SUBJECT: USE OF IMAGE RECORDING DEVICES IN FACILITIES POLICY

EFFECTIVE DATE:	January 12, 2004	SUBMITTED BY: APPROVED BY:	
REVISION DATE:		1 PAGE OF 1	

PURPOSE:

To implement a pro-active policy with regards to the use of image-recording devices. This policies intent is to protect the personal privacy of patrons using Regional District of recreation facilities.

POLICY:

In the interest of protecting the personal privacy of patrons using Regional District of ______ recreation facilities, all image-recording devices (i.e. mobile camera phones including standard cell phones and personal digital assistants etc.) are prohibited in any facility change rooms or washrooms.

BACKGROUND:

The use of mobile camera phones, personal digital assistants and other types of image recording devices has introduced a new challenge to the patron's safe, enjoyable recreation experience. Many of these devices are now capable of taking a photograph discreetly and sending it to another phone or an e-mail address in seconds. The photograph can then be stored on a computer or sent out to the worldwide web. Although these devices can be easily hidden and enforcement will be a sensitive issue, it is prudent for our department to implement a pro-active policy to prevent such incidents from occurring in our facilities.

STAFF RESPONSE:

It is not reasonable to expect facility staff to search bags or prohibit patrons from carrying these types of devices in the facility, however it is reasonable to insist that patrons not use them in change rooms or public washrooms. Just as it would be imprudent to allow traditional cameras and video recorders to be used in a changing area, the potential for misuse of such devices could present serious consequences for the ______. In most cases, the public will understand the rationale for the policy. Ideally, there will be some self-policing in that concerned patrons will politely inform an offender of the policy or report the offender to a staff member allowing the staff member to speak to the offender.

*If you suspect someone is recording images in the change rooms or washrooms <u>do not</u> <u>confront the alleged offender</u>. Report the incident immediately to the RCMP. Discreetly record the suspect's description, vehicle make and license plate number if possible and forward it to the attending RCMP member.

SIGNAGE:

All facilities will ensure that permanent signage is posted at the entrance to all change rooms and washrooms.

