

DATE: October 4, 2021

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Adam Davey, Director of Public Safety

SUBJECT: 2021/22 Indoor Walking at CN Centre

ATTACHMENT(S): None

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council DIRECTS Administration to reopen indoor walking for the 2021/22 winter season at the CN Centre from mid-October to mid-April.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council direction on reopening the indoor walking program at CN Centre for the upcoming winter 2021/22 season. This report provides a high-level overview of the plan to reopen the CN Centre walking program on October 18th.

DISCUSSION:

Prior to Covid-19, the City has provided two indoor locations for the winter walking program, located at the concourses of CN Centre and the Rolling Mix Concrete Arena (RMCA). Indoor walking ran from approximately late October to mid-April (weather dependent, timeline coincided with the closing and opening of Masich Place Stadium). Both locations were open during operating hours and treated as open public spaces. Staff and cleaning costs were included in existing Arena budgets and scheduling.

On Oct 5th 2020, because of Covid-19 restrictions, Council approved an amended program with additional staff support to ensure residents had an opportunity for indoor walking at the CN Centre only. Costs of \$50,000 for Oct-Dec 2020 as well as an estimated amount of \$150,000 for seven months (Jan-Apr and Oct-Dec) of operations in 2021 were approved.

As there are now requirements for proof of vaccination by the Province until at least Jan 31, 2022, there is an estimated cost of an additional \$40,000 to ensure indoor walking can continue Jan-April at the CN Centre. The walking program staffing requirements for Monday – Friday, business hours, are approximately 1.5 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions. This is reduced from the 2.5 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions needed last year now as arenas are in use and staff and cleaning costs are again included in the existing Arena budgets and scheduling.

The model used last year for indoor walking was very successful with more than 17,000 visits over a 25 week period. Many positive comments were received from patrons appreciative of the City providing them with a safe place to walk.

PROGRAM DETAILS:

WHEN: Opening day is tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 18, 2021. Operating hours are Monday to Friday, from approximately 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM. **Exact timings and operating hours shall be confirmed and publicly communicated in mid-October.**

HOW: Participants must register for this free program in order to comply with Provincial COVID restrictions which include facility owner/operators maintaining contact tracing lists. There will be two (2) methods to register:

1. Online at the City's Recreation page (a link will be added in mid-October with full details and registration information);
2. Over the phone, by calling 311

There will be no drop-in registration available. The reason for this is because the CN Centre atrium is a small space and in order to keep staffing as lean as possible online and phone registration is to be utilized. Registration will open 72 hours in advance to ensure an equitable allocation of bookings, and provides adequate planning time for staff to print off registration lists.

Participants (12+) will be required to provide proof of vaccination, as per the Provincial Health Order before entering the CN Centre concourse to walk. Masks are mandatory. Signage, directional arrows, and hand sanitizer stations are located throughout the facility.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

Indoor Walking at CN Centre could be ready to commence on October 18th. In order to keep costs as low as possible, operating hours are Monday to Friday business hours and online/phone registration is required. Full details of the program will be communicated publicly the week prior to opening day.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Adam Davey, Director of Public Safety

APPROVED:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting Date: 2021/10/04