



FAMILY POLICY CITY OF DIEPPE 2019-2023

Dieppe, a great place to live, work and raise a family!





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Foreword

The Family Policy serves as a guide to the municipality in its decisions concerning subjects that may have an impact on the quality of life and well-being of families. It also serves as a reference tool for the different organizations that work with families within the municipality.

Families are and will remain a priority for the City of Dieppe. While offering numerous programs, services and facilities that are intended for the population as a whole, particular attention is paid to families. As well as being an “Age-friendly City” (AFC), the City of Dieppe has equipped itself with different policies and plans that address elements promoting a better quality of life for families.

A committee composed of Dieppe residents and employees of the municipality held consultations that made it possible to gather many comments on satisfaction with the City’s facilities, programs and services. In total, approximately 500 people shared their opinions on the development of the City of Dieppe Family Policy.

Family

Drawing inspiration from different definitions¹ of the family, the City of Dieppe favours a deliberately broad definition to ensure that it captures all families and family experiences.

The family is thus defined as being:

Any combination of two or more persons who are bound together over time by ties of mutual consent, birth and/or adoption, placement or blending of families, through a feeling of belonging, and who, together, assume family responsibilities in varying degrees throughout their lives.

It is an inclusive definition to reflect diverse family structures including (but not limited to) single parents, step-families, couples with and without children and intergenerational families.

¹particularly the definition by: <https://vanierinstitute.ca/definition-family/>



Challenges

In the context of preparing the Family Policy and the many consultations carried out with residents and organizations, three challenges were determined for which action is possible.

Accessibility

Accessibility includes a financial dimension with the pricing for activities and services offered by the City. Some families cannot afford to pay, however minimal the price, while others will have to restrict their participation to the activities for the same reasons. Also, the activities offered are a component of accessibility to the extent that the schedule must allow for participation. Being that families live at a fast pace and want to take part in activities or benefit from municipal services, ways must be found to make these activities and services even more varied and accessible to families.

Partnerships

The establishment of partnerships is essential to improve the quality of life and well-being of families in the municipality. It is understood that the City cannot do it all alone; it must identify and collaborate with different organizations or businesses to implement and carry out some of the actions listed in the Policy. A number of them come under the City's jurisdiction directly, while others require the commitment of partners to be launched and become concrete.

Environment

The creation of an environment fostering exchanges between the residents, community groups, businesses and the municipality will make it possible to learn more about the needs of the different types of families. These exchanges will lead to actions to meet, to a large extent, needs that vary by family. These exchanges will be possible through communication, consultation and cooperation between the City and its environment.



Guiding principles

1. Listen to and engage families in the City and optimize their role;
2. Guide the actions of the City by clarifying its role and that of its partners;
3. Emphasize the advantages that Dieppe offers for families;
4. Ensure an inclusive approach for all families;
5. Promote the fact that the City is a place where families can thrive.

Areas of intervention

The desired results and actions to be undertaken are based on three major areas of intervention centred on the family.

Active families

Propose results and actions oriented toward creating environments that encourage physical activity, the arts and culture. The City thus wishes to offer the largest number of opportunities to families so they can improve their well-being through physical activity and thrive through the practice of varied leisure activities, and enjoyment of art and culture.

Safe families

Includes desired results and actions intended to offer safe living conditions. Concrete initiatives and awareness-raising campaigns could increase the feeling of safety for families.

Committed families

Intends to continue to count on families who are committed to the community and within organizations. Includes places of exchanges fostering better integration of new families and individual and collective commitments, all while sharing cultural and family times.



Results and actions

Here are the desired results and actions to take for each of the areas of intervention.

Active families

Desired results: Offer more opportunities for physical activity to the different family members.

The following actions are proposed:

1. Examine the possibility of integrating a family rate in the various pricing of municipal facilities;
2. Install light physical conditioning equipment in public places to allow access to free exercise practice for parents and children;
3. Encourage free access to sports on some playing fields in the City;
4. Make available schedules and resources in some of the City's indoor facilities to practise unstructured physical activities;
5. Continue to increase the amount of adapted equipment in different City parks for children with reduced mobility;
6. Encourage the use of bicycles by:
 - a. increasing the number of bicycle parking stations on the City's territory;
 - b. promoting cycling activities on the trails;
7. Develop, from early childhood, a general taste for culture by encouraging access to cultural leisure activities in different venues while paying particular attention to the most vulnerable families.

Safe families

Desired results: Make the City even safer, both on the roads and at home.

The following actions are proposed:

1. Continue to improve pedestrian crosswalks on the streets where conditions justify it;
2. Ask for a greater police presence in the City;
3. Equip the City with the following safety strategies, one to:
 - a. improve pedestrian safety;
 - b. encourage better sharing of the road between cyclists and other users;
 - c. raise awareness regarding compliance with speed limits on the road network;
4. Place more emphasis with construction contractors on the importance of having affordable housing with several bedrooms.



Committed families

Desired results: Increase and vary the opportunities for community exchanges and commitments and for the inclusion of families.

The following actions are proposed:

1. Evaluate financial assistance programs intended for people who encounter obstacles to participation in activities and services, with the goal of adjusting and extending these programs to more participants;
2. Encourage families to organize parties in neighbourhood parks;
3. Bring together groups and residents to propose activity programming fostering exchanges and meetings between the different cultures (residents, newcomers, etc.);
4. Take advantage of the Intergenerational Community Complex and the Arts and Culture Centre to organize activities fostering exchanges between children, teenagers and seniors;
5. Study the possibility of providing public transit to young volunteers;
6. Identify partner groups to hold community evenings with family games;
7. Organize, in partnership with different organizations, an annual summit for teenagers to find out their needs, interests and ways of engaging them in the development of the City.



Policy implementation

The City provides for the following measures to ensure implementation of the Family Policy:

- It mandates the Culture, Leisure and Community Life Division to implement the Family Policy and its action plan;
- This division, in collaboration with the other divisions of the municipality, will have the mandate to develop an annual action plan for the next five years (2019-2023);
- Setting up monitoring mechanisms so that the actions take trends and emerging needs of families into account. Among these mechanisms, we suggest:
 - an annual validation of Policy actions with partners;
 - an annual meeting of the management teams, which will make it possible to define the actions according to their responsibilities and to ensure their implementation;
 - a realistic schedule adopted annually by the City;
 - a communications operation with the goal of informing residents about the accomplishments, results and actions to come.

This first City of Dieppe Family Policy is intended to be inclusive and our hope is that the different families, no matter what their composition, will be able to know each other better and enjoy the quality of life offered by the municipality.

The success of this Policy firstly depends upon the willingness of the elected officials who will provide the resources necessary to accomplish the actions. The municipality's staff will see to implementing these actions in collaboration with the residents and organizations. In fact, it is the creation of different partnerships that will make it possible to achieve results.

Adopted by Council on March 25, 2019