



Hamilton

INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency & Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	June 6, 2016
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Recreation Designations: HIGH FIVE Accreditation and Youth Friendly Community (Platinum) (CES16025) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Courtney Groves (905) 546-2424 ext. 1758
SUBMITTED BY:	Jack Brown Director, Recreation Community and Emergency Services Department
SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction:

Not Applicable

Information:

The City of Hamilton's Recreation Division, within the Community & Emergency Services Department, has achieved two prestigious designations in 2016:

1. HIGH FIVE Accreditation - verifying quality programming for children ages 6 – 12
2. Youth Friendly Community Platinum Level Designation – confirming the City of Hamilton's assets and opportunities to actively support youth aged 13 to 19

High Five Accreditation (Parks and Recreation Ontario)

The City of Hamilton offers thousands of hours annually in recreation programs for children ages 6 - 12. Over the past two years, the Recreation Division has worked to ensure quality standards in children's recreation are based on criteria established by Parks and Recreation Ontario, through its "HIGH FIVE" program. In 2016, the Recreation Division achieved HIGH FIVE accreditation after a two year long process.

HIGH FIVE® is a division of Parks and Recreation Ontario (PRO). The HIGH FIVE quality assurance standard is intended to assist children along the path of healthy child development by ensuring that recreation and sport practitioners develop a high level of knowledge and expertise in child development; helping parents to make informed choices and providing practitioners with the tools for enhancing and maintaining a high level of program quality.

HIGH FIVE is based on five principles of healthy child development that are essential for quality programs. This foundation comes from extensive research into what

SUBJECT: Recreation Designations: HIGH FIVE Accreditation and Youth Friendly Community (Platinum) (CES16025) (City Wide) - Page 2 of 3

constitutes quality experiences for children and the practical application of these principles in programs across Canada. The five principles of healthy child development are:

- A Caring Adult
- Friends
- Participation
- Play
- Mastery

Accreditation represents quality and safety in children's sport and recreation programs through focusing on healthy child development, programming, policies, procedures and training. Over the past two years, the Recreation Division worked towards HIGH FIVE Accreditation. The process involved:

- Train 85% of our staff in the Principles of Healthy Child Development
- Assess 25% of all gym & club programs using the Quest 2 Evaluation tool, maintaining a score of at least 70%
- Assess 10% of all aquatics programs using the Quest 2 Evaluation tool, maintaining a score of at least 70%
- Assess all policies and procedures using the Quest 1 Evaluation tool, maintaining a score of at least 70% compliance

The City of Hamilton currently has 382 Recreation staff trained in the Principles of Healthy Development. Hamilton is proud to be the largest municipality in Ontario to be accredited and recognized for quality recreation programs and services.

The Recreation Division will be hosting a celebration of accreditation on Saturday, June 18, 2016 at Recreation centres across the City; with the admission cost for all drop-in recreation programs just a "high five" to a staff member upon entering the centre. The HIGH FIVE event will be held concurrently with a Recreation Celebration day in partnership with Public Health at Westmount Recreation Centre. Family recreation games and activities will be available to complement the regularly scheduled drop-in programs. HIGH FIVE will formally recognize the Recreation Division for the celebration event happening City wide and receiving accreditation status.

Youth Friendly Community: Platinum Designation (Play Works)

Play Works is a group of organizations including 4-H Ontario, Arts Network for Children and Youth, Boys and Girls Canada Central Region, Parks and Recreation Ontario and the YMCA Ontario. Play Works supports the future of youth across areas of sport, physical activity, civic engagement, arts and culture, rural youth, and recreation. Collaborative efforts are made through Play Works to "bring back the power of play to Ontario youth". A Youth Friendly Community is one that actively supports and provides opportunities for the growth and development of youth (ages 13 to 19) through play.

SUBJECT: Recreation Designations: HIGH FIVE Accreditation and Youth Friendly Community (Platinum) (CES16025) (City Wide) - Page 3 of 3

The City of Hamilton offers a variety of play opportunities for youth ages 13-19 across not-for-profit, municipal and private service industries. Opportunities include recreation, sports, arts, drama, dance, civic engagement, youth activism, volunteerism, social clubs, and youth leadership.

In 2009, the Recreation Division applied to Play Works for a Youth Friendly Community Designation, and received Bronze status. Since 2009, there has been a concentrated effort to improve recreation opportunities and partnerships for youth in the City. In 2016, the Recreation Division renewed their application and received the highest level of Platinum Designation as a Youth Friendly Community.

The 2016 application was a collaborative effort of over 100 community stakeholders to identify current programs, activities, and initiatives that demonstrate compliance with the criteria defined by Play Works of the Youth Friendly Community. The 16 identified criteria area as follows;

1. Youth Have Options
2. Dedicated Youth Facilities
3. Public Youth Events
4. Youth Play is Funded
5. Youth Volunteer/ Leadership Development
6. Youth Activism is Nurtured
7. Youth can get there
8. Adults Champion Youth Play
9. Youth Are Formally Connected
10. Youth Get Info About Play
11. Youth Are Celebrated
12. Positive Youth Development
13. Effective Partnerships
14. Youth Feel Comfortable
15. Schools Support Youth Play
16. Play is Accessible and Inclusive

The City of Hamilton Recreation Division offers a number of youth focused programs, services and opportunities and has strong and effective relationships with the local recreation organizations to facilitate play for youth in the community. Hamilton is proud to be the second largest municipality to receive a platinum designation. This achievement was formally recognized at the 2016 Parks and Recreation Ontario Awards Gala in Collingwood, Ontario on April 7, 2016.