CPRAs ongoing commitment to parks and recreation infrastructure

Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA) continues to work with the Federal-Provincial/Territorial Sport Committee (FPTSC) Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Work Group to develop a common approach to measure infrastructure needs and priorities throughout Canada. In tandem, the CPRA Infrastructure Task Group is coordinating CPRA’s participation in the development of a National Infrastructure Strategy for Recreation and Parks.

Most recently, CPRA has been working with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Canadian Urban Institute (CUI) to integrate sport and recreation facilities into the second edition of the Canadian Infrastructure Report Card (CIRC).

The survey was held between October 27, 2014 and January 30, 2015, which collected information from Canadian municipalities. It prominently asked about sport and recreation infrastructure as well as the state of communities’ water, sewers and roads. Results are now being tabulated and it is expected that the report will be available in the fall of 2015.

CPRA is very excited about the potential and combined impact of these initiatives to elevate the positioning of the parks and recreation sector’s infrastructure to a standard consistent with the profile enjoyed by other sectors.

A Framework for Recreation in Canada

A National Summit was held in Toronto, ON in November 2014, that brought together more than 140 parks and recreation senior leaders, practitioners, academics, government officials, and sector partners from across Canada. The focus of the Summit was the Framework for Recreation in Canada.

CPRA has been co-leading the process of developing the Framework, in partnership of provincial and territorial governments (except Quebec).

The Framework for Recreation in Canada provides a new vision for recreation and suggests common ways of thinking about the renewal of recreation, based on clear goals and underlying values and principles. The Framework will allow leaders, practitioners, stakeholders and volunteers in a variety of sectors to collaborate in pursuit of common priorities, while respecting the uniqueness of individuals and communities across Canada.

During the Summit, participants built conditions and consensus for successful implementation of the Framework by defining potential desired outcomes and potential performance measures. Participants identified tools and resources which will be required to support successful implementation of the Framework as well as discussing communications strategies.

Following the Summit in Toronto, the Framework was refined based on feedback from Summit delegates. In February 2015, CPRA along with government officials will seek endorsement of the final Framework document from the Provincial/ Territorial Ministers at their meeting in Prince George, BC.

Co-chairs of the Summit
Anna Ilnyckyj, Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport
and CJ Noble, CPRA

Nepean Sportsplex - Ottawa.ca
On Parliament Hill

On Monday October 20th, CPRA had the privilege of appearing before the House of Commons Finance Committee as part of their pre-budget hearings. Jennifer Reynolds, (CPRA Past President), represented CPRA by presenting our recommendation which call on the government to create a dedicated infrastructure fund for recreation and sport capital projects.

CPRA participated in the Sport Matters led Advocacy Day on Parliament Hill on Tuesday October 21st, bringing together over 50 representatives from recreation, sport and physical activity for meetings with some 50 MPs and decisions makers in Ottawa. CPRA brought forward messaging for the need of a dedicated recreation Infrastructure Fund, continued support for preventative health programing, and continued support for Canada’s athletes.

CPRA Board Meeting

CPRA Board of Directors and CEOs from all 13 provincial and territorial associations met in Toronto, ON November 19 &20th, 2014. The semi-annual in person meeting is an excellent opportunity for CPRA Members to invite guests to the session and discuss areas of mutual interest, alignment of ideas with sector partners, as well as foster new relationships. CPRA was pleased to meet with: Elio Antunes, ParticipACTION; David Hughes, YMCA Canada; Sue Hylland, Canada Games Council; Joe Belfontaine and Jessica Pellow, Canadian Tire Corporation and Gina Doxtator, Assembly of First Nations.

Advocacy

Larry Ketcheson, Parks and Recreation Ontario CEO (R) met with the Minister of Sport, Honourable Bal Gosal (L) on January 13 2015 as part of a federal pre-budget consultation roundtable organized by Sport Alliance Ontario, in Toronto. Mr. Ketcheson took the opportunity to raise recreation sector priorities including the need for a dedicated fund for recreation and sport infrastructure.

CJ Noble, CPRA Executive Director attended the Canadian Sport 4 Life National Summit in Gatineau, QC on January 28, 2015, where she presented an update on the Framework for Recreation in Canada conference delegates.
National Health and Fitness Day

On December 10, 2014 Parliamentarians of all parties voted unanimously to pass Bill S-211, an Act to Establish the First Saturday in June as National Health and Fitness Day. The initiative encourages communities and all Canadians to mark the day with events to celebrate and promote the use of local health, recreational, sports and fitness facilities. The long term objective of the Bill is to inspire Canadians to become fitter and more active which will in turn reduce the health care costs attributed to preventable diseases. The movement was initiated by MP John Weston (West Vancouver – Sunshine Coast – Sea to Sky Country), Senator Nancy Greene Raine and a team of concerned citizens and organizations, including CPRA, for several years to build support among communities and Parliamentarians for this National Health and Fitness Day initiative.

CPRA congratulates Mr. Weston (rc), Senator Raine (lc) and their team on this great initiative and accomplishment. For more information on National Health and Fitness Day visit: www.johnweston.ca

Advertise with CPRA – A Great Way to Reach a National Audience

When it comes to the promotion of healthy communities and healthy Canadians, CPRA is a national leader. The relationship we have with our audience is like having one-on-one discussions. Why not join our discussions today?

CPRA has three distinct ways for you to tap into their extensive network of parks and recreation specialists, practitioners, decision makers, advocates, and participants!

Learn about advertising opportunities in CPRA Webinars, national Newsletter and website opportunities and contact us at info@cpra.ca

If interested in a distribution opportunity – please contact info@rex-rec.com
CPRA Awards acknowledge the long-term service and commitment of individuals in the parks and recreation sector on a national scale in Canada. The CPRA Award of Merit recognizes the efforts of individuals in each province and territory who have influenced the parks and recreation sector in a national capacity.

**CPRA Award of Merit**

Several 2014 recipients included:

**Randy Kinnee – Saskatchewan**

On October 24, 2014, The CPRA Award of Merit was presented to posthumously to Randy Kinnee at the SPRA Conference and AGM. Mike Powell, President of SPRA (top right) presented the award to Mr. Kinnee’s family.

**Rick Gilbert – Nova Scotia**

On October 23, 2014 – Rick Gilbert (r) with Rae Gunn, President Recreation Nova Scotia

**Nancy McMinn – Prince Edward Island**

On December 8th, 2014, Nancy McMinn (r) with Recreation PEI President Andrew Avery

**Shelley Shea – Alberta**

On November 17th, 2014 Shelley Shea (c) with ARPA Board Chair Mike Roma (l) and CPRA Executive Director CJ Noble (r)

**Roymen Stevenson – Nunavut**

On November 1, 2014.

The 2014 recipient of the CPRA President’s Award of Distinction was Don Hunter (c) from British Columbia; the Award was presented on November 17th, 2014 during the National Recreation Summit in Toronto by Dean Gibson (r), President CPRA and Ron Higo (l), President of BC Recreation and Parks Association.

For full descriptions of the CPRA Awards Program and 2014 recipients visit [www.cpra.ca](http://www.cpra.ca)
Spotlight on Recreation and Parks Association of the Yukon (RPAY)

Yukon’s Focus on Recreation Leadership
Written by Caroline Sparks on behalf of the Recreation and Parks Association of the Yukon

For over twenty years, the Recreation and Parks Association of the Yukon (RPAY) has empowered Yukon people and communities to adopt active, healthy lifestyles. In our small, rural and remote communities, recreation and parks are essential services that contribute to personal, social, economic and environmental benefits and quality of life. Benefits are realized because of the time and energy invested by community recreation leaders.

RPAY’s programs and services enhance the capacity of Yukon communities by strengthening leadership for recreation and parks. Our RHEAL Leader program (Rural Healthy Eating Active Living) provides short-term contracts for local leaders to design and deliver programs that respond to community needs and interests. Our Winter Active for Life programming builds leadership to encourage physical activity outdoors during long winter months in activities that require minimal infrastructure and can be done over the lifespan. Our Action Grants program supports community groups and schools who provide opportunities for children and youth to be physically active.

A variety of other programming (e.g. Active Yukon Schools and After-School, Aquatics, Menu of Healthy Living Workshops) is designed to strengthen capacity of our communities for recreation and parks and is possible because of the support and generous funding from Yukon Government (YG) Sport and Recreation Branch.

Our most recent initiative, designed to foster leadership for recreation and parks, is the development of a Yukon Community Recreation Leaders Guide.

Funded through the Yukon Active Living Strategy, development of the Guide has been a collaborative effort in partnership with YG Sport and Recreation and Branch, RPAY staff, several consultants including Brenda Herchmer and Caroline Sparks, and Yukon’s rural and remote recreation staff and volunteer leaders.

The Guide comprises 13 stand-alone modules. Each module introduces one of 13 foundational competencies identified by recreation leaders as essential for working or volunteering in recreation and parks. Figure 1 shows the foundational competencies, a combination of knowledge, skills, attitudes, and experiences, as pre-requisites to the competencies recognized by our field nationally.

The Yukon Community Recreation Leaders Guide will be ready to share electronically in April 2015. It reflects trends in the field and promotes a community development approach to recreation. Rural, remote and Northern communities will find the Guide meaningful, practical, and relevant. Written in plain language with audio and media clips, the Guide is user-friendly. Wherever appropriate, resources from across Canada have been referenced and linked. A Self-Assessment Tool, developed to accompany the Guide, can be used by recreation leaders to identify personal strengths and areas for development and by organizations to develop their volunteer and staff training plans.

For more information about RPAY’s programs and services, including the Yukon Community Recreation Leaders Guide, please contact Anne Morgan, Executive Director at 867-669-3010 or anne@rpay.ca. RPAY’s new website, www.rpay.ca, will be launched in the spring of 2015.
Events

Playground Safety Awareness Course
February 24, 2015
New Westminster, BC
www.bcrpa.bc.ca/parks-spring-training

38th Annual Provincial Parks and Grounds Spring Training
February 25-26, 2015
New Westminster, BC
www.bcrpa.bc.ca/parks-spring-training

2015 Alberta Parks Forum
March 12-14, 2015
Canmore, AB
http://arpaonline.ca/events/parks-forum/

2015 PRO Educational Forum and Trade Show
March 24 – 27, 2015
Blue Mountain Resort, Collingwood, ON
http://www.prontario.org/ or call 416-426-7142

Find Your Fit 30-Day Community Physical Activity Challenge
April 1 – 30, 2015
Throughout Newfoundland and Labrador
www.recreationnl.com/findyourfit (709) 729-0980

HIGH FIVE Train The Trainer
April 22-24, 2015
Location TBD
www.recreationnl.com, (709) 729-0569

BCRPA Symposium
May 6-8, 2015
Victoria, BC
www.bcrpa.bc.ca/symposium-2015

May 21, 2015
Town of Gander, NL
www.recreationnl.com (709) 729-3892

Recreation NL 44th AGM, Conference and Tradeshow
May 22-23, 2015
Town of Gander, NL
www.recreationnl.com (709) 729-3892

HIGH FIVE National Exchange for Master Trainers and Authorized Providers only
June 23-25, 2015
Toronto, Ontario
www.HIGHFIVE.org

CPRA Webinar

“The Canadian Physical Literacy Puzzle”
Thursday February 19, 2015 at 12:30 – 1:30 pm EST

With presenters: Richard Way, Project Leader of the Canadian Sport for Life (CS4L) movement and Philip Hochman, Member of the CS4L Community Connections Team.

This free 1 hour webinar will feature a presentation and discussion on the theme of Physical Literacy.

Canadian Sport for Life supports three main outcomes: develop physical literacy in every child, a clear pathway to seek athletic excellence, with everyone been active for life. Physical literacy constitutes the ability, desire and confidence to be active for life.

For more information and to register today – visit www.cpra.ca

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Coast to Coast Playground Safety

In an effort to make play spaces safer from coast to coast, The Canadian Playground Safety Institute is offering several Theory and Practical combined courses this spring.

This program is for inspector, installers, maintenance personnel, playground designers and others in the playground industry who needs to obtain their Canadian Certified Playground Inspector status, or who just want playground safety training. This course has been updated to include information on the new CSA Children’s Playspace and Equipment standard which was released last year.

Dates and locations are as follows:
March 10 – 13, 2015 - Delta, BC - Link to registration form
April 21 – 24, 2015 - Kingsville, ON - Link to registration form
April 28 - May 1, 2015 - Airdrie, AB - Link to registration form
May 5 – 8, 2015 - Toronto, ON - Link to registration form
May 26 – 29, 2015 - St. John’s, NL - Link to registration form

Course additions will be posted on the schedule page on CPSI’s website cpsionline.ca.