

# STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

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**DATE:** October 22, 2020

**TO:** MAYOR AND COUNCIL

**NAME AND TITLE:** Adam Davey, Director of Community Services & Public Safety

**SUBJECT:** Aquatic Operations Fall 2020 Update During COVID-19

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

1. Current Swim Schedule – “Stage 2”
2. January 2021 Schedule – “Stage 3”

## RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION the report dated October 22, 2020, from the Director of Community Services and Public Safety, titled “Aquatic Operations Fall 2020 Update During COVID-19.”

## PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an overview of aquatic operations since the reopening of the Aquatic Centre on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

## OVERVIEW:

The Prince George Aquatic Centre (PGAC) reopened successfully on September 8<sup>th</sup> with modified pool operations adhering to all provincial and pool safety protocols as a result of COVID-19. Since opening the pool, the Aquatic Centre has had a 99% fill rate of all registered swim blocks totaling 4,310 customers between the dates of September 8<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>. A few changes to the existing swim blocks occurred after the first week of pool operations to better serve the community and ensure registrations remain at or near full capacity. Updates include the Adult Swims being shared with swim clubs; the Friday Seniors Swim being changed to an Everyone Welcome Swim; the Sunday morning Adult Swim being changed to an Everyone Welcome Swim and shared with swim clubs (current schedule attached – “Stage 2”).

The Aquatic Centre continues to work closely with the Northern Health Authority (NHA) and the BC Lifesaving Society. On September 18<sup>th</sup> the Provincial Health Order included amendments to the “Gatherings and Events” language that the order **does not apply to “individuals in a Recreation Centre when not attending an event”**. This order does not negate the requirement of maintaining physical distancing, contact tracing or pool specific requirements from the BC Lifesaving Society. It does however allow the PGAC to increase capacity. Since early October, swim blocks have increased from forty (40) bathers to fifty (50) bathers with fill rates remaining at near full capacity.

In accordance with Phase 3 of the Provincial Return-To-Sport Plan, known as “Progressive Loosening,” the Aquatic Centre continues to expand aquatic operations in a safe and responsible manner with incremental updates working in concert with the NHA. Commencing January 2, 2021 the following updates are planned to occur:

- Increase the bather capacity based upon physical distancing of 7m<sup>2</sup> per swimmer, taking into account the pool configuration of bulkheads and swim lanes;
  - Everyone Welcome Swim - eighty (80) bathers;
  - Seniors Swim - sixty five (65) bathers;
  - Swim Club one hundred and thirty (130) bathers.

Note: Swim clubs have special provisions due to being in a 'Sport Cohort' and may go beyond the 7m<sup>2</sup> bather limit.
- Provide an updated swim schedule replacing all Adult Swims with Everyone Welcome Swims. Update the weekend Everyone Welcome Swim to 1.5 hours per swim block allowing for one additional swim block on the weekends (January 2021 schedule attached – "Stage 3");
- Provide registered leadership programs (lifesaving/lifeguarding) for residents;
- Provide registered Aquafit classes for residents;
- Open all diving boards and the 5m tower during each of the four weekend 'Everyone Welcome' swim sessions.

Based upon thirty-five (35) weekly swim blocks up from the current thirty-three (33) swim blocks we estimate 2,800 customers will attend the Aquatic Centre each week and 11,200 customers per month. Swimmer occupancy is estimated to have a 40% increase in bathers from current operations.

#### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:**

Modified aquatic operations during COVID-19 is a temporary measure to assist in safeguarding bathers and employees while at the pool. Current and planned pool operations are supported by Northern Health and take into consideration the health, well-being and recreational interests and needs of residents while balancing fiscal responsibility.

#### **RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

Adam Davey, Director of Community Services & Public Safety

**PREPARED BY:** Jim Worthington, Aquatics Manager

#### **APPROVED:**

Walter Babicz, Acting City Manager

Meeting Date: 2020/11/09