



## Report to Council

Department: Community Services  
Division: Parks and Facilities  
Date: June 6, 2022  
Prepared by: Jake Morassut, Director, Community Services  
Report Number: Parks and Facilities-2022-08  
Subject: Update on Free Menstrual Products at Two Recreational Facilities  
Number of Pages: 4

### Recommendation(s)

**That** report CS-2022-08 entitled "Update on Free Menstrual Products at Two Recreational Facilities" prepared by Jake Morassut, Director, Community Services, dated June 6, 2022 be received, and

**That** Council direct Administration to continue to provide free menstrual products at the Essex Centre Sports Complex and Harrow and Colchester South Community Centre, funded through the yearly operating budget for each facility.

### Purpose

To provide an update to Council on providing menstrual dispensers and containers at two high traffic recreation facilities and to provide direction to continue the program.

### Background and Discussion

The Town of Essex Council requested Administration to prepare a report on options to provide

menstrual products in municipal facilities and the costs associated to do so.

Over the last few years, several public institutions such as universities, school boards and municipalities across Canada have introduced free menstrual products in public washrooms at their facilities.

Through implementation, Administration saw the social benefit to the community as there were several positive comments from members of the public. Menstrual products are very expensive, yet necessary.

A recent survey of over 2000 women and girls by “Plan International – Canada” found that 35% have had to sacrifice something else in their budget to afford menstrual products. It was reported that when students who menstruate cannot access menstrual products, it can prevent them from participating in sports or extra-curricular activities.

During the past year, Administration installed dispensers and products in both the Essex Centre Sports Complex and the Harrow and Colchester South Community Centre. The cost of the pilot project is below:

<b>2021-2022 Pilot Project (Not inclusive of taxes)</b>		
	<b>Essex Centre Sports Complex</b>	<b>Harrow and Colchester South Community Centre</b>
<b>Dispensers</b>	\$980.00	\$490.00
<b>Maxithins</b>	\$97.00	\$48.50
<b>Tampons</b>	\$220.00	\$110.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,297.00</b>	<b>\$648.50</b>

The large cost to this project was the overhead for the dispensers, which has already been absorbed by the Town of Essex. With the 2021-2022 restrictions and lockdowns to facilities, it is predicted that the traffic flow in the facilities will double from the previous year. For that reason, administration expects a yearly cost associated with the products to be based on the chart below:

<b>2022-2023 Continuation of the Program (Not inclusive of taxes)</b>		
	<b>Essex Centre Sports Complex</b>	<b>Harrow and Colchester South Community Centre</b>
<b>Dispensers</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Maxithins</b>	\$194.00	\$97.00
<b>Tampons</b>	\$440.00	\$220.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$634.00</b>	<b>\$317.00</b>

Based on the above prediction, administration recommends to Council to continue the program and provide free menstrual products at the Essex Centre Sports Complex and the Harrow and Colchester South Community Centre.

## **Financial Impact**

The estimated costs to continue the free menstrual product program each year is \$951.00, excluding tax, for the Harrow and Colchester South Community Centre and the Essex Centre Sports Complex facilities based on the pilot program's actual costs and anticipated increase in facility traffic with the reduction of COVID-19 restrictions. No new funds are recommended for this pilot project as the funds for this project would be absorbed in the annual janitorial operating budgets for each of these facilities.

## Consultations

Kate Giurissevich, Director, Corporate Services

Doug Sweet, Chief Administrative Officer

## Link to Strategic Priorities

- ☒ Manage, invest and plan for sustainable municipal infrastructure which meets current and future needs of the municipality and its citizens.
- ☒ Create a safe, friendly and inclusive community which encourages healthy, active living for people of all ages and abilities.
- ☐ Provide a fiscal stewardship and value for tax dollars to ensure long-term financial health to the municipality.
- ☐ Manage responsible and viable growth while preserving and enhancing the unique rural and small town character of the community.
- ☒ Improve the experiences of individuals, as both citizens and customers, in their interactions with the Town of Essex.
- ☐ Improve the Town's capacity to meet the ongoing and future service needs of its citizens while ensuring the corporation is resilient in the face of unanticipated changes or disruptions.

## Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Update on Free Menstrual Products in Town of Essex Facilities - Parks and Facilities-2022-08.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	May 24, 2022

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

### No Signature found

**Kate Giurissevich, Director, Corporate Services - May 24, 2022 - 10:59 AM**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Sweet', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Doug Sweet, Chief Administrative Officer - May 24, 2022 - 11:13 AM**