



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: December 21, 2016

The City of Steinbach has updated its food and drink policy in pool facilities to enable parents and caregivers of infants to bottle feed (with plastic bottles) their infants in the pool viewing area. The public is otherwise restricted from bringing food and drink into this area for safety and cleanliness reasons.

The City of Steinbach responded to issues raised by Niverville mom Jodee Mason about the food and drink policy in a complaint filed with the Manitoba Human Rights Commission.

“I am really happy that we were able to come to a resolution that removes some of the barriers that mothers have in the early stages of being a parent. I have learned through this experience that the human rights process can lead to real systemic change”.

Steinbach officials commented, “We are pleased to have resolved this matter on a common sense basis, in a manner which addresses concerns about safety and cleanliness but still enables parents of infants to remain in the pool deck area while tending to the needs of their children”.

Mason’s complaint alleged discrimination on the basis of sex and family status, both characteristics protected under Manitoba’s Human Rights Code.

The City’s policy is on the Steinbach Aquatic Centre’s website.

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