



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**To:** **Members of the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee**

**From:** **Tanya Budgen, Service Area Manager, Recreation Event and Tourism Services**

**Meeting Date:** **October 22, 2024**

**Report:** **R-Zone Policy, Report APRAC24-009**

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## **Subject**

A report to provide the Arena Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee information and seek feedback on a proposed R-Zone Policy for implementation at City Recreation Facilities.

## **Recommendations**

That the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report APRAC24-009, dated October 22, 2024, of the Service Area Manager, Recreation Events and Tourism Services, as follows:

- a) That report be received for information, and
- b) That the committee provide feedback on the proposed policy.

## **Executive Summary**

- Staff are recommending the implementation of an R-Zone policy for City of Peterborough recreation facilities. R-Zone policies have been endorsed by many municipalities throughout Ontario to support the safe use of recreational facilities.
- R-Zone is a policy requiring all people wishing to visit, or use any City of Peterborough facilities, parks, properties, services, or programs; to respect others and take responsibility for helping the City maintain a positive environment.

- The purpose of this policy is to take a proactive approach to establish expectations around behavior and public access to facilities. The policy outlines expectations in response to behavior, including but not limited to, acts of violence, vandalism, and inappropriate behavior by participants. It is intended to provide staff with the tools required to respond to various types of inappropriate behavior that have been experienced.

## Background

R-Zone policies have been implemented by many municipalities over the past number of years. The Town of Oakville was one of the first to draft and implement a R-Zone Policy that was primarily focused on recreation facilities, programs, parks, and trails. Many municipalities in Ontario have now adopted this policy.

The purpose of the policy is to take a proactive approach when looking to enforce a set of expectations around violence, vandalism and inappropriate behavior for participants and the public. This type of policy is paramount to safe and positive interactions between Staff and the public.

Unfortunately, in many communities there has been a need to expand the policy to include all other municipal services and facilities because of incidents of bullying, violence, intimidation, vandalism, threats, and discriminatory behaviour have risen over the years. This policy is written to include other City of Peterborough facilities in a consistent and practical manner.

The City of Peterborough has experienced inappropriate behaviours towards staff, volunteers, participants and members of the public. At this time, no existing By-law, or Policy exists that provides staff with clear direction and authority to respond to issues that did not meet the threshold of criminal behaviour and/or requiring police involvement. The proposed R-Zone Policy provides staff with the tools required to respond with the various types of inappropriate behaviour that have been experienced.

What is a R-Zone?

R-Zone is a policy requiring all persons who visit, or use, any City of Peterborough facilities, parks, properties, services, or programs; to respect others and take responsibility for helping the City maintain a positive environment. The “R” in R-Zone stands for respect and/or responsibility. Respect for yourself, respect for others, and responsibility for your actions.

R-Zone is first and foremost, a proactive education and awareness strategy to promote respectful and responsible behaviour at all facilities, events and on municipal properties.

The R-Zone policy applies to all community organizations, and community members using municipal resources. Behaviours considered inappropriate in the policy include, but are not limited to:

- Threats / attempt to intimidate;
- Aggression;
- Use of alcohol / drugs;
- Harassment;
- Verbal assault / use of profane or abusive language;
- Physical assault / harm;
- Vandalism;
- Theft;
- Attempt to incite violence;
- Bullying / mistreatment which intimidates, humiliates, or demeans another person;
- Possession of weapons / firearms prohibited under the Criminal Code;
- Any contravention of other federal or provincial laws, regulations, City by-laws or policies deemed to be inappropriate behavior;
- Refusal to follow the rules established by the municipality for use of facilities, properties, sponsored events, written and verbal communications;
- Throwing of articles in a deliberate / aggressive manner;
- Racial / ethnic slurs; and
- Use of alcohol on non-licensed premises.

Consequences for inappropriate behaviour will range from a written warning to trespass from property from all City facilities for a period, or incur any other such penalty, as determined by the director. The length of the ban or penalty will depend on the severity of the situation. Similarly, in the case of inappropriate behaviour through written or verbal communication, the individual may be banned from communicating directly with the City, where communication must be made through an agent or solicitor. The length of the ban will be determined by the appropriate director and will depend on the severity of the situation. The policy includes an appeal process should an individual wish to challenge the City's decision.

## Strategic Plan

Strategic Pillar: Community & Well-being

Strategic Initiative: Foster community resiliency, neighbourhood identity, civic pride, sense of belonging, and intercultural harmony. Enhance and protect the health, safety, and wellbeing of all in our City. Provide robust, affordable, and accessible sport, recreation, wellness, and social programs for people of all ages and abilities

## Engagement and Consultation

Staff from Recreation and Parks Services, Risk Management, Legal, and the Clerks office were engaged in the development of this policy.

If the recommendations within this report are received, and prior to seeking council approval, staff will engage the Municipal Law Enforcement Division for further feedback on the policy and implementation strategies. This includes a review of promotional and educational campaign materials designed to raise awareness among patrons, user groups, and the public of the R-Zone standards and expectations for appropriate behaviour, and of their role and responsibility in creating a positive and safe atmosphere for all to enjoy.

## **Budget and Financial Implications**

There are no budget or financial implications associated with the recommendation.

## **Conclusion**

Staff are seeking feedback from the members of the Arenas, Park, and Recreation Advisory Committee on the projected implementation of a R-Zone policy for the City of Peterborough. This feedback is part of the consultation and engagement process.

## **Attachments**

Appendix A: R-Zone Policy

Submitted by,

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Director, Recreation and Parks Services

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