

THE ROLE OF THE

Okotoks Joint Use Agreement in promoting a healthy community



What is a joint use agreement (JUA)?

A formal agreement between school district(s) and the Town for the shared use of public property or recreation facilities. In this case, it includes pools, gymnasiums, playgrounds, arenas, fields, courts, and tracks.

This valuable partnership helps youth and community members access local facilities in pursuit of a physically active and healthy lifestyle, and it promotes optimal use of facilities for the greater good of the community.

The Result:



An increase in recreation opportunities at a grassroots level and an increase in access to facilities for the entire community.

Did You Know ?



The JUA allows maximum use of school & community facilities to support educational, recreational, social and cultural programming.



The agreement makes schools available to community groups after school hours, and provides schools with access to arenas, pools, and other Town facilities during the school day.

2003

The year the agreement was created, for sharing use of both indoor and outdoor facilities and spaces

A collaborative partnership

between the Town of Okotoks, the Foothills School Division, and Christ the Redeemer Catholic School Division



“The joint use agreement...is of tremendous value to a huge array of local citizens. Our organization serves nearly 400 youth each and every year in the sport of basketball. Without access to school gyms this would be simply impossible...Our ability to arrange bookings through one centralized point of contact makes our gym bookings process much easier to manage. Our participants love that they can participate in their most loved sports right here in our community...Without this arrangement we fear that the sporting culture of Okotoks would suffer.”

~ Andrew Gustafson, Commissioner
Okotoks Minor Basketball Association




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Why is the agreement so valuable to you?

Provides equal access to facilities:

 Provides consistency in access to all user groups, both school and community, ensuring equal opportunities to use both Town and school facilities.


Supports our community values:


 Helps create and maintain a sense of community—being active in a clean, safe place helps everyone feel connected to this community.

 Promotes positive health and well-being through providing places to be active.

Provides consistency in fees:

 Reduces programming costs to school groups using Town facilities.

 Removes barriers to physical activity by ensuring everyone has access to affordable recreation and learning opportunities, i.e. swimming lessons.

 Reduces administration time for schools and user groups, as the Town provides a central booking system to all user groups accessing school facilities.



Who Benefits?

Everyone! Including schools, students, residents, sport groups, and community organizations.

Schools:

have access to Town facilities—swimming pool, arenas, gymnasiums, baseball diamonds, playing fields, and tennis courts, which enhances physical education programs.

Community organizations & sports groups: have access to school classrooms, gyms & auditoriums to run community-based programs outside of school hours.

5,483

hours of pool, diamond, field and gym used in 2014 as part of the agreement.

28

school gyms, fields and diamonds are used as part of the agreement

