

Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness

January 23, 2015

RE: Victoria County Active Gear Loan Program

To Whom it May Concern:

As Branch Manager of the Baddeck Public Library, I am writing in support of the Victoria County Active Gear Loan Program. This innovative proposal would enable community members to check out equipment at Baddeck Library, and throughout the county via the Victoria County Bookmobile.

The Cape Breton Regional Library has already successfully partnered with Victoria County on a variety of health and active living initiatives. For example, Baddeck Library has hosted free public swim sessions with County support, and we have worked together to deliver an active living outreach program to kids in rural communities on the bookmobile. These partnerships create a valuable linkage between physical activity and literacy, and allow both of our organizations to reach new participants, to the benefit of all. The Active Gear Loan Program would build on this success.

Equipment will be loaned to any Victoria County resident with an active library card, available at no charge through the Cape Breton Regional Library. Victoria County library branches (Baddeck, Victoria County Bookmobile, and Ingonish) have a current, combined membership of 2350, which includes children, youth, and adult patrons. Baddeck Library is a very active branch serving people of all ages from a wide catchment area in Victoria South. Equipment would be available to Victoria County schools via the bookmobile, which travels to eight schools on a monthly rotation. Remote communities would also access equipment through the bookmobile, or through the Ingonish branch.

This program would create a useful synergy: Library patrons will be exposed to active living opportunities in an unexpected location. Non-library users may be drawn into the library setting to access equipment, and benefit from the range of materials and services the public library provides. The library will use its robust collection of books and resources to supplement and promote equipment use. The result should be a beneficial blend of physical activity and literacy for residents of all ages.

The Baddeck Library looks forward to being able to offer this opportunity to Victoria County residents!

Sincerely,

Kate Oland
Baddeck Library