



## STAFF REPORT

To: Regional and Corporate Services Committee  
From: Mike Freimark, Manager, Recreation Services

Date: 2025-12-04

Subject: Rates and Fees Adjustment – Hope & Area Recreation Centre and Almer Carlson Pool

Reviewed by: Stacey Barker, Director of Regional Services/Deputy CAO  
Beth Klein, Controller/Deputy CFO  
Jaime Van Nes, Director of Legislative Services  
Jennifer Kinneman, Chief Administrative Officer

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### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** the Fraser Valley Regional District Board give three readings and adoption to the bylaw cited as *Fraser Valley Regional District Hope and District Recreation Centre Fees and Other Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 1810, 2025*;

**AND THAT** the Fraser Valley Regional District Board give three readings and adoption to the bylaw cited as *Fraser Valley Regional District Almer Carlson Swimming Pool Fees and Other Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 1809, 2025*.

### BACKGROUND

Under the Local Government Act, all service fees and charges must be established by bylaw. The Hope and District Recreation Centre Fees and Other Charges Bylaw No. 1625, 2021 and Almer Carlson Swimming Pool Fees and Other Charges Bylaw No. 0896, 2008 currently define these rates.

Since the last comprehensive update, costs related to staffing, utilities, maintenance, and supply chains have increased significantly. As part of this 2025 review, staff conducted a regional comparison of rates and fees across multiple communities — including Kent, Merritt, Revelstoke, Summerland, Castlegar, Chilliwack, and Abbotsford — to ensure consistency, affordability, and competitiveness.

The review confirmed that Hope & Area Recreation Centre and Almer Carlson Pool rates remain below average for comparable facilities. Adjustments are now proposed as a one-time correction to align with current market standards while maintaining affordability for residents.

## DISCUSSION

### Hope & Area Recreation Centre (Bylaw No. 1810, 2025)

The proposed amendments reflect modest adjustments across all areas, emphasizing sustainability, while the majority retain below-market affordability. Fees were determined based on average cost comparisons.

Key highlights include:

- Daily Admissions and Memberships: have been adjusted using regional benchmarking rather than a fixed discount model. Historically, the various pass and membership types differed significantly in their effective discounts, which resulted in inconsistencies across user categories. The 2025 adjustments address the most notable disparities and position all product types relative to rates in comparable communities. This approach maintains affordability while improving internal consistency across the overall fee structure.

Increases vary among product types while preserving inclusivity and supporting cost recovery.

- Facility Rentals: Adjustments to ice and dry floor rentals, mezzanine, conference centre, and kitchenette rates reflect the operational costs of utilities, cleaning, and staffing. Non-profit and youth rates remain discounted.
- Program and Fitness Fees: Small increases to swim lessons, lifeguard training, personal training, and child/youth programs ensure alignment with industry standards and instructor certification costs.
- Administrative Simplification: **Removal of the “Last Hour Swim/Gym” discount reduces confusion and ensures consistency in pricing structure while maintaining designated discount days such as Senior Monday, Toonie Wednesday, and Family Sundays.**
- Cost Recovery and Value: Rates remain modest compared to surrounding communities while supporting long-term operational stability for the Recreation Centre.

### Almer Carlson Pool (Bylaw No. 1809, 2025)

Proposed adjustments address increased travel, maintenance, and operational costs associated with this remote seasonal facility.

Key highlights include:

- Daily Admissions: Introduction of a \$2.00 child rate and slight increases to youth and family rates to reflect operational costs.
- Passes and Memberships: New pricing for 10- and 20-pass options and seasonal memberships remains below regional averages and continues to offer strong value for a seasonal rural facility.

- Programs: Minor adjustments to swim lessons and special events while maintaining accessibility for North Bend and the surrounding communities.

Both bylaws modernize pricing structures, improve administrative efficiency, and support sustainable cost recovery without imposing undue financial barriers to participation.

## **COST**

The adjustments are expected to produce a modest revenue increase in 2025, offsetting inflationary pressures and maintaining cost recovery targets.

Implementation will be managed within existing administrative resources and will not require additional budget allocations.

## **CONCLUSION**

The 2025 rate and fee adjustment represents a single, measured step to bring both the Hope & Area Recreation Centre and Almer Carlson Pool into alignment with comparable community facilities across the region.

**The updated bylaws modernize FVRD's recreation fee structures, support ongoing operational sustainability, and maintain affordability for local residents. Staff recommend proceeding with the adoption of Bylaw No. 1810 and Bylaw No. 1809, 2025.**