

Project Overview: Sport Inclusion and Accessibility in Red Deer for Children 6-12

Project summary:

This project is intended to open sustainable, authentic, and meaningful conversations for making sport opportunities, resources, and equipment more accessible and inclusive for all children 6-12 and their families in Red Deer. Facilitated by Brandi Heather Consulting, funding for this project is provided by The City of Red Deer.

Background:

Central Sport is a voice for sport in Central Alberta, connecting sport organizations through three distinct operational pillars: sport advocacy and development; sport hosting and event development; and sport inclusion and celebration.

We are committed to and recognize that to be an inclusive and accessible sport resource for all people in Red Deer, Alberta, we need to engage, listen, and learn in collaboration with and connection to our community. Central Sport wants to connect children ages 6-12 in Red Deer to more accessible and inclusive sport opportunities and resources.

The foundational principles of this project are to:

1. Connect and listen before we act,
2. Engage before we ask,
3. Put people's stories before statistics.

Understanding that:

"Inclusion is both the removal of physical, cultural, economic, and attitudinal barriers to participation and the designing of activities so that individuals are not excluded. Being allowed to take part is not enough. Every participant must feel safe, welcomed, and included. Supports need to be in place to address the diverse needs of

participants, across all of the dimensions that make up that individual (Sport For Life, 2019)."

Our goals are to:

1. Identify current inclusive and accessible programming and participation for children between 6-12 in Red Deer, Alberta.
2. Identify current barriers to inclusive and accessible programming and participation for children between 6-12 in Red Deer, Alberta.

Content will be collected in the following formats:

1. Accessible electronic survey available in multiple formats open August 30, 2022 - October 19, 2022.
2. Conversations and meetings with, but not limited to, families, educators, community organizations, and caregivers with Central Sport staff and volunteers facilitated by Brandi Heather Consulting.

We intend to utilize these stories, conversations, and content to:

1. Create and maintain authentic and sustainable communications and connections with families, community organizations, and services for individuals who are often underserved or underrepresented in sports programming and events in Red Deer.
2. Improve and develop greater resources for more inclusive and accessible sports programming, equipment, and facilities informed with and by the whole community.
3. Build collaborative partnerships with organizations working to improve inclusion and accessibility within the Red Deer community.

How you can help:

Central Sport would value the opportunity to meet with you or your organization to discuss your stories and the stories of your children or the children you work with to create a more inclusive and accessible sport resource for children in Red Deer.

Please email info@centralsport.ca to set-up a time to connect.

Project funding
provided by:

