

Seniors Fees for Access to Recreation Services in BC – Survey Results

As the growing number of seniors live longer and stay healthier, partly due to leisure opportunities, can our system afford to continue to provide a significant discount to a large part of our population who are often more affluent than younger adults?

To support member local governments as they consider political, financial and social implications of continuing to provide a seniors discount for access to recreation services, the BCRPA canvassed the sector through the 2014 Fees and Charges Survey – including specific questions related to fees for seniors.

The following are the results of that survey.

Survey Results

Percentage of population that are seniors in your community.

Average was 28% with 1% being lowest reported, and 65% being highest

Is a senior discount provided?

65.1 % yes

34.9% no

Age Discount Offered.

10.5% at 55

44.7% at 60

21.1% at 65

Is age of eligibility under review?

80% no

15% yes

Discount rate for seniors (average is 28.2% with 15% being lowest and 47% the highest in comparison to the adult rate).

Admission fees charged to seniors (averages below)

- \$4.09 single entry (\$2 lowest, \$9 highest)
- \$42.37 1 month (\$26.65 lowest, \$72 highest)
- \$99.45 3 month (\$20 lowest, \$137.75 highest)
- \$173.79 6 months (\$30 lowest, \$249.10 highest)
- \$303.16 annual (\$70 lowest, \$480 highest)

Are there plans to change the discount in future?

82.9% no

12.2% yes

Is the discount available in peak times?

65.8% yes

21.1% no

Which programs eligible for discounts? Responses:

No programs but all regular admission fees and passes
For admissions seniors are charged a student rate, for programs that are specific to senior activities we aim to discount 50%
Swimming, fitness and weight room
Aquatics - seniors are charged same rate as youth
All drop-in programs.
Applicable to all admission fees. Not applicable to registered programs.
If you purchase a Centre membership for the year, you receive discounted program and drop-in activity prices.
Fitness / Weight room / Courts and our 50+ Programs
Fitness Studio and fitness programs
Admissions and memberships only
Public swim, public weight room
This discount is only on general admissions to the pool or for public skating.
For all drop in programs
All
Only for admissions
Regular drop in public skating
General admission and pass purchase
None
Weight room and drop-in programs.
Memberships and passes.
all programs and admission fees
25% discount on the adult rate for drop-in admissions, passes and swipes
Recreation programs.
Fitness, Weight Room, Courts, Outdoor Pool
Passes, land and aquatic fitness classes.
Full facility memberships, punch cards and passes.
All admissions
Over 80 free
Swim/skate admissions
Seniors receive "discount Mondays" where admission is only \$2.00
All admission fees and passes. Not applicable to registered programs.

What changes to age of eligibility and discount are being reviewed or approved? If available please include an effective date. Responses:

- Looking at ways to lower senior rates and get more seniors engaged in local drop in programs
- The percentage noted of 5% seniors is approximate. Seniors do not get a percentage discount on pool passes, however the pool pass rate is less than an adult
- The age of eligibility was raised from 55 to 60 years in the year 2000. The discount has been dropped from approx. 25% to 20% in 2014. Plans are being made to close the gap to 10% over the next 2 years.
- Recently added a 90 years and older 75% discount.
- Entire fee bylaw is under review.
- Proposed change of age: from 55 years to 65 years for senior



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