Winnipeg's draft budget includes a 50% cut to Leisure Guide programming – programming that is well-loved and well-used, and that helps keep our city happy, healthy, and connected. The Leisure Guide is an important, life-sustaining city service. It provides affordable, accessible, and quality programming that has important effects on our physical health, mental health, community connectedness, and quality of life. With the Leisure Guide, Winnipeggers learn new languages, learn to swim, learn to paint, are able to stay active and healthy, and learn together with our friends, children, parents, and communities. According to the draft budget, the 50% cut to Leisure Guide programming involves "a review of all Leisure Guide programming, with a view to retaining programming in high needs areas and a focus on children and youth". We must demand more than this narrow, bare bones budget approach for our communities. We know that a 50% cut to Leisure Guide programming, together with cuts to libraries, transit, funding for community groups, and the many other cuts present in the budget draft, will not create a healthy city. These cuts will only worsen many of the problems our communities are facing.

Mayor Bowman and City Councillors must reject the 50% cut to Leisure Guide Programming, and the other harmful and short-sighted cuts proposed for city services.

Jacob Nikkel, organizer with the Budget for All Coalition