



# Corporate Report

NO: R151

COUNCIL DATE: June 21, 2004

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## REGULAR

TO: Mayor & Council                      DATE: June 16, 2004  
FROM: Interim General Manager,      FILE: 6140-20/C  
Parks, Recreation and  
Culture  
SUBJECT: Canada Cup Futures Tournament At  
Cloverdale Athletic Park

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## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council approve funding in the amount of **\$3,350** from the Council Initiatives Fund to provide enhanced City maintenance service levels to offset the cost of Field User Fees for the Canada Cup Futures Tournament being held July 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> 2004 at Cloverdale Athletic Park.

## BACKGROUND

For many years, Softball City at South Surrey Athletic Park has hosted the prestigious **Canada Cup International Women's Fastpitch Tournament**. This extremely successful event brings athletes and their supporters to Surrey from around the world.

Since 2002, Cloverdale Athletic Park has been the venue for the *Canada Cup International Fastpitch Futures Tournament World Juniors (Girls 17 - 19)*. This tournament is a great opportunity for young athletes to develop their skills and showcase their talents by facing other elite level softball teams in international competition. The City has received accolades from athletes and their coaches who have been uniformly impressed by the calibre of facilities at Cloverdale Athletic Park.

## DISCUSSION

We have received a request from the organizers of the Canada Cup to reduce the fees charged by the City for the use of the Cloverdale Athletic Park. These fees will amount to \$3,350 in 2004, covering not only the fields at Cloverdale Athletic Park, but also other practice fields booked throughout the City for the 2004 Canada Cup Futures Tournament.

The former Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission had granted the tournament organizers the right to charge admission to the event, but would not waive the Field User Fees, as in their view it would be unfair to the many other tournaments and events that were required to pay these fees [\[1\]](#). After reviewing this issue in 2002, Council provided

funding in the amount of \$3,900 from the Council Initiatives Budget for enhanced City services which acted to offset the cost of the field user fees paid for the Futures tournament, recognizing that this event of international significance contributes very positively to the City's image and brings many visitors to the City for overnight stays. The cost of the enhanced City services would otherwise have been paid by the event organizers.

The services, which the recommended funding will cover, will include:

- Supply of additional bleachers
- Supply of additional refuse containers
- Installation of portable home-run fencing
- Additional temporary electrical connections

While the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department has a *Fee Waiver Policy*, it is essentially a tool to ensure barrier-free access to basic levels of service for those customers in financial need. It states, “*No Surrey resident will be refused participation, admission or registration due to their inability to pay the necessary fee or charge.*” It is clear that the Futures Tournament would not be the type of situation to which the policy would apply. If the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department was to waive the field user fees, some community athletic groups may raise concerns that fees are being waived for some user groups while all other groups are obliged to pay fees.

On this basis, staff recommend that Council approve funding from the Council Initiatives Budget Fund in the amount of \$3,350 for enhanced City services for the fields used during the Futures Tournament.

## CONCLUSION

As the City's *Fee Waiver Policy* does not apply to the subject request, staff recommend that Council approve funding in the amount of \$3,350 from the Council Initiatives Fund for enhanced City services for the Futures tournament which will act to offset the cost of field user fees paid by the event organizers.

Gerry McKinnon  
Interim General Manager  
Parks, Recreation and Culture

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[1] Note: There were approximately 200 tournaments held in Surrey's parks in 2003.