



Community Services Department

Memorandum

TO:	Krista Power, Director – Legislative Services & City Clerk	FILE:
FROM:	Kim Begin, Supervisor – Aquatics, Wellness, Children & Youth Community Services Department – Recreation & Culture Division	
DATE:	06/02/2025 (mm/dd/yyyy)	
SUBJECT:	Youth Wellness Hub Memorandum of Understanding and Service Agreement	
MEETING & DATE:	Committee of the Whole - 07/14/2025 (mm/dd/yyyy)	

Since November 2023, the Recreation and Culture Division and Strategy & Engagement Division have been working with a group of community partners led by Children’s Centre Thunder Bay (CCTB) on the development of a Youth Wellness Hub for Thunder Bay and District. After significant work and a successful funding request, the local Hub is anticipated to open later this summer.

The Hub has been developed as part of Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario (YWHO), an integrated youth services initiative designed to address the service gaps in the youth mental health and substance use sectors in Ontario. YWHO’s provide young people aged 12 to 25 with access to a full range of integrated services that support their individual needs, including mental health and substance use supports, primary care, education, employment, housing and other social services in one youth-friendly space. YWHO's model is designed to improve experiences and outcomes for youth by:

- Increasing access to rapid, low-barrier services;
- Reducing transitions by providing care in one location; and,
- Providing tailored, high-quality programs co-developed with youth to meet their needs.

Children's Centre Thunder Bay (CCTB) has collaborated with an extensive list of youth-serving community organizations, youth, families, and community members to develop the Hub. The project has received funding from the Ontario Ministry of Health to support development of their site and programs. Children's Centre Thunder Bay is now developing Memorandums of Understanding, to be followed by Service Agreements, with community partners that will be involved in programming and services at the Hub.

The Recreation and Culture Division supports providing in-kind health and wellness services for the Hub given that the project aligns with our mandates and work plans. In-kind supports may include:

- Access to Recreation & Culture Division spaces for pop-ups and provision of wrap around programs and services in collaboration with existing recreation programs and services. Spaces may include Canada Games Complex, Kinsmen Youth Centre and others.
- Year-round Recreation & Culture programming for youth and families at the Hub, delivered by Youth Move as part of Youth Move's existing annual programming.
- Outreach and system navigation supports to connect youth and families to the Hub and related services providers, offered through the Youth and Family Support Program: Youth and Family Systems Collaborator, Youth Navigator and Youth Mentor.
- Encouraging and supporting participants in City of Thunder Bay youth programs to participate in the development and ongoing implementation of the Hub.

These in-kind supports are within the Division's existing work so there are no new financial implications associated with entering the MOU or Service Agreement.

Therefore, it is recommended that the Corporation of the City of Thunder Bay enter into a Memorandum of Understanding and subsequent Service Agreement with Children's Centre Thunder Bay to formalize a collaborative relationship focused on supporting youth mental health and wellness through the Thunder Bay and District Youth Wellness Hub.

RECOMMENDATION

WITH RESPECT to the Memorandum from Kim Begin, Supervisor – Aquatics, Wellness, Children & Youth, dated June 2, 2025, we recommend that authority be delegated to the Commissioner Community Services to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Service Agreement with Children's Centre Thunder Bay for

the Thunder Bay and District Youth Wellness Hub to the satisfaction of the City Solicitor;
AND THAT any necessary by-laws be presented to City Council for ratification.