

# Summer Inclusion Support Policy

Effective: April 26, 2017

To Be Reviewed: April 15, 2018

## Purpose:

To increase the opportunities and continue to provide quality support for children/youth with disabilities attending recreation programs and summer day camps.

## Importance:

The policy has been developed in response to the increase in demand for access and inclusion support for children/youth with disabilities, specifically during the summer months. Halifax Regional Municipality Parks, Recreation and Communities is one of only a few service providers with an inclusion mandate, which supports and enables a wide variety of children/youth to participate in summer recreation programming. HRM is committed to continuing to provide quality opportunities as well as trained staff who support the participation of children and youth who attend summer recreation programs.

## Policy Statement:

The Summer Inclusion Support Policy states that children and youth requiring inclusion support are entitled to a maximum of three weeks of inclusion support across all HRM facilities. This is dependent on resources being available to meet the individual needs of the child and youth. HRM will endeavor to provide Inclusion Support Staff in each facility to increase the opportunities for more children and youth to participate in their own communities.

If circumstances allow, and at the approval of the Community Recreation Coordinator (CRC), a family may choose to provide their own support person at their own expense. All arrangements must be facilitated through the CRC and will only be considered after the participant's three weeks of inclusion support has already been accommodated and/or HRM is unable to secure a qualified individual to support their child/youth needs. To ensure the integrity of the program and minimize risks the ratios should remain untouched. The support worker must be approved by the CRC and meet all requirements as a HRM Volunteer prior to the beginning of the program or camp. CRC's will have the authority to approve and review the effectiveness of this arrangement throughout the duration of the program or camp, and changes may be made to this arrangement by the CRC at anytime should they deem it necessary.

## Expected Outcomes:

This policy will increase the number of children/youth with disabilities having the opportunity to attend a quality summer day camp in their own communities.

## Approved by:



**ANGELA GREEN**  
MANAGER, RECREATION PROGRAMMING

PARKS & RECREATION

**HALIFAX**

T. 902.293-8473

[green@halifax.ca](mailto:green@halifax.ca)

[halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca)