

December 7, 2011

Dear valued ACA members

Subject: New 2012/2013 Alberta Camping Association Membership Fees

During the 2011 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Alberta Camping Association (ACA) convened at the annual conference in Gull Lake, a motion was carried by the membership for the ACA to introduce a reviewed fee structure, which would be phased in over 2012 and 2013.

Why is this review necessary?

- 1) By introducing this first fee increase since 2006, we are bringing our membership rates up to date. This is essential to ensure that we are able to continue to deliver high quality service and provide effective membership support. This also affords us the opportunity to develop additional programs and services to continue to meet member needs. The ACA has worked hard to stay true to our mission while keeping our fees as low as possible however, members will appreciate that, costs have continued to increase year over year. We listen to our members, and are working hard to ensure that the services our members value the most: Accreditation, conference, Website and Information services, can be further enhanced to ensure member camps in Alberta remain at the forefront of the Camping industry in Canada.
- 2) The ACA is required by its Provincial funding body, to ensure that as a minimum, 50% of our operating budget be derived from revenue external to the Provincial funding that we receive. Currently the funding exceeds this 50% rule and the ACA will be responsible for returning portions of funding back to the funding body which will result in less services. In short, the membership fee increase allows the ACA to utilize the provincial Funding to the fullest as well. This really helps with our strategic direction
- 3) Not for-profit Organizations such as ours are being strongly encouraged to move away from a significant level of dependency on Grants, and to develop a strategy that ensures greater independence and sustainability.
- 4) Introducing this fee review will also bring our fee structure in line with other organizations (for example Ontario Camping Association, BC Camping Association, Mennonite Camping Association, Christian Camping International etc), whom we are often compared against.

What are the additional benefits for my camp?

- 1) Improved and enhanced member support services, delivered by our office based staff
- 2) A more extensive selection of resources available through the ACA website
- 3) Updated Job board with greater functionality
- 4) Improved, more effective Camp Search engine that is better equipped to profile individual camps
- 5) Grant assistance funds available to members - Education Grant & Diversity Grant.
- 6) Quality Accreditation Process and support
- 7) Strengthened Conference
- 8) More extensive marketing in 2012 and 2013, promoting the Camping sector of Alberta
- 9) Representation with the Canadian Camping Association (CCA)

How much will my Camp need to pay?

The following table details the new Fees to be applied for 2012 and 2013:

Revenue Categories	Increase/Year	2012	2013
Less than \$100,000	\$6	\$251	\$257
\$100,001 – \$250,000	\$69	\$314	\$382
\$250,001 – \$500,000	\$131	\$376	\$507
\$500,001 – \$750,000	\$194	\$439	\$632
\$750,001 – \$1,000,000	\$256	\$501	\$757
More than \$1,000,000	\$319	\$564	\$882

*Additional Sites per member: +\$100/site (definition: a *site* is described as a location utilized for camp programming with a permanent facility and campers are accommodated at the site more than 3 nights.)

Fees apply to memberships paid up in full by the end of the 2012 conference. Additional late fee of \$20 is charged if paid after that date.

Continued....

Worried or confused by the reviewed membership fees?

Please do not worry. We are here to help. The ACA Board of Directors has put together a plan to introduce the changes and assist members through the form.

You are invited to contact the following Board of Directors with any questions or concerns you may have:

Jon Olfert: Tel: (403) 637-2510 Email: valaqua@telusplanet.net
Les Waite: Tel: (403)342-6500 Email: lesw@yvc.ca
Mike Bingley: Tel: (403) 283-4993 Email: mbingley@scouts.ca

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What does 'Revenues' mean when we are figuring out our membership fee rate for 2012 and 2013?

A: Total gross revenue. It does not include assets.

Q: What if our 'Revenues' and 'expenses' differ?

A: We know that many camps revenues and expense lines differ. We ask that you look at what the closest to actual to be used. Under this new system we are implementing an honor system, and trust that our members are going to be honest and fair with the ACA office in picking the revenue category they fit into.

Q: For our agency, camp is just a small part; do we use our larger agency budget or the Camp's smaller budget?

A: Ask yourself, 'what is being accredited?' Your facility/location and camp program? The budget should include the program and facility costs associated with the program being accredited.

For an agency that has numerous programs, (for example it runs group homes or recreation center's that are not associated with the camp end of programs), the budget and facility costs for just the camps programs should be tallied, with the inclusion of site fees.

Q: We are a large agency, but our budgets are separate?

A: The total budgets and site locations should be calculated and then the ACA office can split the bill out to the specific departments if needed.

Q: We are unsure about all of this and have many questions!

We are here to help. Contact us at the Alberta Camping Association Office at:

Michele George, Interim Executive Director

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