



STAFF REPORT

DATE: September 11, 2020

FILE: 0360-20

TO: Chair and Commissioners,
Strathcona Gardens Commission

FROM: Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: STRATHCONA GARDENS SHOWER FACILITY ACCESS AMID COVID-19

PURPOSE/PROBLEM

To provide the Strathcona Gardens Commission with information pertaining to the continued option for individuals to gain access to Strathcona Gardens for use of shower facilities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) public health emergency was officially declared a global pandemic on March 11, 2020, by the World Health Organization. Within days of this notification many recreation centres across the province closed their doors as a response to ministry orders affecting the typical day-to-day operation of a recreation centre (2 metre distance physical distancing and mass gathering order) and out of an abundance of caution to reduce the spread of the virus.

When Strathcona Gardens suspended operations on March 16, 2020, all recreational activities came to a halt as did all public access to the facility. As per Bylaw No. 295, Section 12.0, Strathcona Gardens allows for access to the facility for shower purposes only at a rate of \$3.50 per visit. This "shower only" option had been frequently utilized by community members requiring the assistance of mobility aids found in our universal change room. The closure of Strathcona Gardens limited the options available for personal hygiene to many in our community.

As the province noticed a flattening of the transmission curve, steps to move BC through the pandemic to a "new normal" were announced. On May 6, 2020 Premier Horgan announced the *BC's Restart Plan*. On June 22nd, 2020, following guidelines from WorksafeBC, Island Health and provincial recreation organizations, Strathcona Gardens began offering limited pre-registered programming under new COVID-19 protocols. Along with recreation programming, staff began to develop registration process and protocols allowing for patrons to again gain access to the universal change room for hygiene purposes. On July 20th, 2020, this service was restored.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.

Respectfully:



Dave Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

Prepared by: *Ryan Christison, Deputy Facility Manager, Strathcona Gardens Recreation Complex*