

Personal Attendant for Leisure Card



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ORIGIN – since 2005

- Created by the Leisure Resources Thunder Bay Committee in a response to a need for recognition of people with disabilities having to pay for two admissions whenever they attended a recreation and leisure activity.
- Leisure Resources Thunder Bay Committee is a committee comprised of representative of organizations in Thunder Bay that have an interest in recreation for people with disabilities.
- PAL Card Model and logo borrowed from the City of Waterloo
- Administered by The Corporation of the City of Thunder Bay



WHO QUALIFIES?

- People with disabilities who use support people
- All ages and disabilities
- The PAL Card can be used by a person with a disability for any of the supports that the card holder uses. Can include volunteers, paid staff, family members, etc.

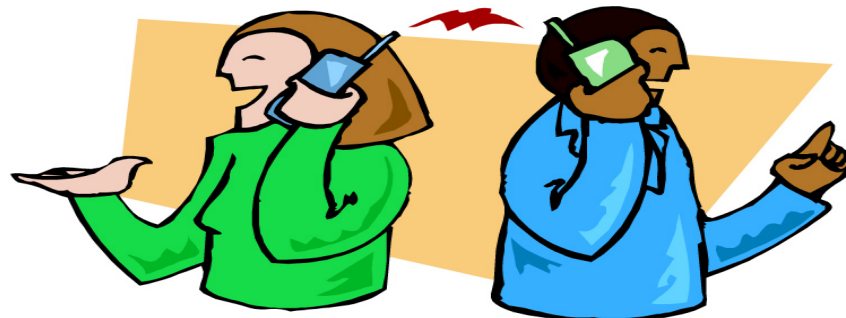


APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applicants complete an application and provide 2 references
- References are checked and if they answer all three questions positively then the application is accepted
- Cards are provided free of charge

REFERENCE QUESTIONS

- Would you consider _____ to have a disability?
- Does _____ require a support person for most recreation activities?
- In your professional opinion is _____'s disability temporary or permanent?



CONTENT OF THE CARD

- Picture and name of person with disability who uses the card
- “permits the card holder to be accompanied by a Personal Attendant for Leisure who will not be charged a fee for designated facilities/programs/services”
- Each card is individually numbered for tracking purposes
- No expiry date – unless disability is temporary
- PAL Card phone number on the back in case of concern by users or acceptors

PRODUCTION OF CARDS

- Computer, digital camera, laminator, photocopier, colour printer, cards
- Applicants email pictures in or come to predetermined site for photos, consider going to a group/old age homes personally if a few people have applied
- Estimated cost of \$5.00 per card

USE OF THE CARD

- No additional ID required



- No reports of misuse after 4 years in operation!
- If a person loses a card we charge them a \$5 replacement fee

PAL CARD ACCEPTORS

- Art of persuasion – mailouts, personal contacts, people with disabilities, support people
- All City programs, and almost 30 local recreation and culture organizations, including HAGI transit, accept the PAL Card

PAL CARD ACCEPTOR RECOGNITION

- In “The Key” – 4 times a year
- On the City of Thunder Bay website, www.thunderbay.ca
- List of Acceptors is given to every successful PAL Card applicant
- Entryway stickers of PAL Card Logo

ACCESS 2 ENTERTAINMENT CARD

- Can be used at movie chains across Canada
- Starting to look at larger cultural and entertainment events
- PAL Card has the advantage of local connection – perhaps a potential for future linking of programs



GETTING BUY-IN

- Saving \$\$\$\$
- People with disabilities more active more often
- People with disabilities in a more positive role as primary users of facilities
- People with disabilities have a significant amount of buying power





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