

PARKING PROGRAM FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why do permits now have an expiry?

There were numerous complaints over the years about abuse of privileges associated with the Parking Program for People with Disabilities. Changes in medical status or situations where permit users moved or died did not necessarily result in return of the permit and it could remain in circulation since there was no expiry date. As a result, users of the program, represented by the Regina Coalition of Disabled Drivers and Passengers, asked for these changes.

How many people have applied for the new parking permit?

Over 19,000 applications for the new permit have been processed to date.

How many people still need to apply for the new parking permit?

The Council anticipates that they will receive another 10,000 applications.

What are the consequences if someone doesn't have a new permit by April 1?

Municipalities have been informed that effective April 1, a new permit will be required for parking in designated spaces. Enforcement of the new permit will be at the discretion of individual municipalities.

How has the Council decided who gets a three-year expiry date and who gets a longer expiry?

Expiry dates for those who re-qualify under the new program are randomly assigned.

How will the Council avoid having all parking permits expire in the same month?

To phase in the new permit and spread out the required workflow, the permits initially have three, four and five-year expiry dates. The expiry dates within each year are divided equally among the months.

If someone does not have a driver's licence and/or a vehicle registered in their name, can they still apply for a permit?

Yes, they are eligible for a parking permit if they meet the medical criteria. Applications must be completed in the name of the person who has a disability, regardless of their age, or if they drive or own a vehicle. The permit is designed to be transferable so it can be used in any vehicle they travel in.

Can an applicant get more than one permit so they can leave them in the different vehicles they most commonly travel in?

No, the permit is designed to be easily moved from one vehicle to another and it is the responsibility of the applicant to have their permit with them in the vehicle if they plan to use designated parking spaces.

Will the new permit be recognized in other provinces?

All provinces and territories have agreed to recognize and honour the Parking Program for People with Disability parking permits. The new placard design is the North American standard. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to comply with local municipal laws if using their permit in other jurisdictions.

Who receives the funding (renewal fees) and administers the program?

When a renewal fee is implemented beginning in 2011, these funds will be retained by the Council to cover costs associated with administering the program.

What is SGI's level of involvement in the Parking Program for People with Disabilities?

SGI became involved with the parking program in the 1980's with the introduction of a special licence plate and/or placard, rather than a parking sticker. In 1997, the Handicapped Licence Plate Program was discontinued and replaced with placards displayed on the dash of the vehicle. SGI continues to be involved with the Parking Program for People with Disabilities as the government agency responsible; however the program is administered by the Saskatchewan Abilities Council.