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INFORMATION REQUEST (IR) - Servus Membership for aged 80 yrs and over

Requested by: Councillor Korotash

Date of Request: January 13, 2026

Date Response Due: February 13, 2026

Confidential Response: No

QUESTION

Currently Tri-Leisure Centre offers free memberships for residents aged 80 years and over.

What would be the financial and operational impact of providing a similar program at Servus Place?

RESPONSE

There are currently approximately 133 members at Servus Credit Union Place (Servus Place) and Fountain Park Recreation Centre (Fountain Park) who are aged 80 years and over and reside in St. Albert and the surrounding area. This group includes a mix of monthly and annual passholders along with members who access the discounted Track Access membership. Providing free memberships to these individuals would result in an estimated net financial impact of approximately \$60,000 per year in lost revenue.

Operational implications of implementing a membership of this nature are expected to be minimal. It can be assumed that the removal of a fee for memberships could result in an increase in facility usage for this age demographic, as the removal of fees may attract increased participation. Based on census information, the 80+ age demographic has grown significantly since the 2018 census, as the senior population increased overall by 21%, while the adult population (20-59) declined by 4%.

Regional Scanning

A regional scan shows that some municipalities offer similar senior offerings: Leduc provides a free Seniors Plus membership for residents aged 75 and older, and Spruce Grove's Tri Leisure Centre offers free memberships for those aged 80+. Strathcona County, Morinville, and Edmonton do not currently offer free senior memberships.

St. Albert Context

The topic of free 80+ facility memberships was discussed by Council in 2019. While the proposed program was not approved at that time, a discounted Track Access membership was introduced and is still in place at Servus Place as a facility offering.

The City currently provides financial assistance to residents in need through a subsidy program that helps low-income individuals and families access recreation facilities, programs, and transit. Eligible participants may receive either a free six-month membership at Servus Place or Fountain Park or a 60% discount on an annual Servus Place membership. At present, four residents aged 80 and over are enrolled in this program. The subsidy program is designed to reduce financial barriers for any resident who qualifies based on income, including seniors living below the low-income threshold.

Servus Place is scheduled for a financial review facilitated through the Internal Audit Steering Committee in 2026, and membership structures are expected to fall within its scope. Implementing a free membership program for residents aged 80+ would affect the overall financial position of the facility and may influence the audit's analysis of financial sustainability.

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