
NEWS RELEASE

City of Abbotsford and Abbotsford School District sign Master Joint Use Agreement

ABBOTSFORD, BC – September 23, 2026 – The City of Abbotsford and Abbotsford School District have approved a new Master Joint Use Agreement that strengthens their long-standing partnership and enhances access for user groups to facilities, programs and amenities.

The updated agreement includes several key changes including the inclusion of specific School District gymnasiums and designated times for City and community use. While community access to school gymnasiums has existed under previous agreements, the new framework provides greater certainty for City programs and community organizations.

“Council values recreation and support facilities, amenities and activities that connect us,” said Abbotsford Mayor Ross Siemens. “This updated agreement is an important step in strengthening our partnership with the Abbotsford School District and ensuring residents continue to benefit from accessible recreational opportunities. By working together, we are creating more opportunities for children, youth and families to stay active and connected in our community.”

Another significant enhancement is the elimination of fees associated with ancillary items such as skate and helmet rentals during school visits. Removing these fees streamlines administration for both the City and the School District while helping reduce barriers to participation for children and youth.

“This agreement is good for our students, families and the community, and strengthens our partnership with the City,” said Stan Petersen, Chair of the Abbotsford Board of Education. “It reflects the work of City and School District staff to find practical ways to make better use of our shared facilities, reduce barriers and improve access for our community.”

The agreement also supports the School District’s efforts to enhance maintenance practices for sports fields located on District lands. As part of these efforts, standard rest periods for District sports fields will now include the months of June and September to promote healthier playing surfaces and improve field quality over time.

Opportunities will remain available to discuss community access to these fields during rest periods on a case-by-case basis, consistent with existing practices during summer months.

The agreement will come into effect on January 1, 2027, allowing both organizations to complete existing service commitments and ensure a smooth transition to the new framework.

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