



Date October 18, 1999

**TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation**  
**FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation**  
**SUBJECT: YEAR 2000 FEES AND CHARGES**

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the Fees and Charges for Year 2000 adjusted by inflationary increase of 1.5% be approved by the Board for implementation on January 1, 2000.**

## **POLICY**

It is the Board's policy to consider staff recommendations for the next year's Fees and Charges.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Fees and Charges report is to recommend a new fee schedule for Year 2000 that reflect inflationary increases within our own system. In certain cases staff are reviewing changes for the fee structure for the following years. Once the review is completed the report will be sent to interested groups before bringing it forward for the Board's consideration.

## **BACKGROUND**

One week prior to November 1, 1999 Board meeting this report will be sent to all associations and appropriate groups advising that the Board will be considering the 1.5% inflationary increase. Anyone wishing to make a presentation can appear as a delegation at the November 1<sup>st</sup> Board meeting.

## **DISCUSSION**

The proposed increase of 1.5% to 1999 fees and charges is based on a fee structure commensurate with the Board's policy as outlined in the Board's Master Plan:

1. Recreation services catering to a large portion of Vancouver residents will continue to be offered free of charge.

2. Fees will be charged for those services that require a relatively high operating cost or cater to small group of individuals.
3. Annual increases in user fees will be made to reflect increases in costs for the delivery of recreation services.
4. Impact of pricing changes will be tracked to determine the effect on program participation and facility utilization.

Whenever possible all increases have been kept to 1.5%. This is the rate of inflation that the Board projects for Year 2000. In some cases, however, either no increase or increases higher than 1.5% are recommended and these are accompanied by separate justifications.

All fees have been rounded after taking into account the increase and the appropriate taxes. This ensures an easier application of the fees at all the facilities.

There are several exceptions which include changes for factors other than inflation. These are explained as follows:

### **VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory**

The Year 2000 fees charges for VanDusen Garden and Bloedel Conservatory are recommended to be kept at the 1999 rate due to the following:

- (i) The fees at similar venues are not increasing
- (ii) There are new venues in the Lower Mainland offering free admissions.

In keeping with the local market, staff recommend to keep the 1999 rate and make up inflationary cost by increase in volume.

### **Pay Parking**

No increase in pay parking is being recommended for 2000 as these were increased in 1997, and any changes require an operational adjustment in equipment.

To make up the inflationary cost increases, staff recommend to start the summer parking rate in Stanley Park one month sooner from May 1 to April 1, this would coincide with the start of daylight savings time (on April 2) and the season rate will go up from \$125 to \$150 to include the entire month.

### **Train and Farmyard**

It is recommended that rates be maintained at 1999 rate. Bright Nights currently has admission rates for Train and Farmyard and Train or Farmyard. Staff recommend to eliminate the Train or Farmyard rate and just have the joint ticket.

## **SUMMARY**

The proposed Year 2000 Fees and Charges schedule is consistent with Board Policy and represents for the most part an average of 1.5% increase based on the estimated rate of inflation in 2000.

A review period has been provided to allow public input prior to the Board considering the recommended fees and charges that will be implemented on January 1, 2000.

Prepared by:

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