

INFORMATION NOTE

Title: American Sign Language Training for Lifeguards

Date Prepared: February 27, 2020

Report To: Inclusion Advisory Committee

Councillor and Role: Councillor Deanne Stapleton, Inclusion Champion

Ward: N/A

Issue: To provide the City of St. John's aquatics staff with the tools necessary to communicate common pool phrases with patrons who communicate using American Sign Language (ASL).

Discussion – Background and Current Status:

Lifeguards observed patrons at the H.G.R. Mew Community Centre swimming pool, who appeared not to hear the pool whistle at the end of the swim. The lifeguards did communicate through writing and hand gestures that it was time to vacate the pool; patrons were pleased and thankful.

The City of St. John's Inclusive Services team connected with Megan McGie, Community Support Worker with the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of the Deaf to determine if a resource existed to teach aquatics staff how to communicate common phrases used in pool settings. Megan agreed to provide the following sign language training options:

- Manuals with photos
- Video

The common pool phrases which will be found within these resources were gathered by Paul Reynolds Community Centre and H.G.R. Mews Community Centre Head Lifeguards, and can be seen below:

1. Away from the water, please
2. Swim is over or, Time to go
3. Walk please or, No running
4. Slow down
5. Off the rope! or, don't hang on the rope
6. On your back on the slide/feet-first
7. No floats in the deep end
8. No diving
9. No flippers! or, don't walk in your flippers
10. No facemasks
11. We have spare goggles
12. Under 8 years old needs a guardian

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13. Where's your guardian? or, Who's with you? Or, Who're you with?
14. Can you swim?
15. I'll ask my supervisor/head lifeguard.

A manual, DVD and USB will be available to:

- Bowring Park swimming pool
- Bannerman Park swimming pool
- H.G.R. Mews Community Centre
- Paul Reynolds Community Centre
- Inclusive Services Team
- Inclusion Advisory Committee

Key Considerations/Implications:

1. Budget/Financial Implications:
2. Partners or Other Stakeholders:
 - a. Newfoundland Association of the Deaf
 - b. Inclusion Advisory Committee
3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans:
 - i. A Connected City: A city where people feel connected, have a sense of belonging and are engaged in community life.
4. Legal or Policy Implications:

n/a
5. Privacy Implications:

n/a
6. Engagement and Communications Considerations:
 - i. Promotion through City of St. John's, NLAD and other Inclusion Advisory Committee member organizations
 - ii. Should NLAD approve, promotion through Recreation NL to ensure inclusivity with all recreational pools
7. Human Resource Implications:
8. Procurement Implications:
9. Information Technology Implications:

10. Other Implications:

Conclusion/Next Steps: A completion date is yet to be determined, however; once the manuals and videos have been received, they will be distributed to the appropriate facilities. Should staff require additional training, same will be arranged with the NLAD.

Prepared by/Date:

Vanessa Bambrick, Inclusive Services Coordinator

Reviewed by/Date:

Natalie Godden, Manager – Family & Leisure Services

Carla Squires, Manager – Facilities

Attachments: