

## Finance Committee Initiatives:

OCA Multiple Camps: OCA Camp Membership Fees are based on the revenues of each camp up to a limit of \$2,000,000. Most associations do not have fees that vary per member because each member is entitled to the same service as every other member regardless of size. The OCA camp fee model is based generally on the gross revenue reported by the director/owner. The formula also provides for camps with multiple camp locations such as municipalities, the YMCA, Ontario Girl Guides and Church camps. In these cases a base camp (the one with the largest budget) is chosen for the revenue calculation as it is for single camps and then each other camp location pays an additional fixed amount for that specific camp fee .. In reviewing our fee structure the Finance Committee found that this formula was problematic. The total fees paid to the OCA for all of the camps in multi-camp system may not be commensurate with the overall service provided to multi-camp groups. The Finance Committee is undertaking to consult with multi-camp members on this issue. It has started with a meeting with the GTA Toronto YMCA in October. At this meeting we had a fruitful discussion about how we might revise the fee model in the coming year, to recognize the growing number of new camp locations projected by the GTA YMCA. The Finance Committee is now considering a few alternative models for multi-camp fees. The GTA YMCA has paid the regular fee for this year and the Finance Committee will schedule meetings with other multi-camp members to discuss fees and future options.

## Are Non-Summer/Non-Traditional Camp Activities Accredited?

Many camps operate programs outside of the summer season for schools, family and adult groups as well as rentals. Are they accredited when operating these activities? Most camp directors might say non-summer camp activities are not and should not be accredited by the OCA. For example health standards require all medical records for campers to be on site during camp. But for schools and for family camps the schools and parents are responsible for the health of their campers so the camp should not need to maintain records. However, Camps advertise their accreditation status regardless of the time of year or client either directly or inadvertently. Camps use their accreditation status in their literature, on their web sites, on their letterheads. It is confusing for both camps and their clients such as schools or rental groups to know if they are operating under OCA standards. Efforts to resolve this dilemma over the years have not gone anywhere, but the OCA and camps continue to face the question of whether they are accredited or not for non-traditional functions. At best the accreditation of non-summer, non-traditional activities by accredited camps exists within a grey area

I have been advocating that the best solution to this problem is to have a system like that used by the American Camps Association. The ACA requires different levels of commitments for different standards depending on the camp program or operation.

Some are basic to all programs such as safety procedure associated with the facility. But many others are deemed not appropriate for some activities and are therefore not required. The four different categories specified by the ACA are: Day Camps, Residential Camps, Short-term Resident Camps and Camps Serving Rental Groups. While health records are mandatory for campers at resident and day camps, they are not for short-term resident and rental group camps. Each standard had a specification for whether it applies or not to one or more of these four different situations. In this way camps can confidently maintain their institutional accreditation while understanding clearly which standards apply in which situations. The Standards Review Committee is putting together a committee capable of reviewing the standards in light of this approach. We would be very pleased to hear from anyone with something to say on this matter.

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