities offered by the private or not-for-profit sector in the past year is 47%. The next largest percentage is 31% that participated in any registered sports leagues or clubs or not-for-profit organizations that use City recreation facilities or fields.

Household participation in registered programs offered through the Complex Leisure Guide is 28%. Household participation in the City of Powell River drop-in activities is 25%.

## Participation in Recreation Offered by the City or that Uses City Facilities



The participation rates for age groups in the City's registered programs is as follows:

In 72% of the survey sample households, no one participated.

In 3%, there were participants aged 0-4 years.

In 7%, there were participants aged 5-12 years.

In 2%, there were participants aged 13-18 years.

In 3%, there were participants aged 19 to 34 years.

In 8%, there were participants aged 35 to 59 years.

In 12%, there were participants aged 60 and older.

The participation rates for age groups in the City's drop-in programs is as follows:

In 75% of the survey sample households, no one participated.

In 4%, there were participants aged 0-4 years.

In 5%, there were participants aged 5-12 years.

In 1%, there were participants aged 13-18 years.

In 3%, there were participants aged 19 to 34 years.

In 11%, there were participants aged 35 to 59 years.

In 10%, there were participants aged 60 and older.

The next table shows the household participation rates by area of residence.

- Very popular in Area B are recreation programs or activities offered by the private or not-for-profit sectors, registered sports leagues or clubs or not-for-profit organizations that use City recreation facilities or fields and registered programs offered through the Complex Leisure Guide are.
- Households in Area D have minimal use of registered sports leagues or clubs or not-for-profit organizations that use City recreation facilities or fields and City of Powell River drop-in activities. There is less use of registered programs offered through the Complex Leisure Guide in comparison with Areas A, B and C.

**Participation Rates for Types of Activities Offered by the City or that Use City Facilities**

	Total Sample	City of Powell River	Area A	Area B	Area C	Area D
Recreation programs or activities offered by the private or not-for-profit sectors	47%	44%	42%	70%	52%	43%
Registered sports leagues or clubs or not-for-profit organizations that use City recreation facilities or fields	31%	34%	29%	43%	24%	3%
Registered programs offered through the Complex Leisure Guide	28%	25%	32%	46%	31%	20%
City of Powell River drop-in activities	25%	24%	33%	28%	30%	15%
No participation in registered programs	72%	74%	68%	52%	69%	80%
No participation in drop-in programs	75%	75%	67%	71%	70%	85%

10. On average how many times per week did you or anyone in your household participate in City Parks, Recreation and Culture programs in the past year?

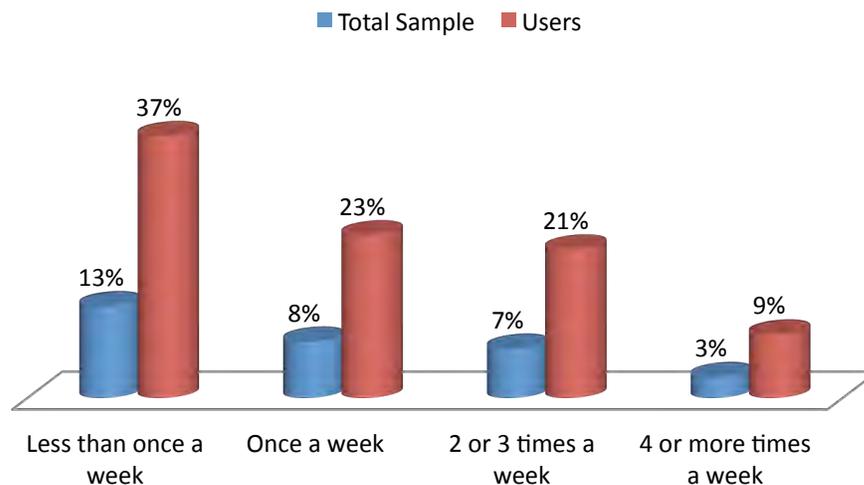
The next chart shows the frequency of use percentages for the total sample and for users of City Parks, Recreation and Culture programs and drop-in activities. Frequent users of at least once a week constitute 19% of the survey sample and 53% of program and drop-in users.

The results for area of residence are:

- City of Powell River: frequent users of at least once a week comprise 17% of survey households and 55% of users who live in Powell River.
- Area A: frequent users of at least once a week comprise 28% of households in Area A and 70% of program and drop-in users who live in Area A.
- Area B: frequent users of at least once a week comprise 25% of households in Area B and 51% of program and drop-in users who live in Area B.
- Area C: frequent users of at least once a week comprise 18% of households in Area C and 41% of program and drop-in users who live in Area C.
- Area D: frequent users of at least once a week comprise 2% of households in Area D and 11% of program and drop-in users who live in Area D.

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### Frequency of Use of City Registered or Drop-in Programs



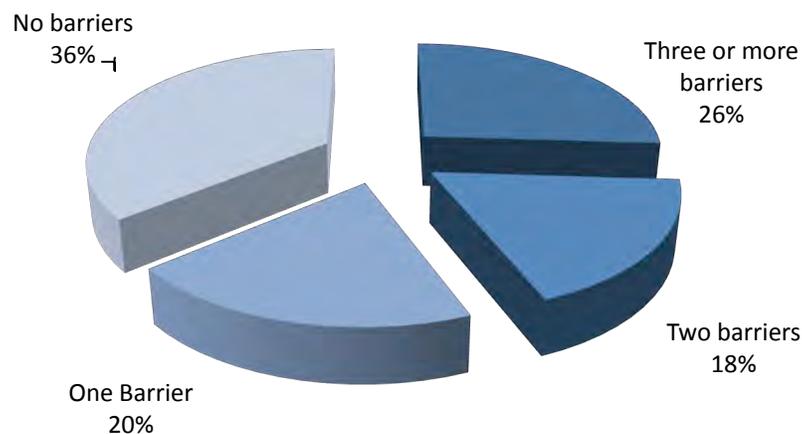
### BARRIERS THAT LIMIT OR PREVENT PARTICIPATION

12a. Certain barriers may limit or prevent participation in recreation programs and activities throughout our region. Check any that affect the participation of yourself or another member of your household. *Check all that apply.*

12b. If you checked more than one barrier, which would you say is the most important barrier for you or someone in your household? *Check one only.*

As shown in the next chart, 36% of survey respondents indicated no difficulties that limit or prevent participation by themselves or others in their household in recreation programs and activities. 20% mentioned one barrier, 18% said two barriers, and 26% identified three or more barriers.

### Barriers to Participation



The eight most frequently mentioned barriers are summarized below.

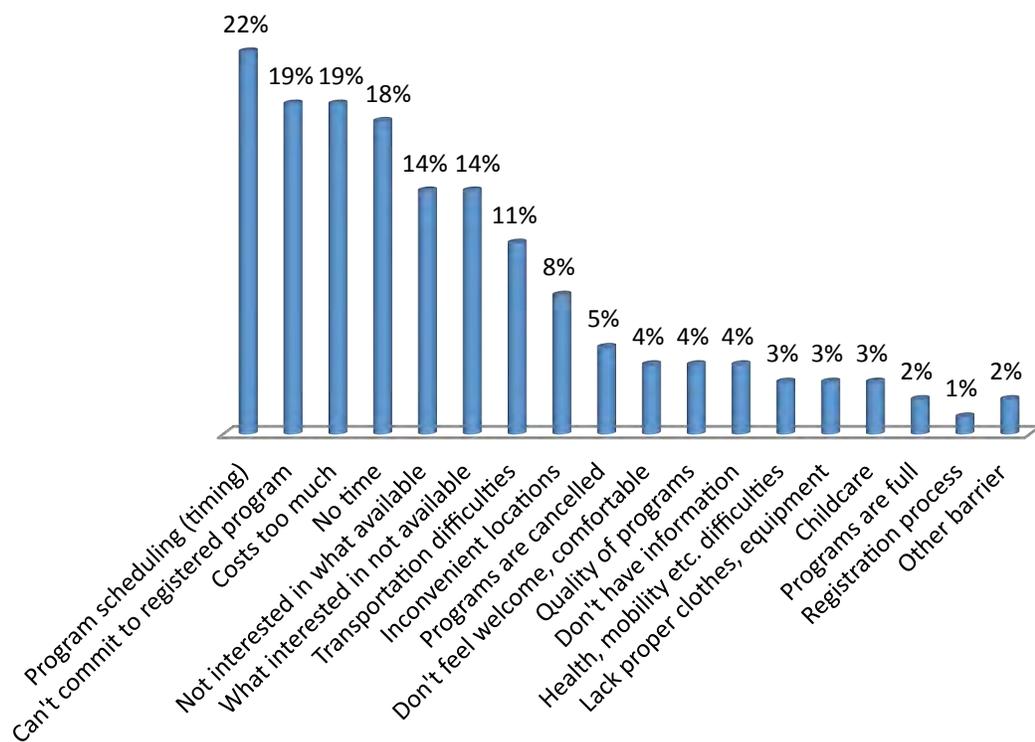
- Program scheduling (timing of programs) was the most frequently mentioned barrier, said to affect 22% of survey households. Residents of Areas A and B were more likely to say program scheduling was a barrier (both 33%), and residents of Areas C and D least likely to say it was a barrier (both 19%). The likelihood of mentioning this barrier decreased with increasing age. The range was from 38% of 19 to 44 year olds to 4% of those 65 and older. This is a barrier for 42% of households with children in the home and 16% of households with no children.
- Can't commit to a registered program is a barrier for 19% of households. It is a significant barrier to participation for households in Area C (mentioned by 32%), but very unlikely to be mentioned by residents of Area D (2%). The likelihood of mentioning this barrier decreased with increasing age of survey respondent. The range was from 24% of 19 to 44 year olds to 14% of those 65 and older.

- Costs too much is also a barrier for 19% of survey households. Cost as a barrier is less a factor for City of Powell River residents (16%) and Area D residents (19%), but affects many households in Area A (25%), Area B (26%), and Area C (29%). The likelihood of mentioning this barrier decreased with increasing age of survey respondent. The range was from 33% of 19 to 44 year olds to 7% of those 65 and older.
- No time is a barrier to 18% of surveyed households. It is a barrier to participation for a large percentage of households of Area B (31%), followed by residents of Area 27% and Area C (23%). The likelihood of mentioning this barrier decreased with increasing age of survey respondent. The range was from 30% of 19 to 44 year olds to 6% of those 65 and older. It is barrier for significantly more households with children (30%) than those without children (14%).
- Not interested in what is available is a barrier for 14%. This barrier was said to affect more households in the City of Powell River (17%) but is less a factor in the other areas. The next largest percent mentioning this barrier was 11% of Area B residents. 18% of respondents 19 to 44 years of age said this is a barrier for their households, while least affected is the age group of 45 to 54 years (8%).
- What I am interested in is not available is also a barrier for 14% of households. This barrier was said to affect more households in the City of Powell River (16%) and Area A (15%) but is less a factor in the other areas. The next largest percent mentioning this barrier was 10% of Area C residents. The likelihood of mentioning this barrier decreased with increasing age of survey respondents. The range was from 22% of 19 to 44 year olds to 7% of those 65 and older. It is barrier for significantly more households with children (21%) than those without children (11%).
- Transportation difficulties is a barrier for 11% of households. Proportionately fewer households in the City of Powell River were said to be affected by this barrier (7%), and no survey respondents living in Area B reported transportation difficulties as a barrier for their households. It is a significant barrier to households in Area D (60%). The other results for area are: 16% of Area A and 14% of Area C said transportation was a barrier.

- Inconvenient locations/too far away is a barrier for 8% of households. Again, this barrier is not much of a factor for those living on the City of Powell River or Area B (both 2%), but is a major barrier in Area A (30%), Area C (26%) and Area D (26%).

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## Barriers to Household Participation



Less frequently mentioned barriers, which affect fairly large proportions of particular groups are:

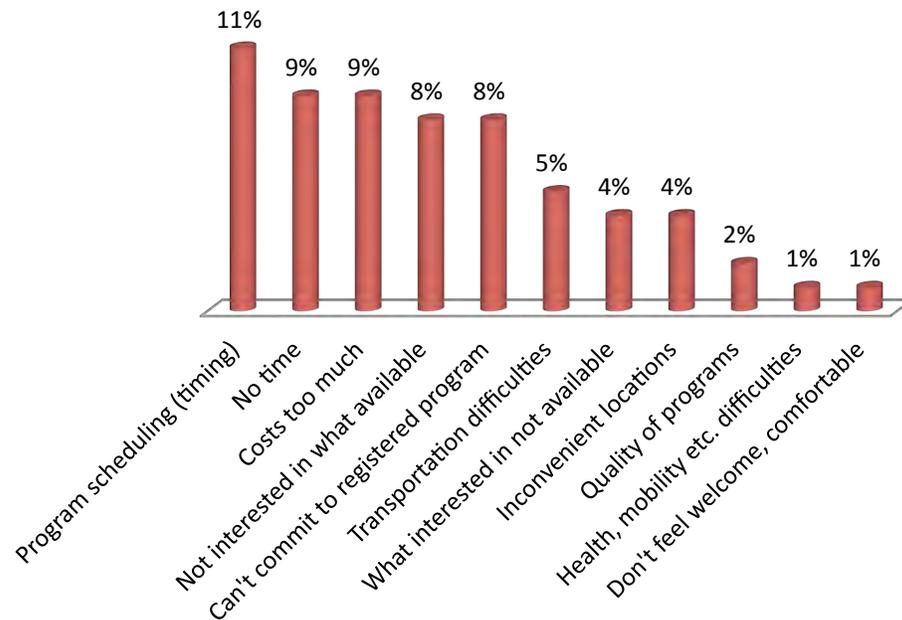
- Programs are cancelled was mentioned by 13% of respondents in households with children, 11% of 19 to 44 year old respondents, and 9% who live in Area A.
- Don't feel welcome or comfortable was mentioned by 13% of residents of Area A and 8% of 19 to 44 year olds.

- The quality of programs was mentioned by 14% of respondents in households with children and 12% of 19 to 44 year old respondents.
- Don't know where to get information was said to be a barrier by 14% of respondents in households with children.
- Accessibility: health, mobility, mental health or special needs is a barrier for 9% of households in Area C.
- A lack of proper clothes or equipment was said to be a barrier for 8% of 19 to 44 year old respondents.
- Childcare is a barrier for 13% of those who live in Area A and 13% of those with children at home.
- Programs are full (can't get in) is a barrier for 8% of 19 to 44 year olds and 10% of those with children in the home.

Those who mentioned more than one difficulty were asked which was most important. The most important barrier or only barriers affecting the largest percentage of households is program scheduling (timing), affecting 11% of households. An additional four barriers are the only or most important barrier for one in eleven or twelve households, and these are:

- no time
- costs too much
- not interested in what is available and
- can't commit to a registered program.

## Most Important Barriers



Other barriers not specifically asked about in the survey but mentioned by a few survey respondents are the cost of ferries and/or fuel to travel to locations of programs.

### AWARENESS OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

13. Are you aware of any of these recreation financial assistance programs?

The two programs with the highest levels of awareness are Canadian Tire Jumpstart (65%) and Child Tax Fitness Credit (58%).

- The awareness results for survey respondents with children at home are high for these financial assistance programs: 82% are aware of the Child Tax Fitness Credit, 77% were aware of Canadian Tire Jumpstart, and 41% are aware of Grade 5 & 6 Get Active Pass.
- The awareness results for survey respondents with children at home were no better than the total sample results for KidSport (21 % were aware) and lower than the total sample for Recreation Access (6% are aware).

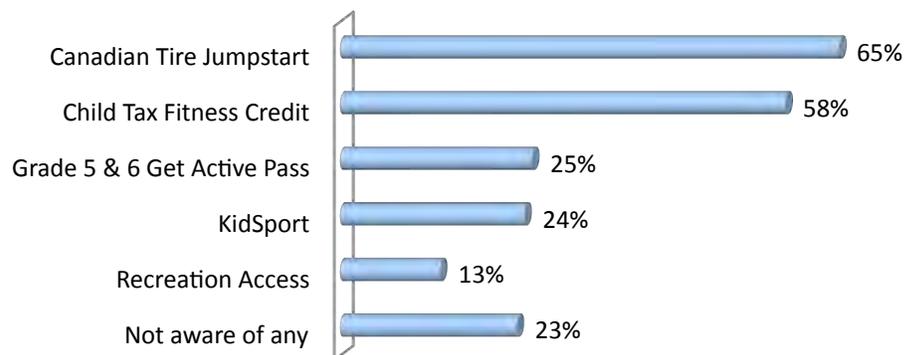
- Those 65 and older had the highest level of awareness of Recreation Access (16%). The awareness levels of this program in other age groups are: 12% of 19 to 44 year olds, 13% of 45 to 54 year olds and 8% of 55 to 64 year olds are aware.
- Awareness of Recreation Access was highest among residents of Area C (17%). The awareness levels of this program in other areas was 13% for City of Powell River, 12% for Area D, 8% for Area B, and a very low 2% for Area A.

Almost a quarter of the survey sample (23%) was not aware of any of the financial assistance programs.

- Only 6% of those with children in their home were not aware of any of the programs.
- Lack of awareness of any financial assistance programs was very high among residents of Area D (36%) and older residents, 65 or older, (41%).

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### Aware of Financial Assistance Programs



### LEVEL OF SATISFACTION WITH PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE PROGRAMS

- 14a. What is your level of satisfaction with each of the following Parks, Recreation and Culture programs?  
 14b. For those you are dissatisfied with, what do you think is needed?

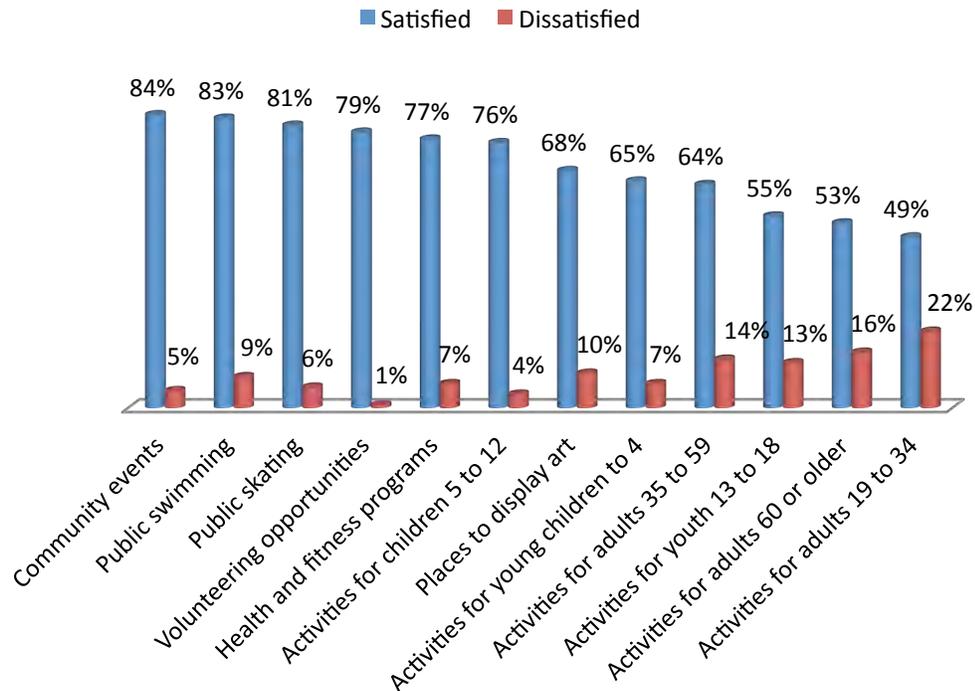
The next chart shows the level of satisfaction (combined percentages for very satisfied, satisfied and somewhat satisfied) and dissatisfaction (combined percentages for somewhat dissatisfied and somewhat dissatisfied) for Parks, Recreation and Culture programs. The data of those who are unfamiliar with the program and did not provide a rating are not used in the results shown in the chart.

Large majorities are satisfied with most of the types of recreation programs. The programs given the smallest percentage of satisfied ratings and the largest percentages of dissatisfied ratings are:

- general recreation programs and activities for youth 13 to 18 (55% of raters are satisfied and 13% are dissatisfied)
- general recreation programs and activities for adults 60 and older (53% of raters are satisfied and 16% are dissatisfied)
- general recreation programs and activities for young adults 19 to 34 (49% of raters are satisfied and 22% are dissatisfied).

Although a majority, 64%, are satisfied with general recreation programs and activities for adults 35 to 59, a fairly large percentage are dissatisfied (14%).

## Satisfaction and Dissatisfaction with Recreation Programs

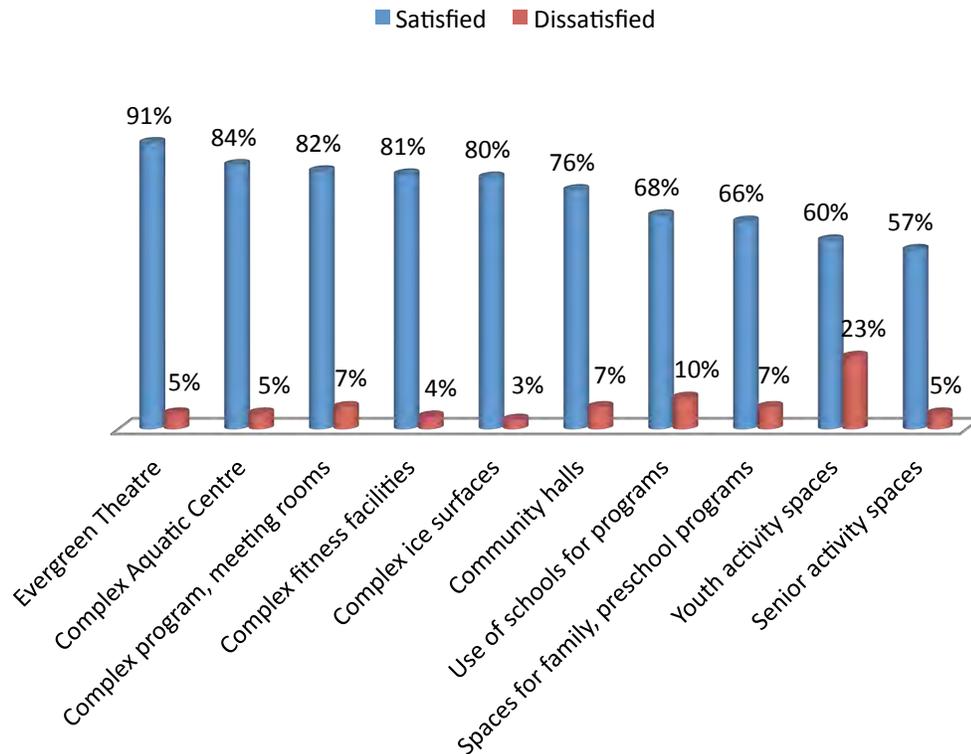


The next chart shows the level of satisfaction (combined percentages for very satisfied, satisfied and somewhat satisfied) and dissatisfaction (combined percentages for somewhat dissatisfied and somewhat dissatisfied) for Parks, Recreation and Culture facilities. The data of those who are unfamiliar with the facility and did not provide a rating are not used in the results shown in the chart.

Large majorities are satisfied with most of the recreation facilities. A large percentage of dissatisfied ratings were given to:

- spaces for youth activities (60% of raters are satisfied and 23% are dissatisfied).

## Satisfaction and Dissatisfaction with Recreation Facilities



### SUMMARY OF DISSATISFACTIONS WITH AND SUGGESTIONS FOR PROGRAMS

**Recreation programs.** The main requests expressed by residents for recreation programs included:

- provide more programs and more variety in general interest programming
- offer better times for working adults/parents (evening and weekend programs) and for those travelling from outside of the City and
- deliver more programs in the region.

A few residents wrote detailed accounts of their concerns about the lack of programs and support for youth in Powell River. Other suggestions were to provide activities and activities for children that will keep them active on rainy days, provide personal training instruction on weight room equipment for beginners, arrange for residents of senior's homes to come to the Recreation Centre or deliver programs in the homes

where they live, offer affordable and subsidized programs for those who need them, and provide social opportunities through recreation for people to get acquainted.

**Places to display art.** Popular suggestions were to designate space in a new library for displaying local artists' art works or build a free-standing public art gallery. Some felt that the space should be large enough to accommodate art classes, workshops, artists at work and travelling art exhibits and one person said, it should “showcase historical and native art for residents and tourists and provides relaxing space for people to meet, lunch, and a gallery for travelling art shows, music and dance”. Another mentioned having space for “display cases to display art such as carvings, jewellery or pottery”.

Other suggestions included having art displayed in all government buildings and outside on the grounds of public buildings and in the parks, more art in the Recreation Complex, Dwight Hall, and other similar venues, have art displayed in restaurants, “leave divider panels in the foyer of arena and theatre for local artists to display year round”, and organize a summer visual art festival or Art In the Park events.

**Community festivals, events, etc.** not many comments were written about community festivals, events, etc. The main suggestion was to have more events throughout the region and a few people also mentioned the importance of supporting these events with broad advertising. As one resident put it, “special events define a community's identity, civic pride and economic growth”.

**Volunteering opportunities.** Again, there were not a lot of comments about volunteering opportunities, but the main concern was finding out about them. Apparently, more publicizing of volunteering opportunities is needed.

**Public swimming.** The use of chlorine or too much chlorine in the Recreation Complex pool constituted the largest number of complaints about public swimming. Other dissatisfactions included inadequate changing rooms -“not enough space, not enough privacy, difficult to change in for people with mobility issues or other conditions”, not enough adult or lap swim times, a lack of lane swimming etiquette, not showering before swimming, the timing of swim classes, the added cost of travel to those who reside outside of the City of Powell River, the cool water temperature of the pool and showers, and insufficient open hours. One person suggested having a “different allocation of user groups to pools. Middle pool seems under-utilized, yet it is perfect for family and tots, kid's lessons under 6”. Some residents of areas outside

of the City feel that the timing of various swimming activities has not been chosen for their convenience.

**Public skating.** Only a few suggestions for improving public skating were given. These included replace old skating equipment, offer more skate times for learners, and offer more adult skate times.

**Health and fitness programs.** The majority of dissatisfactions had to do with the scheduling of classes and conflicts in timing with work or ferry schedules. Other suggestions included wanting more instruction, supervision and teaching of the proper use of equipment, women-only times, health education programs and “clubs” for people dealing with chronic diseases, and requesting delivery of programs in areas outside of the City.

#### **SUMMARY OF DISSATISFACTIONS WITH AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FACILITIES AND SPACES**

**Complex program and meeting rooms.** The majority of complaints of those who are dissatisfied had to do with the lack of soundproofing, temperature control, air quality or lack of proper ventilation, and the need for updating and replacing tables and chairs.

**Complex aquatic centre.** Too much chlorine in the water or water quality was the most frequently mentioned dissatisfaction, followed by a need for more frequent cleaning: “cleaner facilities overall”; “immediate cleaning of all change area and showers, railings and decks after each large (25+) group, i.e., Aquacize”. There were also requests for more time scheduled for exercise for older people or adults and a request for better changing facilities with “more space, more privacy, more shower facilities, more and more spacious changing units”.

**Complex ice surfaces.** There were only a few comments about ice surfaces, and these included wanting a smoother ice surface, having a year-round rink, leaving “one side of ice on into May”, and suggestions to close one rink, and “improve the curling rink”.

**Complex fitness facility.** The two most frequently voiced complaints were old outdated equipment and dominance of the facility by young males. Crowding and long waits for access to machines, not enough equipment designed for older people, a lack of privacy, and unclean equipment were other dissatisfactions. There was a request for “a larger carpeted area for mat and floor work”.

**Evergreen Theatre.** Worn and uncomfortable seating was complained about a number of times, especially for people with health and mobility issues, and suggestions were made for better utilization through better and increased marketing - more events, concerts, including “name performers”. As one resident put it, “Promote it and create a revenue stream”. Another resident said, “Make it affordable for user groups and people from private sector”. One person commented on the need for better “trained technicians to run sound and light equipment for performances”.

**Spaces for childminding, family programs and preschool programs.** Only a few comments were made about space for this purpose. Requests were made for more hours, more spaces for childminding, educational programs, “child-friendly outdoor space connected to program space planned specifically for children”, and a better bus service from Texada ferry to the Recreation Complex.

**Spaces for youth activities.** The majority of comments were requests for more opportunities to be provided to youth. These included providing a “skate park, biking clubs, a place for teens to hang and relax”, more programs and equipment, and “revitalize the current buildings at Timberlane or create new opportunities at the airport for new structures there”. A few questioned what activities are available to youth, other than hockey.

**Spaces for seniors’ activities.** Only a few comments were offered, and these consisted mainly of saying that there is a need for more seniors’ activities and spaces, including in the wider region. A resident pointed out that these spaces must be accessible to people with mobility and other health issues.

**Use of schools for community programs.** Residents, especially those living outside of the City of Powell River, would like to see more community access to school gyms and use of schools for programs, meetings and neighbourhood gatherings. The cost of renting school space is a concern to some.

**Community halls.** Dissatisfactions with community halls included a lack of access to the hall on Savary Island, upgrades were said to be needed to the hall, equipment or furniture at Texada Island, Lund Hall, Timberlane Barracks, Lang Bay Community Hall, and Cranberry Hall. Community halls were described as under-funded and under-used in general, and more programming in community halls was requested. A few mentioned the high cost of renting halls.

## PRIORITIES FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO RECREATION FACILITIES, SPACES AND PROGRAMS

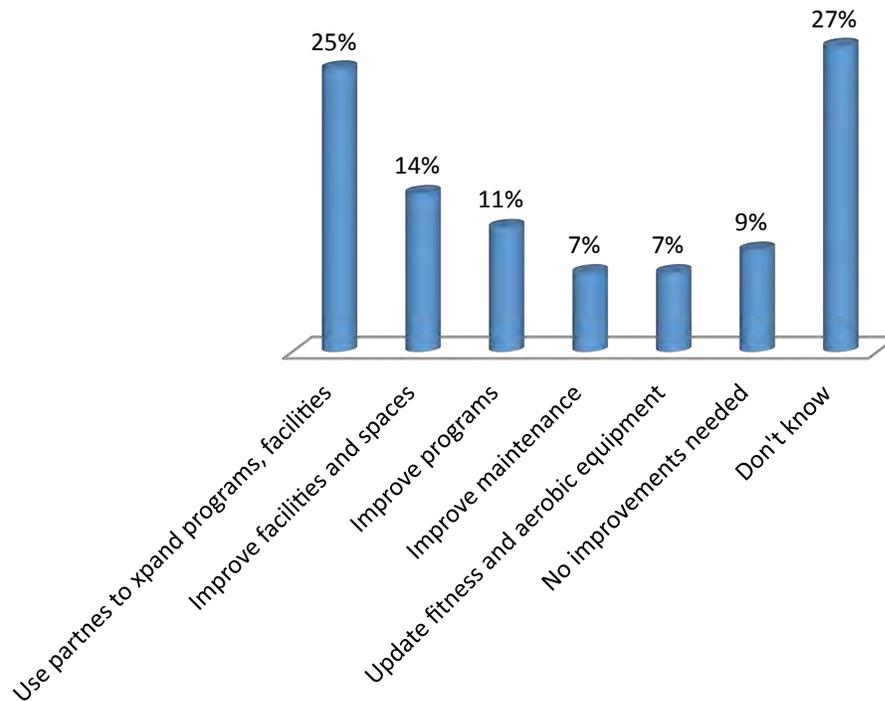
15a. Rank the following five potential priorities in order of importance to you, where 1 is most important and 5 is least important.

15b. Please provide detailed suggestions for improvements for each potential priority you ranked in the previous question. What specific improvements are needed?

As shown in the next chart, expanded program and facility use through collaborative partnerships with schools, public health, etc. received the largest percentage of #1 rankings (25%). Next was improve recreation facilities and spaces, which was ranked #1 by 14%, and third was improve recreation programs, ranked #1 by 11%.

- Large percentages of 19 to 44 year olds (37%) and respondents with children (36%) ranked expanded program and facility use through collaborative partnerships with schools, public health, etc. #1. This was also the case for improve recreation facilities and spaces, which was ranked #1 by 30% of 19 to 44 year olds and 22% of those with children.
- A large percentage of residents of Area A ranked expanded program and facility use through collaborative partnerships with schools, public health, etc. #1 (36%).
- No improvements are needed was the response of larger percentages of Area D residents (29%). Large percentages of the two oldest age groups of 55 to 64 (31%) and 65 and older (47%), and those with no children (32%) said they didn't know.

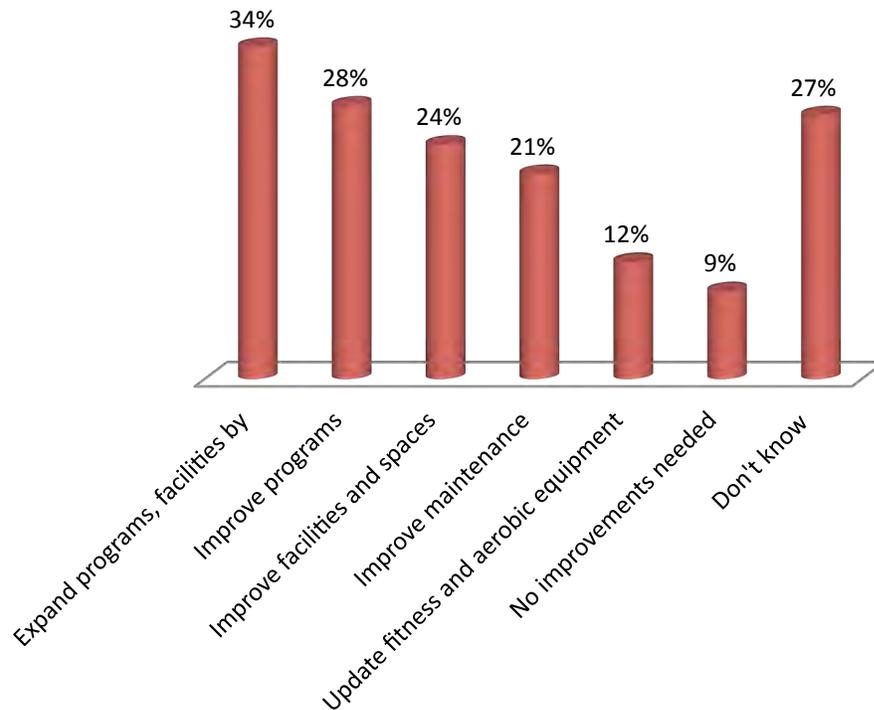
## Percentage that Ranked the Improvement #1



As shown in the next chart, 34% of respondents ranked expanded program and facility use through collaborative partnerships with schools, public health, etc. as #1 or #2. When #1 and #2 rankings are considered, improve recreation programs moves ahead of improve recreation facilities and spaces in relative importance.

- A good cross-section of respondents (on demographic characteristics) chose the three highest ranked improvements that are favoured by the largest percentages of survey respondents. Large percentages of Area B residents (50%), 19 to 44 year olds (50%), and those with children at home (48%) ranked expanded program and facility use through collaborative partnerships with schools, public health, etc. either #1 or #2. A large percentage of 19 to 44 year olds (46%) ranked improve recreation programs either #1 or #2.

## Percentage that Ranked the Improvement #1 or #2



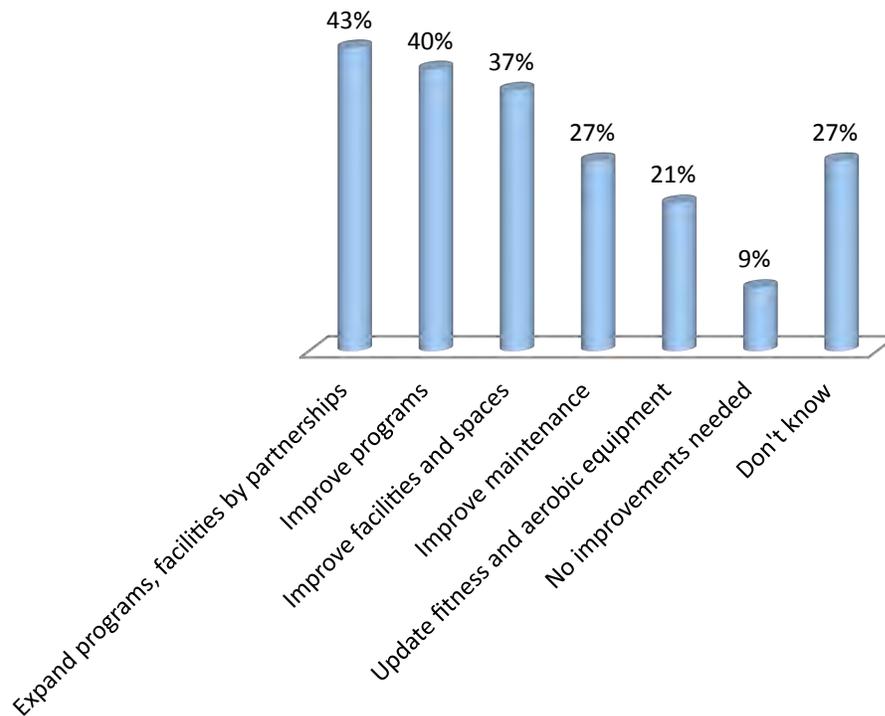
As shown in the next chart, 43% of respondents ranked expanded program and facility use through collaborative partnerships with schools, public health, etc. as #1, #2, or #3. When #1, #2 and #3 rankings are considered, improve recreation programs and improve recreation facilities and spaces are nearly equal in endorsement (40% and 37%).

- A good cross-section of respondents (on demographic characteristics) chose the three highest ranked improvements that are favoured by the largest percentages of survey respondents. Large percentages of Area B residents (59%), City of Powell River residents (44%), residents of Area A (40%), 19 to 44 year olds (65%), and those with children at home (66%) ranked expanded program and facility use through collaborative partnerships with schools, public health, etc. as either #1, #2 or #3.

- Large percentages of 19 to 44 year olds (65%), residents of Area A (48%), residents of Area B (41%) and City of Powell River residents (41%) ranked improve recreation programs as either #1, #2 or #3.
- Large percentages of 19 to 44 year olds (58%) and 45 to 54 year olds (41%), residents of Area A (51%), residents of Area B (49%), and those with children at home (57%) ranked improve recreation facilities and spaces as either #1, #2 or #3.

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### Percentage that Ranked the Improvement #1, #2 or #3



#### IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED FOR COLLABORATIVE PARTMNERSHIPS

The main improvements identified by survey respondents are summarized below for each priority.

**Expanded Program and Facility Use through Collaborative Partnerships with Schools, Public Health**

The main requests for the number one priority are to use local schools to deliver recreation programs. Another popular idea was to allow the schools to use the ice arena and aquatic centre to run school-based skating, swimming and fitness programs for their students. Following are suggestions by residents of each area and Tla'Amin First Nation for expanded program and facility use through collaborative partnerships.

### **City of Powell River Residents**

- Have a place where seniors with heart problems or muscle and mobility problems can go to work out and get specific instructions and oversight.
- I would like to see more programs for the aging population. A heart healthy program has been discontinued by Vancouver Coastal.
- Be pro-active with preventable diseases such as type 2 diabetes by getting more people active.
- Given the rising obesity and diabetes rates in the community, we obviously need to get more people more active. Have employee fitness passes to get people into the various facilities.
- Evening programs offered in local schools, more health-oriented programs.
- Use different school locations to encourage greater participation, such as for fitness classes after hours.
- Let all schools use facility for swim and skate lessons etc., also for other fitness programs that are offered there.
- Provide more opportunities for the schools to use the facilities for programs.
- Continue working with schools and home school students to provide daytime programming for swimming, dance, aerobics, etc.
- Make more use of the ice arenas with school based programs.
- Include the curling rink as a public recreation facility.
- Community partners have to get together to create a much needed Youth Resource Center in this town.
- Have activities for our community youth.
- More gymnasium-located sports being offered through the Leisure Guide. More programs for teens.
- All kids should learn water safety, especially Powell River children; expand basic first aid training to our youth.
- Always good to encourage other groups to use the facility.

- Have square dancing at the rec centre.

### **Area A Residents**

- Expand/rotate programming using facilities such as the Sliammon Hall and Lund Hall. Offer the same classes on consecutive days using these different locations in the region.
- Regional financial participation in city-run facilities. Repurpose the complex to include the library.
- Link creative and athletic programmes into one umbrella offering. I would be interested in fine arts and pottery courses in addition to the current swimming activities I take part in.
- These facilities could be better utilized for meetings, social activities (e.g., cards, writing groups, book clubs, casual sports (volleyball, basketball) for those who don't make formal teams or for families, or RCMP and youth....instead of looking at building new spaces.
- Make space available for physio, chiro, nutritionist, kinesiologists, etc.
- Have after school community programs on-site at elementary schools.
- Outdoor fitness circuits on school grounds and/or parks.
- Better communication between the groups so the Complex doesn't offer a program that some other user group wishes to offer.
- More programs for seniors.
- Have the schools use the complex more.

### **Area B Residents**

- I do not think you could over-spend money on activities in or outside the Rec Center when it involves the youth.
- Must meet to plan collaborative activities. Must work out \$'s involved. If one charges and another does not, there is immediate inequity.
- Better coordination of available programs provided to the public.
- Share resources (physical spaces and workers) between parties to improve service.

- Using school space for free when not in use should be more known. More First Nation programming, because that would be interesting. Pay same tax for recreation facilities throughout the Powell River District and Municipality.
- All schools should have a swim and skate program.
- Arrange for more times like the winter wonderland for schools to be brought to the complex for skating or swimming opportunities, especially important for families that can't afford to get their kids there on their own.
- Partnerships to support youth counselling and youth with behaviour difficulties. Make some of the complex programs available as local courses for Brooks students; some mentorship especially with young girls on e.g. aquatic exercises; etc.
- I am sure more pro-active partnerships could be developed with organizations in the district.
- I think there should be more swimming through the schools.
- Great facility that is not fully utilized.
- Perhaps more integration of recreation facilities with schools.
- Hold seminars and classes for health and wellness lifestyles.
- Programs for cardiovascular rehabilitation.
- There is a lot of duplication of facilities/resources. We need to collaborate more to put greater utilization into appropriate spaces and re-purpose other spaces. We cannot afford to compete for the same venues or events. There is no sustainability or viability in that.
- This should help the variety and participation levels.
- I thought this already occurred.
- Perhaps school 'fitness' programs could promote electives or clubs that utilize the pool and ice surfaces that aren't available at school, i.e., water polo, swimming, skating, ringette, hockey. A partnership with other youth sports groups (soccer) for cross-training, or seniors groups like Cranberry to have heart healthy fitness and diet programs.
- Offer more programming in conjunction with schools...not just swimming lessons.
- Computer lessons and availability of computers.
- Schools are always great partners in activity.

### **Area C Residents**

- Offer more programs using school buildings, for example, south of town where it is too far to travel to Rec Centre.
- It was great that the complex started swim lessons for home-schoolers. For me, having adult programs at the same time as complex recreation programs e.g., Thursday toonie skate, would be good as I could then participate too. I am not sure what expanded programs would be available through partnership with schools and public health, perhaps a multi-generation time at the complex with swim time and then various classes at the same time that the adults could attend whilst children swam. I know that there are already sometimes when this happens.
- More interaction between community and schools- mentorship programs in the arts.
- If you offer a better deal for kids more people might use the complex.
- Offer more (Zumba) at times for working people. Love the Zumba classes!
- I think it should always be a priority to collaborate with other groups, for example, g. I like the VIU and leisure guide coming out together.
- Outdoor recreation should be a major area of interest on the upper coast, for the health of our people, for the health of our parks and green spaces and for the health of our local economy.
- Be creative! More collaboration brings more to the community, and make it for all of the community.
- Health is more than fitness programs; add programs that provide information about other aspects of health, such as nutrition, food additives, etc.
- In expanding partnerships this may lead to more program diversity that is able to be offered.
- Living south of town we have the use of Kelly Creek Community School...it is being put to good use. There are a lot of meetings and programs and activities that can be started at one school and perhaps as the student progresses along, the activity can be followed by another school able to take on the student or person that has progressed to another level, instead of waiting for another program to start up further along the time line....or waiting months for another chance to get going.
- Occasional seminars on public and personal health by qualified professionals.
- There are so many talented people in this community that there could be so much more that could be offered in the way of classes, performances.
- More use by schools of the pool and rinks.

- The Regional District should put 50% of the cost of the complex. We all use it. I live at Black Point. I would love to come into the complex on the bus, but the buses are too late in the morning to get people there or to work in town.
- Make use of Rec. Centre rooms that are empty more often than in use. Pool side room for Zumba is too small, can't see instructor- structure/fixture in way of carrying out the moves.

### **Area D Residents**

- Schools should be more accessible to the public after hours for recreational activities.
- Easier access to facilities by public transportation and Texada ferry connections enabling patrons to use facilities more often.
- Times for people from Texada Island to commute to functions.
- It's time to change the operational model to be all inclusive for the PR region not just PR City.
- More partnerships with the Texada School; the creation of a Hospice Society in the region would create health and wellness for families and caregivers of palliative patients.

### **Tla'Amin First Nation Residents**

- Offer courses for personal trainers in weight facilities and aerobic area to create more certified trainers in town-maybe as a dual credit program in Brooks? Then people can attend discounted classes as students to their teachings.
- A new gallery in conjunction with the library and Museum in the Complex space where the trees were cut down. Not all at once. Over time.
- Physical education programs in schools should include complex activities 1/month or more.
- We need better programs to help get our elite athletes out to not only compete in their favorite sport, but also represent the town of Powell River. Gas, ferry, hotel and food costs are the biggest influences.

### **IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED FOR RECREATION PROGRAMS**

#### **Improve Recreation Programs**

The main concerns of those dissatisfied with recreation programs was a lack of enough variety, particularly, general interest or non-sport activities, a need for more programming for specific age groups, and the scheduling that is not convenient for

employed people or people who reside outside of the City. Affordability is an issue for some residents, and there were requests for more programming to be delivered throughout the region and for more organized outdoor activities. A few made suggestions for improving advertising and the effectiveness of information about recreation. Following are suggestions by residents of each area and Tla'Amin First Nation for improving recreation programs.

### **City of Powell River Residents**

- More options.
- More variety for all age groups.
- Recreational basketball, more information on adult slo-pitch. It seems you have to be associated with someone who plays to hear about it.
- Swimming and skating schedules that are for everyone at more prime times.
- More evening programs for working adults.
- Availability---open hours.
- Lower the cost of admission to \$3.50. If 2 people come in you are up \$1.30. Lower the heat in the whirlpool during the summer. It is kind of silly to have a hot pool when it is hot outside no one uses it, plus it is the jets that do the work not the heat.
- Make the leisure book organized by ages the programs are available for. Simplify rather than having to surf through the whole book to find what to do for a specific age so don't miss any.
- Education and facilities with oversight for seniors who need to be more active due to diabetes, heart problems, mobility problems (knee and hip replacements) and diet information.
- More choice, variety.
- Get more programs that are affordable.
- More variety and offer for free...is possible.
- Improve the quality and variety of the programs.
- Better range of programs for different interests, not just sporting programs.
- More options. Indicate cut-off deadlines for registering so it is clear. More youth focused events. Include transportation (i.e. special bus run for indicated program from the school/mall/central area).
- Teenagers have not the same access to services and programs and that is counter-productive to assuring sustainability in Powell River.
- More offerings before and after the work-day. Keep the variety going.

- Access to affordable rates for ice time, hockey, and swimming lessons is a priority for our family.
- Always seems arts get top billing for programs. Why not more fun and entertaining programs?
- Make programs available to working persons. 6-7 am and 7-9pm.
- I'm not sure what needs improving, but there has to be new and improved. If possible, can Jazzercise be added?
- More programs with flexible schedules.
- Target programs that are being utilized and drop the ones that are not.

### **Area A Residents**

- Continue to spread activities throughout the community.
- More diverse programming .
- I enjoy arranged hikes, which have been offered, but not very often. Also more classes on subjects of interest would be good, e.g., flower arranging, cooking, gardening, biking. I have just got involved in pickleball, which is good. The drop-in fitness classes are good.
- Improve registration for region-wide sports leagues and lessons.
- Have afternoon classes so that people who work mornings can partake in the afternoons.
- Expand programs and times they are available. I commute from Okeover, and the programs I am interested in often occur in the evenings, on days when I am not in town. It is inconvenient and costly for me to come in for an evening class. I would commute to Lund, but there is not enough available.
- More and better exercise and educational programs for older people with health limitations.
- Offer more outside or town.
- Subsidize some cost to programs so that facilitators can make a program worth their while....this may attract more new programs and allow new programs to get off the ground when numbers are initially low.....more variety and community members can offer different things.....more community involved.
- My local community receives no identifiable funding for recreation programs, therefore, we have none in our local community.
- Involve schools with swim/skate lessons as part of curriculum.

- The recreation program guide could be more readily available at drop boxes in the region. We don't seem to be receiving it via the post any longer.
- I do not feel that most people know about all the programming. Better advertising perhaps.

### **Area B Residents**

- Offer a better variety of programming/times.
- Make more affordable for those of us in regional district.
- More choices throughout the day.
- A variety.
- Some outdoor activities for adults and seniors.
- Offer alternative times for those working during day.
- A greater emphasis on "in the parks" and out of the buildings programming.
- Easy access to what programs are available now and how/where to suggest program ideas.
- More available in later evenings (after 6). Aerobics classes.
- More guided hiking and biking on all our wonderful trails.
- More indoor winter physical activities for smaller kids i.e. 1-4 year range.
- Keep focus on children and lower income families to help support a healthy lifestyle.
- Always bring in new stuff that is interesting.
- More choices for people with disability.
- More walking and trail hiking.

### **Area C Residents**

- Yoga, tai chi, pilates and also children's programs.
- More diversity. Personally I'd love capoeira classes though for some of these other programs I understand that we may just not have any teachers available in our community. I also hugely enjoy and miss field hockey. A disc golf course would also be a new improvement.
- With limited resources I understand that it is difficult to provide more programs for seniors but it would be nice.
- Opportunities for hiking/camping and safety in the bush and on trails; not just hockey and ice skating and swimming programs. Recreational programs for enjoying all the water facilities that surround us, like canoeing and fishing, kayaking. Provide alternate activities like, roller skating and the need to be safe while participating in the activity. Understand that not all

activities are affordable or doable but there is a real need to get our youth involved in areas that they feel are current and important to them.

- Ice rental cost for hockey teams is too high.
- I believe that the complex should be free. The cost is (according to Rec Complex 2009) \$5m and the revenue is \$280000. To me, the little bit more on taxes would allow the facility to be used to the full by unemployed and poorer citizens and then we could have more than one restaurant and cater to the theater goers.
- Health and Fitness programs for the volunteer fire fighters of the Regional District. Access to fitness programs in the communities that the fire fighters serve. Possibly through partnerships with local schools in the district.
- Various types of art teaching classes, travel experience sharing forums.
- Offer more variety.
- Perhaps an astronomy club, or photography club.
- I think the existing programs are good and unfortunately, the population limits the amount, variety and frequency of what's being offered. More community involvement: discounts with participating businesses for food, equipment, supplements, fitness supplies for special programs like a Walk Your Way Healthy for seniors with special days in the rec complex and the TC mall in the winter months.
- More choice of general interest programs for adults i.e. cooking, etc.
- Back to back classes should be scheduled 15 min. apart to allow for the aerobics/fitness classes to empty and fill in an orderly fashion re: sign in and shoe up and jackets etc. in order to prevent late starts and/or running over time slot.
- More fitness classes.
- More outdoor recreation programs - hiking, mountain biking, rock climbing, exploring the local mountains, canoeing and kayaking.
- The locker rooms could be updated.
- I suggest the school programs start a little later.
- Times of programs - not everyone works 9 to 5.

#### **Area D Residents**

- More programs such as elder college with a wider variety of topics.
- I would like to see local governments work more closely with groups that are promoting activities like biking and running.

- At present, we know of no programs available on Texada.
- Time aquatics for making connections to Texada to connect re bus pickup and return not such a long run.

### **Tla'Amin First Nation Residents**

- Get newer programs that interest a current generation that are also affordable instead of the same old predictable choices.
- Evening swim lessons should be in the evening- not 4 or 5 pm. Single working moms can't arrange this.
- Difficult - staff and aging population.

### **IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED FOR FACILITIES AND SPACES**

#### **Improve Recreation Facilities and Spaces**

There were many specific requests for improvements. Those mentioned more than one time tended to be themes that have already emerged in other results such as upgrade the Recreation Complex, equipment, pool and theatre, build a library, and upgrade community halls. There were quite a few suggestions for improved or new outdoor recreation facilities too. Following are suggestions by residents of each area and Tla'Amin First Nation for improving recreation facilities and spaces.

### **City of Powell River Residents**

- Consistent access to playground washrooms at local parks (Larry Guthro? on Manson Ave.), care and maintenance of these washrooms. Unlocking and locking them each day.
- Outdated facility, needs better seating in theatre. Stage is very rough and dirty.
- Why hasn't the pool replaced the low diving board? It is equipment that is used. High diving board is too high for little kids. Pool would be used more if there was more to do. If the little diving board doesn't get replaced then the zunga should be moved to the other side, to allow all extra stuff to remain open, i.e., zunga and diving board could be open at the same time.
- More tennis courts are needed in Powell River.
- Timberlane Barracks replacement/revival.
- We need baseball fields that aren't all chewed up from soccer.
- Change rooms and showers need an overhaul.

- Extend Seawalk to Churchman's corner.
- More open gym or specific programs, i.e., men's basketball, floor hockey, volleyball, etc.
- The Recreation Complex is a priority for the community. A new system for maintaining water quality in the aquatic center like putting in a new ozone system.
- Update sound control in meeting rooms.
- A salt water pool instead of chlorine!
- Let all sorts of fitness etc. use space for nominal fees.
- A deep water tank for water walking/running.
- Only make improvements when they are needed.
- Minor esthetic updates.
- We could use a bike park, skate park, climbing wall, racquet sports courts, etc.
- Sport playing fields need improvements. Drainage especially.
- Make facilities and spaces more accessible to all.
- Fields need to be properly maintained. Example: lumpy, bumpy fields with poor drainage. Sports teams pay user fees and continue to have inferior quality fields. Usually when people pay they should expect improvements. Build or relocate the library at the complex or in a vacant building (old Met). Build a walking path between Brooks and the Complex. There are over 900 students at Brooks School that could be utilizing the rec center daily and a proper walking path would encourage its use. Work with Brooks students to build the trail (21st Century Learning - its real, purposeful and supporting community). Work towards developing environmentally friendly practices in all areas of municipal functions. Some communities use composting to feed municipal gardens, fuel vehicles (methane fuel), collect compostables from businesses. Collect water to water gardens or develop gardens that don't require irrigation. Ban plastic bags or provide incentives for businesses that use alternative environmentally friendly containers, bags etc.
- Late evening options.
- The weight and equipment room could be 2 separate rooms.

### **Area A Residents**

- I am primarily concerned with opening up the use of the Savary Island Community Hall for residents of the local community on Savary Island. Current use is extremely restricted. We also have no areas designated as parks on the island, and no maintenance for trails.

- Swimming pool no longer chlorinated, change rooms (especially family) heated! It is very cold!
- It would be nice if there would be a indoor complex beside the pool and skating rink for kids to play. Maybe a climbing wall.
- Relocate library.
- Outdoor fitness circuits required in various locations throughout the area.
- We are avid trail hikers and believe in keeping trails accessible and maintained.
- New and better exercise equipment, with special attention to equipment for older people. Better cleaning of equipment and spaces. Expanded spaces to overcome crowding, setting aside adequate time for older people (who move more slowly). Expanded changing facilities, with better showers and changing spaces that afford privacy for people with mobility issues, pain conditions and other health conditions.
- Better and more frequent programs for elderly users.
- Use community halls more in Lund. Offer more programs there.
- I believe the Complex would benefit if the facility was updated to provide a more environmentally-friendly space. Young families are looking for that.
- Make it cost effective for retirees/seniors.
- Craig Rd. Park is in need of clean up and improvement.
- Please BRIGHTEN the halls!
- No concerns about the Complex or city or RD parks. Some community buildings in the rural areas (e.g., Lund, Texada, Lang Bay Hall) could use a facelift and/or expanded facilities, e.g., computer stations like the library has.
- Timely access.
- Upgrade pool amenities and physical plant, close rink, energy management planning.
- Increase fitness / weight room size.
- Build a library.
- Theatre (backstage) needs better maintenance, cleaning, lockers installed in dressing rooms.

### **Area B Residents**

- Bad choice for putting athletic track in town site. It should have been beside complex. Would be great for track meets and school meets with the public being able to use other facilities at rec center.
- The dull colour schemes are not conducive to motivational goals.

- Our recreation complex needs to be more inclusive to groups not utilizing it at present. Some suggestions to accomplish this are: library, turf soccer field in partnership with PRYSA and adult soccer clubs, senior's center in partnership with Cranberry senior's center.
  - The toilets in the women's washroom (upstairs) are far too low and need to be replaced. Also, as women carry purses, hooks are needed on the inside of all stalls.
2. Healthy food choices should be made available both at the concession and in the vending machines.
- Update the aquatic area; Upstairs space needs updating.
  - The pool needs more fun things to do in it for smaller kids. Replace the slide and the red fountain ball thing that used to be there. It gets boring fast in the kids' pool. Also gets really full of bigger people a lot of the time so that it's unsafe and not fun for little kids. There is no toddler only area and when the 7-12 year old kids are in the small pool it's just too crazy.
  - Elevator. Excellent place for library. Bus service to both doors.
  - Build a bike park/improve the skate park!!
  - More swimming area for public swim.
  - The ceiling in the pool keeps dropping bits of ??? Needs to be dealt with. Evergreen Theatre risers (back seats) are noisy, hard to hear performances if anyone is even moving up there.
  - Modernize, check out other newer facilities in other communities to see where new innovative ideas have worked for them.
  - Keep up with what is popular as activities amongst youths and seniors.
  - Build and maintain a new bike (and skateboard) park. Develop and implement a community trail strategy for healthy modes of transport such as walking and cycling by making it safe, marked and well known.
  - Purpose and re-purpose spaces.
  - It would be good to fix up the meeting rooms for more multi-purpose use.
  - A steam room, display cabinets for arts/crafts and promotions.
  - Perhaps grounds facilities at schools, i.e., long jump pits etc.
  - The rooms echo, very difficult to hear anything, especially when air conditioning is on. Rooms are not very welcoming.

### **Area C Residents**

- Use something other than chlorine to keep the pool clean (ozone?).
- Women's change room.

- We desperately need more places to launch boats. From Westview to Saltery Picnic Site (Kents Beach), there is no place to launch even a cartopper! As an example, the Amour Rd. "Beach Access" could easily be modified to allow this. The large mound of dirt/debris at the lower end of this road was not normally there. It was piled up on public property by private interests.
- Water in the swimming pool.
- The facility needs a cleaner air quality. It is not conducive for alternative uses in meeting rooms right now; noise level too high, better seating and lighting.
- The rec complex can use an overhaul.
- We need a skate/bike park, not just for the kids either. I turn 40 this year and my bf is 43 and we'd love a skate/bike park for our use.
- The pool water temperature should be increased.
- Upgrade the pool and put a water slide in. Make this town attractive to younger people like it was when I came here in 1988.
- As specified earlier. Community partnerships for health and fitness for volunteer fire fighters.
- Indoor tennis courts.
- Update and maintain.
- Improved access to the resources at libraries in other cities.
- More public art would be a welcome addition to Powell River. We need to make our community more attractive.
- Back to back classes should be scheduled 15 min. apart. This would also aid in finding a place to park car when too much is going on. Re: tight schedule classes and hockey overlaps.
- Paint the spaces, upgrade equipment (moderately), keep it modern.
- How about shelter from the weather, good seating to watch soccer games, sometimes the toilet facilities are pretty scary.
- Better cleaning in dressing rooms.
- Need better space for library and for public art display.
- Make use of the cleared land that is growing back! Develop a BMX trail in that space; bring back the horse shoe pits and move the lawn bowlers to that area.
- No need to spend money on improvements; just look after what we have

### **Area D Residents**

- Squash courts.

- There are no facilities (e.g. gym and fitness centre) on Texada. A fitness centre would improve the health of an aging population.
- Upgrade washrooms at Texada Community Hall.
- Gillies Bay Ball Park - home plate needs to be replaced and the infield needs to be filled in and levelled.
- Need more local govt support for an extended trail network.
- The ice rink seems to need better lighting. The area to leave the ice seems congested.
- Texada Community Hall - go ahead with the planned improvements.

### **Tla'Amin First Nation Residents**

- A newer swimming facility would be good for the northern community of Powell River which could benefit the entire town with choices. If there's many food stores to choose from, why not a choice to go indoor swimming?
- Bring back kids' slide: increase pool temperature, more shower equipment and warmer water e.g. shampoo pumps, soap pumps etc...Free lockers.
- The lockers in the ladies' side need fixing. The change room needs to be cleaned more regularly during the day.
- I think the rink area ceilings will need updating soon they look unsafe and sometimes see lint falling from them at hockey games.
- Maintenance is an always thing.

### **IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED FOR MAINTENANCE OF FACILITIES AND SPACES**

#### **Improve Maintenance of Recreation Facilities and Spaces**

Most of the concerns mentioned for improving maintenance have already been summarized. These included improving the cleanliness of dressing rooms, the Fitness Centre and its equipment, improving the water quality of pool, patching holes and scuffs to make the Recreation Complex more attractive and improving community halls. There were quite a few comments on maintaining outdoor recreation facilities too. Following are suggestions by residents of each area and Tla'Amin First Nation for improving the maintenance of recreation facilities and spaces.

### **City of Powell River Residents**

- Basically I use the swimming pool for morning exercise. I used the lockers originally but stopped after losing several coins. I've heard others complain of this as well. Another day I was in the pool at six a.m. and watched as one of

the life guards had to walk around picking up pieces of the ceiling that were falling in the pool area.

- Seawalk is used a lot and should be better maintained. Landslide has not been removed. Surface is worn. Drainage ditches not maintained. The Seawalk should be extended to Churchman's corner.
- It's important to maintain what we have before we add to facilities. Updating cosmetically would improve usage.
- More dressing rooms.
- It's getting run down and the cleaning is not up to date.
- Probably hard financially to keep band-aiding things, so update is needed.
- Bring the Timberlane Barracks up to building code with insulation, electrical and drywall as needed.
- Cleanliness is very important to me. The weight room is often not clean. Nor are the change rooms in the aquatic area. The floor in the fitness room is usually not clean, even first thing in the morning. Nobody seems to care.
- Make sure what we have is properly maintained.
- General upkeep, don't let things deteriorate beyond affordability.
- Scuffs, holes on walls and ceilings. Looking old/tired.
- Rink ceilings.
- Continued maintenance and upkeep remains vital...GOOD JOB!!!
- Parks are highly used by our family and it is always disappointing when washroom facilities are not unlocked during the day time hours. In general I think the parks are maintained very well and appreciate the work city workers do there. Finding a way to get rid of the geese at Mowatt Bay would be great.
- Some equipment looking tattered.
- Showers in ice side dressing rooms need updating. Rink seating area is often dirty.
- It's just looking a bit frumpy.
- We have cold water showers often at the pool or lukewarm showers. Can we not afford to have hot water?
- The interior of the Complex needs upgrading to be more aesthetically pleasing.

## **Area A Residents**

- More and newer equipment, particularly geared for cross training i.e. ellipticals would be beneficial. The treadmills are always in use, elliptical machines are heavily used. Partitioned, carpeted warm up area in weight room. Have a staff person always in weight room to assist with training on equipment who could also be hired as a personal trainer. This same person could also be involved with fitness assessments.
- Improve community centers, make them wheelchair accessible. Gathering spaces outside as well as in.
- We seem to get zero dollars spent from our taxes for this locally outside of what is allowed for the SIVFD.
- The area around and under the bridge to the Complex is full of trash and litter. And the clear cut meant for the track is not attractive. A bad first impression to the recreation area.
- Improve library space.
- More room in the weight room. I'd love to be able to skip and as it stands now there is nowhere to do it.
- Keep facilities and equipment cleaner. Expand available meeting space by getting a library with adequate meeting space.

### **Area B Residents**

- Just make sure the pool and fitness centre are well maintained, cleaned, etc.
- Acoustics in Dwight Hall are terrible.
- Have a long term funding plan in place to make the necessary investments in maintenance items.
- I hope the scheduled upgrades to the pool will help remove the current cloudiness and heavy chemical odor through a better filtering system and added ozone. This is bound to encourage more use of the facility, when exposure to chemicals is decreased and water clarity improves.
- Willingdon Beach: Power wash the steps of the Forestry Museum before the spring and summer months. Also, this building needs a paint job. Something a little more upbeat and lively would be an improvement.
- Focus on repairs to the Swimming Pool(s).
- More staff needed to keep facility in good shape.
- The change rooms are often dirty, especially the floor. Drainage mats on the floors would stop them from being so wet. Change rooms are often cold. Light fixtures will be out or flashing for weeks before they're fixed.
- Provide ongoing cash flow as necessary. Do not skimp on capital spending.

- The existing facilities are ageing and good maintenance will extend/expand their service life.

### **Area C Residents**

- The Evergreen Theatre needs some major improvements to encourage more events and to support some of the world class events that come to town. Seats, lighting, sound, etc.
- Better outdoor lighting around outside of arena.
- Refurbish and resurface the tennis courts at Palm Beach Park.
- For some reason we're not allowed to skate around the track, though people can ride their bikes and push strollers so I can only assume it's a maintenance issue.
- Air quality in Ladies' change room.
- Floor in aerobics room is very slippery and needs a new coating.
- Perhaps not improve but maintain facilities and spaces to keep in good condition.
- Winter frost/ice conditions in parking lot is life/injury threatening. Salting should be the first task at hand when employees' shifts start; very dangerous to get from building to car.
- I use the change room for hockey and they are filthy.
- The dressing rooms need better cleaning to improve smell.
- As facilities age, maintenance is what keeps them from becoming completely unusable.
- Keep the building and grounds well maintained.
- Create some boat launch access. Powell River is supposedly trying to attract tourists.
- Overall cleanliness of washrooms and all public areas etc. The upper parking lot is still dirt after all these years and sends a bad signal before you even enter the complex.
- It is a recreation complex that benefits hockey primarily. Changes that could make it more inclusive need a freshness, colour, clean air, attentive staff.
- A budget for ongoing maintenance - don't neglect the facility or it will go downhill fast.
- More security personnel, lighting.
- Weight room equipment often squeaks, bangs etc. The area that is cleared should be made into a walking area and flower garden with seats.

- More cleaning in the complex and better follow up from support staff when a request is made.

### **Area D Residents**

- Texada Community Hall - funds were apparently allocated for maintenance and upgrades, but they haven't been done. No construction has been started on the replacement of the Shelter Point Regional Park Concession and Caretaker's facilities. These facilities enhance our recreational area.
- Gillies Bay Ball Park - needs new home plate and infield needs to be filled in and levelled.
- The change rooms to be cleaner.
- Perhaps the aquatic center change rooms could be updated.
- Maintenance and cleaning of Texada Comm Hall. Maintenance of Shelter Point nature trail.

### **Tla'Amin First Nation Residents**

- Pool could be kept cleaner. The water is at times cloudy and with a lot of floaties.

Maintenance is an always thing.

- Update washrooms and showering facilities with free bodywash and better lockers. Newer facilities in other places have lockers with better keys, an easy band strap to put on wrist rather than old safety pin.
- More parking. Possibly get rid of barricade and re-paint the park lanes.

### **IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED FOR FITNESS CENTRE AND AEROBICS STUDIO**

#### **Update the Equipment in Fitness Centre and Aerobic Studio**

The main issues for users of the Fitness Centre and Aerobic Studio is to replace old equipment with up-to-date equipment, perform regular maintenance and cleaning of equipment, and enforce the rules. A lack of enough space and crowding were mentioned several times. Following are suggestions by residents of each area and Tla'Amin First Nation for updating the equipment in the Fitness Centre and Aerobics Studio.

### **City of Powell River Residents**

- In the studio, the lighting is poor, ceilings low. Need the instructor to be on a podium/stage for better viewing.
- I really do not have any complaints. I can only "suggest" to the "known." I use the gym quite a bit and I noticed the equipment to be aging. Not to say I am unhappy with it!! Overall, I find my experience in Powell River to be extremely wonderful!!
- Newer machines.
- More variety in types of machines for body work, not so much cardio equipment.
- Cluttered, not always accessible. The mat area is too small.
- I would like a fitness circuit like "curves" model where I can step into the circuit and proceed without waiting and resetting machines.
- Keep the running, biking and step machines up to date.
- Enforce the rules in the gym (e.g.: no dropping the weights). This alone destroys the weights and the floor. It serves no purpose. When the weights are replaced, keep some of the other ones around too (e.g.: instead of only having 1 set of 30lbs and 1 set of 35lbs. You have too much cardio equipment 15 pieces vs. 10 pieces for weight lifting and you are taking benches away that people use for weight training, because you want to add more cardio or have another room for cardio and stretching.
- It speaks for itself.
- Safe and functional.
- Equipment is older and should be replaced more often.
- Some equipment is quite old and sometimes out of commission. I am sure the maintenance staff are doing their best to keep everything working.
- It might not be so much updating as better supervision so the equipment isn't abused.
- Things are always improving - gotta keep up with the trends (i.e. equipment).
- I don't use it so this doesn't concern me and there is much competition for this service anyways. Not sure if updating the equipment will bring more people to use it.
- If equipment is being maintained and not abused it should last a long time.

### **Area A Residents**

- It didn't seem too clean. Not a large enough space.
- Some of the machines are very old and tired. The weight room is getting a little crowded.

- New equipment in the Weight Room. These machines have been around since I was in my 20's. Take a trip to the YMCA in Vancouver and have a look at what they have. It's nice "functional" stuff.
- Cleaner, better, newer equipment especially for older people with health limitations.

### **Area B Residents**

- The atmosphere is cold.
- Have equipment available so that people who have a disability can use it.
- I would just like to see a personal trainer on hand to help people in the workout room.
- Just ensure that equipment is not going to break and hurt people using them.
- The equipment needs to be aligned with the wants and needs of the users and potential users. Perhaps programming could follow suit or lead the way.
- A lot of the equipment needs more maintenance - use a senior who ran a fitness centre in Vancouver and has offered to volunteer her time to help keep fitness equipment tuned up.
- The gym can be boring and has low energy. Something to look at while on the card machines, i.e., TVs would be nice.
- Updating for function, not form.
- Again, regular maintenance and addition of new machines.

### **Area C Residents**

- Some of the equipment is old and needs to be replaced.
- More bikes and treadmills. More education for public on cleaning equipment after use!
- Regular maintenance.
- More ellipticals, steppers with hand/arm handles.
- The weight room is pretty good but the whole place is getting dated.
- New mats and more coat hooks - any chance of spinning class/equipment?
- Access for volunteer fire fighters.

### **Area D Residents**

No comments.

### **Tla'Amin First Nation Residents**

- Better sound system, yoga mats, better times for yoga for working moms.

- Update and expand fitness and workout studios as they are old and outdated. A more modern replacement of fitness equipment and workout space will spur more local interest in usage.
- We need a large ball for stretching in the gym. It would be nice to have a shade on the window for more privacy.

## EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMUNICATION ABOUT INDOOR RECREATION

16. In general, how informed do you feel about opportunities for use of indoor recreation facilities, programs and special events that are available to residents of Powell River and District?

Three in five survey respondents (62%) said they feel very or adequately informed about opportunities for use of indoor recreation facilities, programs, and special events that are available to residents of Powell River and District. The remaining 38% said they do not feel informed (combined percentage for not very well informed, not at all informed and not sure responses).

70% of those with children and 60% of those without children at home said they feel very or adequately informed.

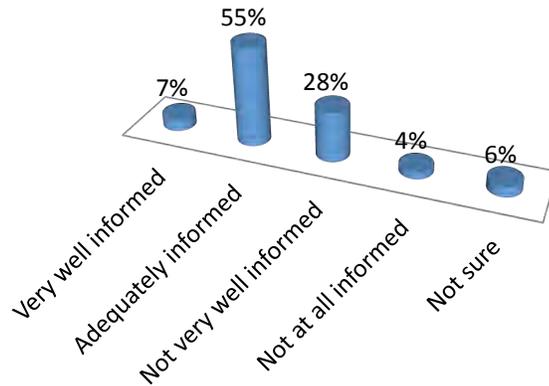
The results for age groups are: 62% of the youngest group, 19 to 44, 68% of those 45 to 54, 63% of those 55 to 64, and 58% of those 65 and older said they feel very or adequately informed about indoor recreation.

- Residents of Area C were more likely than residents of other areas to say they feel very well informed - 14%.

The results for feeling very or adequately informed by area of residence are: 59% for City of Powell River, 58% for Area A, 79% for Area B, 71% for Area C and 51% for Area D.

- Feeling informed was higher for residents of Areas A and B in comparison with residents of other areas.

## Level of Feeling Informed About Recreation



17. What are your preferred ways of receiving recreation information? *Check all that apply.*

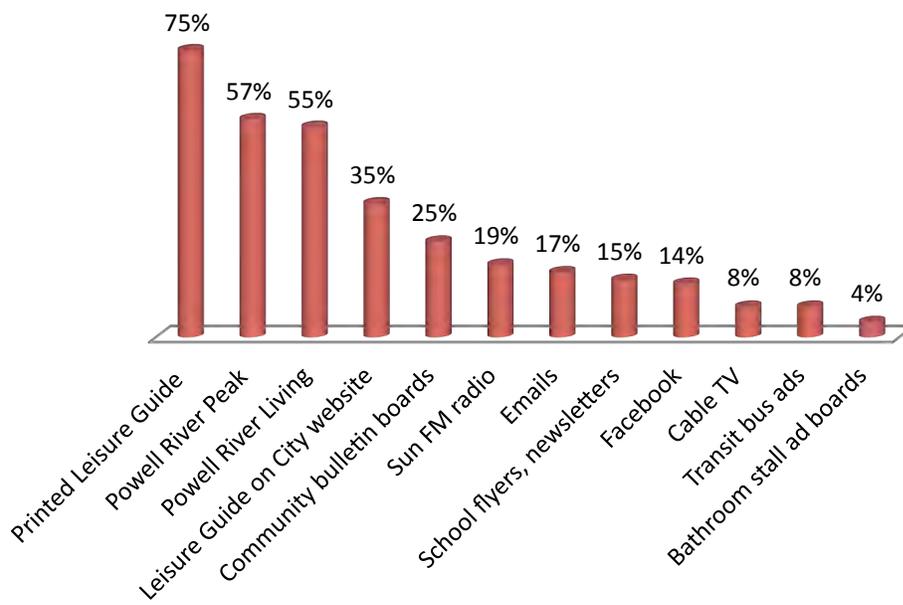
The printed Leisure Guide is the preferred method of receiving information about recreation for 75% of survey respondents. Two other methods were preferred by majorities of survey respondents, and these are Powell River Peak (preferred by 57%) and Powell River Living (preferred by 55%).

- These top three methods are the preferred methods for residents of each area with one exception. The largest percentage of residents of Area A preferred the printed Leisure Guide, followed by the Leisure Guide on the City website and then Powell River Peak and Powell River Living.
- These top three methods are the preferred methods for all age groups with one exception. The largest percentage of 19 to 44 year olds preferred the printed Leisure Guide (67%), followed by the Leisure Guide on the City website (54%) and then Powell River Peak (49%) and Powell River Living (48%).
- The oldest survey respondents of 65 and older were less likely than younger age groups to say they preferred the Leisure Guide on the City website (only 16% preferred this method).

- Survey respondents with children in at home were more likely than those without children to prefer the Leisure Guide on the City website (45% and 32%) and school flyers/newsletters (43% and 6%). A larger percentage of those with no children preferred Powell River Peak (60%) in comparison with those with children (48%).

□

### Preferred Ways of Receiving Recreation Information



## **SURVEY METHODS**

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### **SURVEY DESIGN**

The survey design was a region-wide survey of adult residential householders. The data collection method was a web-based survey, complimented by a mailed printed questionnaire option, which could be requested by leaving a message at a toll-free number. A survey invitation letter was mailed to a sample of addresses in the region. The letter explained that the Tla'Amin First Nation, the Powell River Regional District and the City of Powell River were inviting residents to participate in a survey to provide input for the Regional Recreation Service Review. The letter was signed by the Chief Councillor of Tla'Amin First Nation, the Chair of the Powell River Regional District, and the Mayor of the City of Powell River. A unique PIN printed in each letter assured that only one member of a household answered the survey questions.

### **QUESTIONNAIRE DEVELOPMENT AND SURVEY PROCESS**

The questionnaire and survey notification letter were developed by the consultants and by staff of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department of the City of Powell River. A spreadsheet of residential addresses of the City of Powell River and Areas A, B, C and D and the Tla'Amin First Nation were compiled by City, Regional District and Band staff.

The mailing date of the survey invitation letters was March 11, 2014, and 576 reminder letters were mailed on March 28, 2014, to a portion of non-respondents living in Areas A and D to try to boost the number of respondents from these areas to 50. Around the time of the reminder letter mailing, printed questionnaires were dropped off at the band office to encourage participation of First Nation residents.

The deadline for completion of the survey was April 11, 2014. The deadline was extended to April 18, 2014 in the reminder letter, and both web and print questionnaires were accepted for a few more days after that date.

### **PARTICIPATION RATE, SAMPLE SIZE AND DATA ANALYSIS**

A total of 52 survey letters were returned by Canada Post as undeliverable mail. The total sample was 397 respondents, the vast majority of whom completed the survey online. The survey participation rate was  $397 / 2982$ , or 13.3%.

The data of returned mailed questionnaires were entered into the survey database, and the survey data were weighted on age and area of residence prior to analysis. (Weighting is often used in survey research to adjust each respondent's contribution to reflect the distribution of the population on variables such as age, gender, etc.) Cross-tabulations were run by area of residence, age bracket, children or no children in the household, and length of time lived in Powell River region. Other statistics and cross-tabulations were computed as needed to aid analysis and interpretation of the findings.

A sample of 397 yields reliable results that can be expected to be accurate at least plus or minus 4.9 percentage points 19 times out of 20.

The reliability of results for the areas and demographic sub-groups will be less reliable than the results for the total sample.

City of Powell River. A sample of 115 yields results that can be expected to be accurate at least plus or minus 9.1 percentage points 19 times out of 20.

Area A. A sample of 64 yields results that can be expected to be accurate at least plus or minus 11.9 percentage points 19 times out of 20.

Area B. A sample of 78 yields results that can be expected to be accurate at least plus or minus 10.8 percentage points 19 times out of 20.

Area C. A sample of 92 yields results that can be expected to be accurate at least plus or minus 10 percentage points 19 times out of 20.

Area D. A sample of 34 yields results that can be expected to be accurate at least plus or minus 16.5 percentage points 19 times out of 20.

#### **DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF SAMPLE**

Area of residence
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The first column of next table shows the number of survey respondents who live in each area. The second column shows the weighted number used in the analysis of results. The City of Powell River representation in the survey sample was “weighted up” and each of the electoral areas was “weighted down”. The residents of the electoral areas were purposely over-sampled to improve the reliability of the results for each of these areas.

**Number of Survey Respondents in Each Area**

	Unweighted data	Weighted data
City of Powell River	115	271
Area A	64	21
Area B	78	30
Area C	92	39
Area D	34	22
Tla'Amin First Nation	14	14

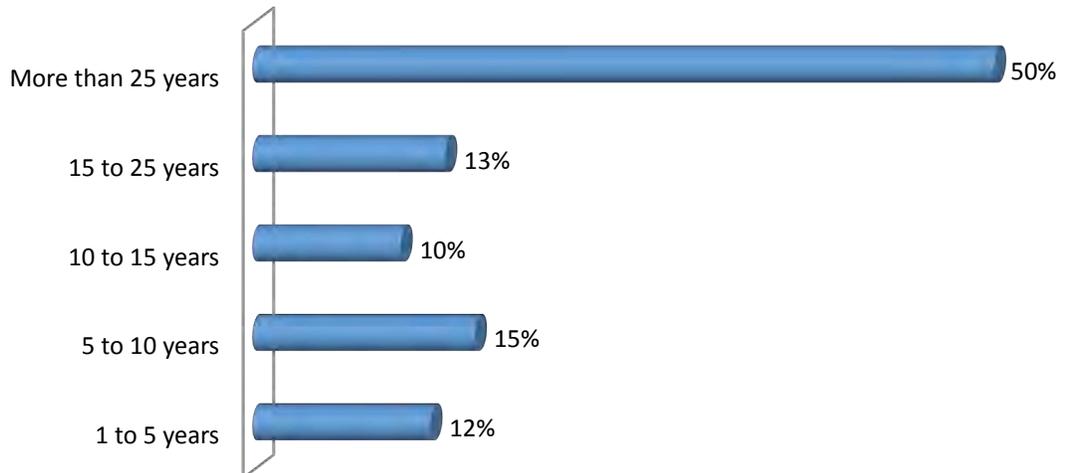
The remaining demographic results are for the survey sample before data weighting.

1. How long have you been living in the Powell River area?

Half of the survey sample consisted of long-term residents of more than 25 years.

□

**Number of Years Lived  
in Powell River Area**

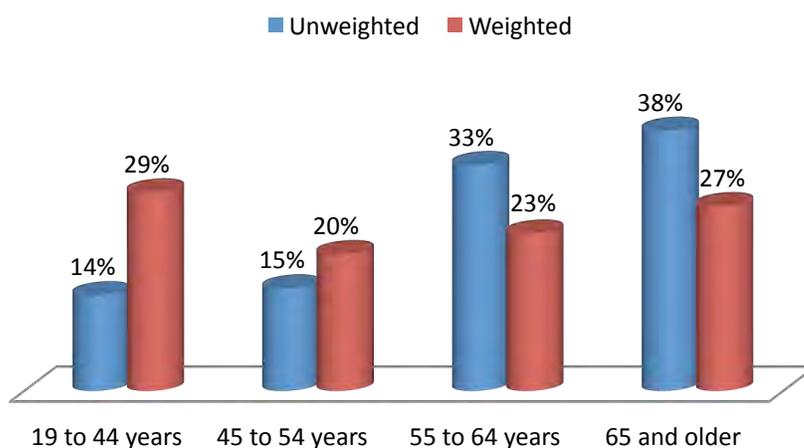


2. What is your age bracket?

The majority of survey respondents (71%) were at least 55 years of age. The Powell River region is an aging area of the province, however, younger adults were under-represented in the sample and their data were “weighted up” prior to analysis.

□

### Age Bracket Before and After Weighting

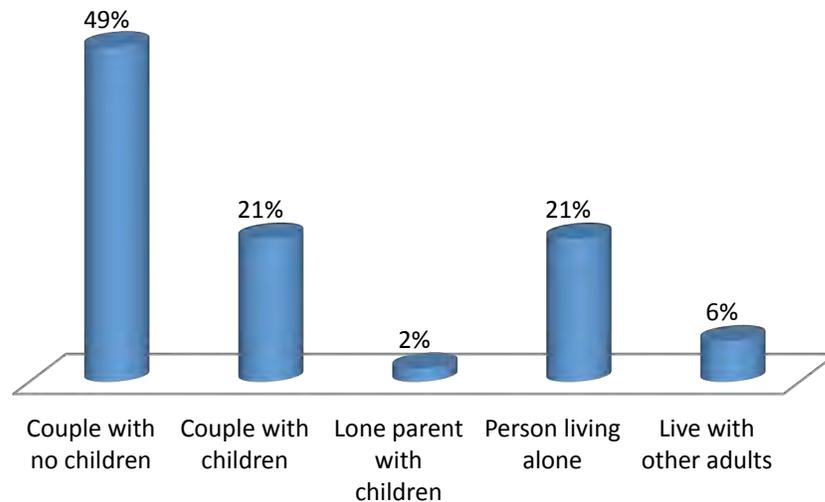


### 3. Which best describes your household situation at this time?

As shown in the next chart, half of survey respondents (49%) lived in a household as a couple with no children in the home, and a fifth (21%) was persons living alone.

- People living alone were more likely to live in the City of Powell River (82% of people living alone lived in the City; 26% of those who lived in the City lived alone).
- Households in areas C and D were more likely than households in other areas to consist of couples with no children in the home (64% and 69%).

## Household Composition



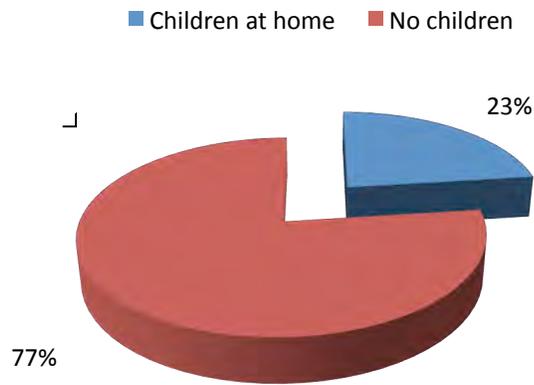
4a. Do you have children living at home?

4b. Please indicate the age category of all children or youth living in your household. *Check all that apply.*

As shown in the next chart, after weighting on age, almost a quarter of survey households (23%) had children living at home. Before weighting on age, only 14% of respondents lived in homes with children under 19 years of age.

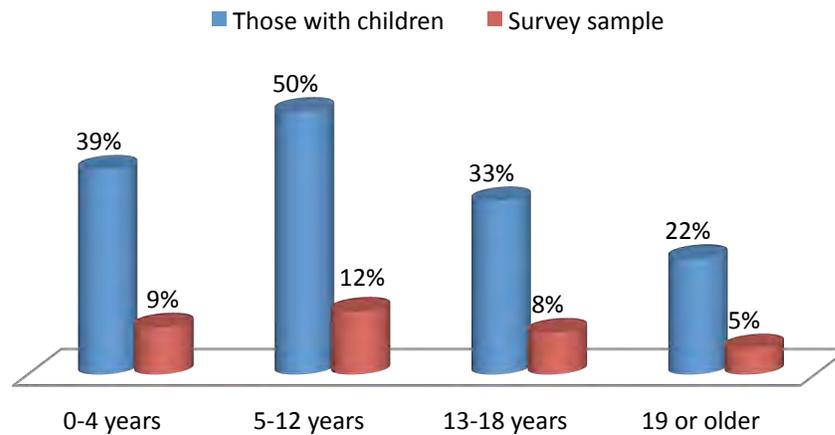
- Areas A and B were more likely to have children in the home (35% and 40% of households), while Areas C and D were least likely (13% and 7%). 22% of City of Powell River households had children living at home.

## Children in Home



Half of households with children in the home (50%) had children between 5 and 12 years of age. These households were 12% of survey households. The second largest group had children under five years of age (39%), which were 9% of households in the survey sample.

## Ages of Children at Home



5. Do you own or rent your home?

A large majority of the respondents in the survey sample were home owners.

□

### Rent or Own Home

