

1

ADOLESCENT RESIDENTIAL SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM

The Community Services and Housing Committee recommends that the recommendation contained in the following report, February 25, 2004, from the Commissioner of Community Services and Housing be adopted, with the following additional recommendation:

- 2. That staff investigate the feasibility of utilizing the residential camp in the Town of Georgina for future programs.**

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. This report be received for information by Committee and Council.

2. PURPOSE

This report provides Committee and Council with information about the 2003 expansion of the Adolescent Residential Summer Camp Program to include 60 adolescent children of residents of social housing family units in York Region.

3. BACKGROUND

Based on the theory that youth may benefit from constructive activities during the summer months, the Community Services and Housing Department formed a Summer Program Committee to specifically plan for constructive activities for these young people. Many families living in social housing communities are not in a financial position to provide summer recreational programming for their children.

Therefore in 2002, the Community Services and Housing Department proposed a pilot Summer Residential Program for adolescents (ages 13 through 16 years) who reside in family units owned and managed by Housing York Inc. This pilot was very successful and in 2003 Council approved a program expansion to provide 60 adolescents with a summer recreation experience. The program was then opened to youth across our social housing portfolio.

The Department purchased spaces from the Salvation Army at their camp, Camp Rainbow, in Algonquin Park. National Child Benefit Funding was identified for this program in the 2003 Budget.

The cost of the Program included camp fees and a camp pack for each child. The pack included a duffel bag, towel, sunscreen, water bottle, bug repellent, sun hat, sunscreen, voucher to purchase a swimsuit and a sleeping bag.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

During the initial pilot project in July and August of 2002, 17 youth attended the Adolescent Residential Summer Camp Program. In July and August 2003, 60 youth who reside in social housing communities across York Region attended the expanded program.

Youth within our housing communities benefit from the summer day camp and residential camp programs. The programs have fostered positive tenant relations, reduced vandalism and research indicates they will decrease the potential need for both agency and other intervention in the future.

4.1 Relationship to Vision 2026

This initiative supports the following actions of Vision 2026:

- Fostering effective working relationships with community agencies and organizations.
- Responding to children in need.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Residential Camp Program was funded through the National Child Benefit Reserve Fund and was included in the 2003 Budget. The total cost for the program is outlined in Table 1.

Table 1
Total Cost of Program

Item	Cost
Purchase of knapsacks	\$ 9,000
Camp registration	9,900
Total Cost	\$18,900

Should the Province change the funding or the guidelines for their NCB Community reinvestment Initiative, York Region would need to review the sustainability of funding for the Adolescent Residential Summer Camp Program.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

There is no direct financial impact on the local municipalities.

7. CONCLUSION

The Adolescent Residential Summer Camp Program Pilot has enabled 60 adolescents (ages 13 through 16 years) living in social housing communities in York Region to participate in constructive activities which support their healthy development. York Region will continue to support and fund these programs which allow adolescents to benefit from the overnight summer camp experience which promotes positive tenant relations, reduces vandalism and supports healthy child development.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.