



Collaboration and **Commitment**

WHO WE ARE

SPRA is a non-profit member organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in the Province through the provision of recreation and parks services and support.

SPRA is funded by Saskatchewan Lotteries and administers the Recreation Section of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund.

Read on to learn more about the many programs and services we offer and how through commitment and collaboration, SPRA supports the network that builds quality of life in Saskatchewan communities.

OUR ROLES

Our roles include Training and Education, Advocacy, Funding, Information Management, Research and Networking.

OUR MEMBERS

Our members include diverse organizations in the parks and recreation sector – communities and municipalities, facility operators, sport and recreation clubs and associations, commercial members, youth organizations, parks practitioners, Tribal Councils, Métis Regions and Districts.

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We are the leader for a parks and recreation network that builds healthy active communities in Saskatchewan.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND CEO

Our work this past year is a testament of our dedication to building partnerships, collaborating on a plan for the future and our commitment to supporting our members and communities.

The Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport partnered with SPRA to distribute over 1.7 million dollars to communities across Saskatchewan, through the Government of Saskatchewan's Community Rink Affordability Grant, to support operations of their indoor ice facilities.

Our partnerships with Sask Sport and SaskCulture have never been stronger. Jointly the Globals continue to work together to address the strategic public interest priorities identified in the Lottery License Agreement. Together, we provide support to the Community Grant Program, the Sport, Culture and Recreation Districts and the Northern Community Schools Program. By pooling our human and financial resources and focusing on our common priorities, we can provide stronger and more meaningful support to these initiatives for the people of the Province.

The simultaneous development of the National Recreation Agenda, the Provincial Recreation Framework for

Action and the 2014-19 SPRA Strategic Plan was both fortuitous and challenging at the same time. The opportunities for increased continuity, common messaging and strategic alignment are numerous. However, in a country as large and as diverse as Canada, the challenge is to get consensus, not only on the priorities, but also on the process. SPRA remains committed to supporting the development of these strategies and to bringing Saskatchewan's perspective to the discussions.

From financial support through our Member Initiative Grants, to human resource support via our Recreation and Field Consultants, to the support provided by our Communication Information and Research Division, members have indicated that they appreciate and value the service they receive from SPRA. They are confident that we are the leader of a network that builds healthy active communities and that we continue to represent them at the local, provincial and national levels.

SPRA is a healthy vibrant organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in Saskatchewan. We are fortunate that we have engaged and dedicated members. Read on and learn more about the excellent work that your Association has been involved in over the past year.



From left to right: Derek Sylvestre (Director for the North), Darrell Lessmeister (President), Mike Schwean (Director for Towns), Clive Craig (Director for Villages), Corrine Galarneau (Director at Large), Mimi Lodoen (Director at Large), Jasmine Jackman (Director for Cities), Coralie Bueckert (Director at Large) and Mike Powell (Director at Large).

SPRA's volunteer Board of Directors govern and set the policies by which SPRA is guided.

FROM THE FIELD

SPRA Field Consultants live and work across the Province. Field Consultants are dedicated to working with and supporting members and communities to reach their recreational goals.



Visits

19 Hamlets
22 Villages
18 Towns
5 Cities
3 First Nations
11 Rural Municipalities
2 Regional Parks



7,318km logged!



What Do Our Field Consultants Do For You?

- Assist your community in assessing needs
- Provide information on SPRA funding, programs and resources
- Identify linkages to other sources of funding and revenue generation
- Streamline information relevant to the sector
- Assist with networking, collaborations and partnerships
- Advocate on behalf of parks and recreation
- Share information and act as a resource for SPRA's provincial priorities

Our Field Consultants are very happy to be working with you in your communities to advance parks and recreation. They look forward to assisting communities in any way that they can.

"Thank you for the reply regarding the grants and the questions we have thrown your way. Thanks again."

- Jordy Lewis, Program Coordinator
Onion Lake First Nation

Highlights from the Field

Service Excellence Program

Twelve communities and one organization are piloting the Service Excellence Program across Saskatchewan. Pilot communities are engaged in a self-directed evaluation of their parks and recreation delivery processes. This process is helping communities analyze and refine their programs and services, building excellence in the areas of programs, parks, facilities, community building, leadership and management.

Grants and Funding Opportunities

The SPRA Grant Opportunities Booklet provided a great starting point for both professionals and volunteers working within our sector to look for funding opportunities specifically for recreation, sport and culture.

Recreation Board Development Initiative

SPRA is developing a Provincial Recreation Board Development resource that can be used by communities looking to establish a Recreation Board or revamp an existing Board. This resource will include the benefits and challenges of a variety of different models, information about bylaws, municipal and provincial legislation and much more.

Host Committee for the 2013 SPRA Conference

SPRA Field Consultants are leading the charge on the 2013 SPRA Conference. They are working with the City of Swift Current and the South West District for Culture, Recreation & Sport to offer an incredible line up of keynote speakers, education sessions and networking opportunities. Participants will advance their knowledge and skills and boost their confidence and ability to deliver quality and effective recreation and parks opportunities.

Making Connections

When they are not travelling throughout the Province assisting communities in their parks and recreation endeavours, SPRA Field Consultants are at their desks answering questions and ensuring that communities have the information necessary to offer safe, quality recreation experiences.

Field Consultants connected with:

1139 Emails
224 Phone Calls
120 Mailings
and Social Media



"Just wanted to let you know that the Village of Dinsmore received a grant for \$5000 today for the Community Rinks Affordability Initiative. Thank you so much for your lead on this grant, I really appreciate it."

- Kristin Genest,
Economic Development Officer, Dinsmore

FITNESS LEADERSHIP

SPRA is committed to providing individuals with the knowledge and resources necessary to become leaders in fitness and physical activity. These leaders help our communities to adopt a lifelong commitment to physical activity.

375 Fitness Leaders Trained to National Standards

SPRA trained Fitness Leaders as advocates for physically active lifestyles through the Fitness Leadership Program. Leaders were trained in courses such as Fitness Theory, Group Exercise, Aquatic Exercise and Exercise for Older Adults, according to National Fitness Leadership Alliance performance standards. Fitness Yoga and Cycling provided new and more specialized classes and areas of interest. Over 375 SPRA Fitness Leaders provide quality Fitness Leadership and bring a new level of health and fitness to communities across the Province.

"As an SPRA Fitness Instructor, I am fortunate to belong to an organization that provides on-going training to certify instructors in a variety of exercise disciplines, resources to assist in preparing classes and conferences to maintain current certification....not to mention a very friendly and helpful staff!"

- Donna Laird

Participants Per Course/Module

Fitness
Theory
111

Aquatic
21

Older
Adult
11

Group
Exercise
70

DID YOU KNOW...

Hiring a certified Fitness Leader provides credibility for the participants, reduces liability risk for the employer, ensures safety, and promotes professionalism within the fitness industry.

SaskFit Conference

Over 200 Fitness Leaders from across Saskatchewan attended the SaskFit Conference to learn the latest in fitness trends and expand their skills and knowledge. As Saskatchewan's premier fitness and health conference, SaskFit reflects the energy and dedication that our Provincial Fitness Leaders have towards promoting active, healthy lifestyle choices in our communities.

"This was my first SaskFit conference and I really enjoyed myself. The coordinators were helpful, the classes and presenters were informative. I loved the energy in the workouts, and wow - being fed lunch, snacks, breakfast and given a lovely take-away bag were major bonuses!"

- SaskFit Participant

Physical Activity Recreation Engagement Strategy

Through the Strategy, resources were developed to support the recreation sector in recognizing the fundamental role that we play in producing active, healthy communities in Saskatchewan. Tools are available to support the planning and development, monitoring and evaluation and successful reporting of community programming. These tools are available online at www.spra.sk.ca/physicalactivity.

Get Up, Get Out. Get Active, Get Going

Engaging Communities to Take the Lead!

To increase physical activity opportunities and leadership skills of youth across our Province, SPRA introduced the Take the Lead! Provincial Initiative Grant. The grant was developed to support the Take the Lead! initiative, which builds young leaders ages 11 - 14 to lead active play opportunities for their peers, while increasing leadership skill development and physical activity among schools and communities.

**\$14,500 in funding
awarded to 17
communities and schools
through Take the Lead!**

Through the Take the Lead! Provincial Initiative Grant over 140 youth were trained as Leaders in their communities.

"It is a fabulous program for developing youth leadership and certainly promoted active youth group involvement..."

- Leadership Coach

Encouraging Ageless Fitness

SPRA and the Saskatoon Health Region are working together to provide and promote safe physical activity opportunities for older adults in Saskatchewan through the Provincial **Forever...in motion**. There have been a number of resources and materials developed including **Forever...in motion** leadership training, training resources and resources for older adults. To date, there are 25 registered **Forever...in motion** leaders in Prince Albert, Regina, Regina Beach, Odessa, Whitewood, Vibank and Muskoday First Nation. With over 60% of Saskatchewan seniors classified as inactive, SPRA is committed to the delivery of physical activity programs that enhance the quality of life for older adults in the Province.



Seven **Forever...in motion** grants were awarded to SPRA member communities for the development and implementation of a **Forever...in motion** program in their community. Communities and organizations receiving the grant included Hague, Kelvington, Vibank, City of Moose Jaw, City of Regina, South West District for Culture, Recreation & Sport, and the Lakeland District for Sport, Culture and Recreation.

SAFE PLAY EXPERIENCES

SPRA is committed to providing quality assurance and leadership training so children and youth have the opportunity to participate in recreation and parks activities in safe and effective environments.

DID YOU KNOW...

Quality after-school programs help develop “soft skills,” such as communication, teamwork and problem solving. ²

HIGH FIVE®

Community leaders received the training and education necessary to offer safe, quality and developmentally appropriate recreation programs for youth ages 6 - 12 through the HIGH FIVE® Program.

Training in the Principles of Healthy Childhood Development provided support to front-line leaders on how to offer quality programming to youth ages 6 - 12. QUEST 2 offered an evaluation tool that program supervisors and managers could use to assess the overall quality of the children’s programs happening in their community, facility or organization.

“There was a lot I will be able to apply from this workshop in my line of work. The conflict resolution tips were most helpful. I also learned a variety of techniques and activities to use as backups or if kids need to calm down.”

- PHCD Participant

“Keep up the extraordinary training opportunities! I now have a better knowledge of how to evaluate a program.”

- QUEST Participant

Participation in HIGH FIVE®

Course	2011-2012	2012-2013
Principles of Healthy Child Development	300	358
QUEST 2 Training	40	83

2. Harvard Family Research Project. (2008). Research Update: Highlights from the Out-of School Time Database. Retrieved from <http://www.hfrp.org/publications-resources/browse-our-publications/research-update-3-highlights-from-the-out-of-school-time-database>

165 Play Leaders Trained

The SPRA Play Leadership program provided 165 Play Leaders with the knowledge and skills necessary to plan and coordinate safe, accessible and enjoyable play opportunities for children. Communities and organizations hosting Play Leadership training opportunities included Parkland Valley Sport, Culture and Recreation District, Lakeland District for Sport, Culture and Recreation, the Northern Sport, Culture & Recreation District, South West District for Culture, Recreation & Sport, White Buffalo Youth Lodge in Saskatoon, Mistawasis First Nation, the City of Saskatoon ATOSKE Camps and the City of Swift Current.

After-School Time Period

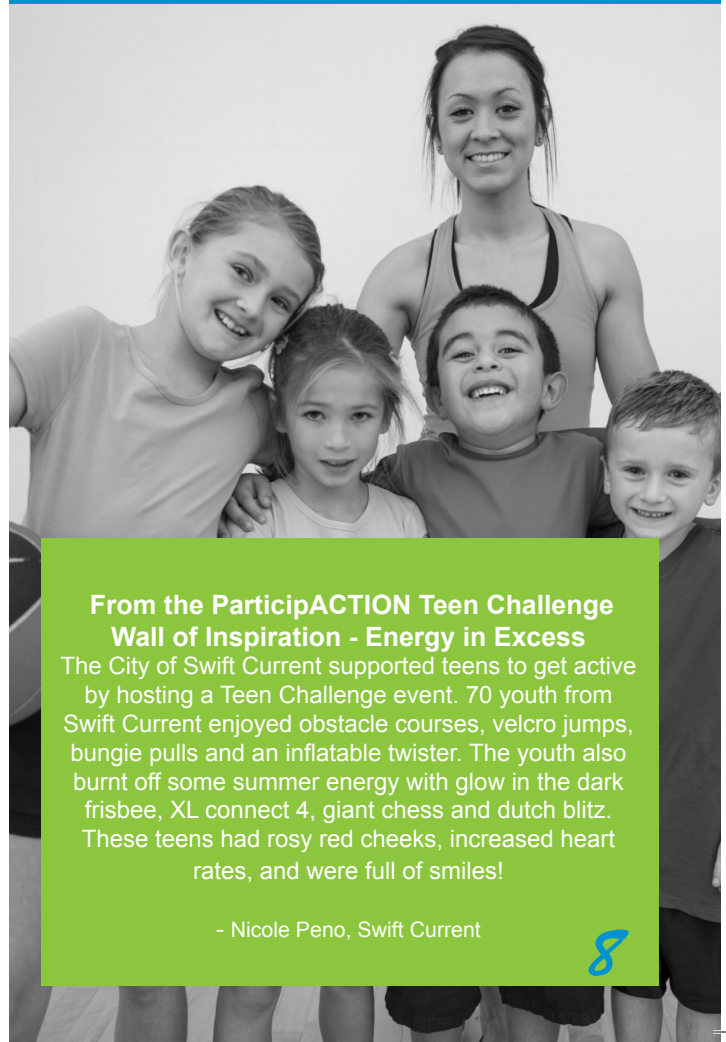
Saskatchewan residents now have access to an online searchable directory of After-School Time Period programs. With support from the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, SPRA collected data on available programs for children and youth between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. A total of 563 responses were received from multiple sectors. Programs can be added to the directory by completing an online program information form. Survey responses were also analyzed to identify trends and gaps within programming in Saskatchewan. Here are the highlights:

- 8%** of ASTP programs are organized at the municipal level.
- 43%** of the programs surveyed were provided by schools.
- 28%** of those surveyed are private/organized sport providers.
- 8%** of staff delivering ASTP programs have received training in the areas related to physical literacy and HIGH FIVE®.
- 50%** of respondents indicated an interest in receiving additional information on program development, recreation/physical activity programming and HIGH FIVE® Principles of Healthy Child Development.

Encouraging Teens to Get Active

The ParticipACTION Teen Challenge, sponsored by Coca-Cola Canada, and delivered provincially by SPRA, continued to enable teens to get active and to have fun in ways that mean something to them. By removing barriers and providing access to the facilities, equipment, instruction or other support they need to get active, the Challenge facilitated stronger connections to the community and fostered social interactions that help build confidence and self-esteem.

In 2012-2013, 34 Teen Physical Activity Grants were distributed in Saskatchewan, totalling \$14,565.



From the ParticipACTION Teen Challenge Wall of Inspiration - Energy in Excess

The City of Swift Current supported teens to get active by hosting a Teen Challenge event. 70 youth from Swift Current enjoyed obstacle courses, velcro jumps, bungee pulls and an inflatable twister. The youth also burnt off some summer energy with glow in the dark frisbee, XL connect 4, giant chess and dutch blitz. These teens had rosy red cheeks, increased heart rates, and were full of smiles!

- Nicole Peno, Swift Current

QUALITY RECREATION ENVIRONMENTS

SPRA is committed to the delivery of high quality, cost effective training opportunities for recreation, facility and parks operators to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to maintain quality recreation environments.

Municipal Ice Rink Program

SPRA continued to support Saskatchewan's ice arenas and curling rinks through its involvement in SaskPower's Municipal Ice Rink Program. The Program provides valuable power-saving information to help Saskatchewan municipalities make their facilities more cost efficient to operate. SaskPower contracted ICF Marbek to perform 37 arena audits on ice rinks across the Province. The audits provided communities with information on how to reduce utility costs and offered recommendations on measures and equipment that could be implemented to achieve cost savings.

DID YOU KNOW...

Those living in areas with 7 or more facilities were 32% less likely to be overweight and 26% more likely to be highly active than those who lived in areas with no facilities.³

The Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association held Facility Operator Courses across the Province which provided participants with the

knowledge and resources

necessary to improve the operation of their facilities and ensure their recreation programs are offered in safe and efficient environments.

45 Arena Level 1
Operators

35 Refrigeration
Operators

9 Pool
Operators

3. Stripe, R.E. (2003). A richer heritage: Historic Preservation in the Twenty- First Century. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press.

Training to Meet Provincial Standards

The 2013 Spring Education and Training Symposium provided 126 participants with the knowledge, skills and resources necessary to deliver quality parks and open spaces and safe, efficient recreation facilities.

SPRA partnered with the Alberta Recreation Facility Personnel Association, University of Saskatchewan, Canadian Recreation Facilities Council and the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association to provide the highest possible level of training for the municipal employees and managers responsible for keeping our parks and facilities safe. New courses were offered, including Ice Training and Painting, Tree Pruning and Tree Risk Assessment, Grant Writing, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, Risk Management Schools, Successfully Managing Your Cemetery and Ball Diamond Construction and Maintenance. All certification courses provided were in adherence to Provincial Standards.

“The instructor was very knowledgeable and covered a large amount of complex material in a clear and concise manner.”

- Arena Operator Level 2 Course Participant

“The subject matter was great to learn the complete system of pool management for my facility.”

- Provincial Pool Operators Course Participant

“The course provided very good reinforcement of documentation, policy and procedures that are in place for parks and facilities.”

- Risk Management Course Participant

Urban Parks Worker Course

This recently developed SPRA course has been offered for two years at the Spring Education and Training Symposium. The course provided participants with a study of all the features of an urban/municipal park and open space system, including the role of parks and open space, development and maintenance of horticulture assets and outdoor recreation facilities, support services and parks maintenance planning. The Urban Parks Worker Course is a course component of the Western Facility Operator Master Certification Program.

A total of 25 individuals have benefited from this course over two years.



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ADVANCING PARKS AND RECREATION

SPRA is committed to advancing the profile of parks and recreation in the Province and achieving recognition for the value of parks and recreation in your communities.

People, Plants and Pride... Growing Together

Saskatchewan communities showed us *Communities in Bloom* was in fact more than just flowers by completing projects involving beautification, heritage, and environmental awareness as part of the 2013 *Communities in Bloom* Program. With the addition of several new categories, the program has grown to 48 communities from 39 in 2012. SPRA congratulates the Town of Assiniboia for receiving a 5 Bloom rating in the 2012 International *Communities in Bloom* Challenge.



"Over the 10 years that Indian Head has been participating in *Communities In Bloom*, a remarkable thing has happened! Increased community pride, community involvement, and care of both public and private spaces has made our community shine. Decreased vandalism, a greater awareness of environmental issues, and reclamation of historical sites have been a few of the positive aspects of this program. We are thrilled with the results this program has given us!"

- Gwen Johner
Town Councillor and Cib Chair

"The *Communities in Bloom* program has not only enriched our community with beautiful landscapes, but has built a stronger spirit of what 'community' really means. Our volunteer base has grown, residents take great pride in their surroundings and we thank *Communities in Bloom* for the opportunity to be involved with such a great organization."

- Geri Kreway
Ituna Economic Development Officer

DID YOU KNOW...

Recreation contributes to improving the conditions that support mental well-being by improving self-esteem and self-image, life satisfaction levels and enhancing perceived quality of life - for individuals, families and communities.

June is Recreation & Parks Month

67 communities celebrated the return of summer programming, recognized volunteers, got residents involved in our parks and gained support for the parks and recreation sectors through *June is Recreation & Parks Month* (JRPM).

The Saskatchewan Government continued to support the initiative by recognizing *June is Recreation & Parks Month* provincially and representing the Province at the JRPM Launch Event. The Launch Event was held in Bengough on June 1 and included a Slo Pitch Tournament, Children's' Carnival and Opening Ceremonies.

\$25,000 to 53 Communities

For the third year in a row, SPRA offered the Celebration Initiative Grant to assist Ambassadors and Members with hosting events and celebrations that support the *June is Recreation & Parks Month* program. In 2013, 53 communities received up to \$500 each in funding.

Quality Parks and Open Spaces

SPRA continued to support the parks and recreation sector through its delivery of the SPRA Spring Education and Training Symposium, our involvement at the SUMA Convention and the forming of the new Parks and Opens Spaces Advisory Committee. Through these initiatives and more, SPRA is supporting and advocating for professionalism, quality outdoor facilities and valuable experiences in the parks and open spaces sector.



"The *June is Recreation & Parks Month* Initiative is a great opportunity to involve the entire community in the promotion of living an active lifestyle. Hosting the JRPM Launch Event was a perfect opportunity to highlight our local recreation programs and our Regional Park Facilities."

- Debra Ashby - Recreation Director
Bengough Parks & Recreation

WORKING TOGETHER

SPRA fostered partnerships with organizations, communities and Government organizations that share the common goal of a healthier, more physically active Saskatchewan.

Physical Activity Network of Saskatchewan

The Physical Activity Network of Saskatchewan continued to assist SPRA with the Community Initiatives Fund Physical Activity Grant Program. The pilot program supports strategic projects and initiatives that will advance the physical activity movement in Saskatchewan and increase the level of physical activity of Saskatchewan people.

Active Living For All Abilities

SPRA represented Saskatchewan on the Active Living Alliance for Canadians with a Disability (ALACD), a National organization committed to motivating and assisting Canadians with a disability, to become more physically active. SPRA promotes the All Abilities Welcome, Moving to Inclusion and the Youth Ambassador Programs in the Province. These initiatives have helped members increase their capacity to offer inclusive physical activity programs.

Saskatchewan *in motion* worked in partnership with key influencers and leaders to inspire action to help children in the Province to be more active, more often.

Highlights

- 535 schools declared *in motion*
- 339 communities are declared *in motion*
- 3rd annual Active Toy Guide was launched
- *in motion* Daily Physical Activity Video Series was developed and launched
- more than 300 Education graduates, from all three Saskatchewan universities, received *in motion* school resources
- Caronport was declared winner of the Community Challenge and is using the grand prize to help build walking trails around the perimeter of the community

2,310,473 physical activity minutes logged across 27 communities through the Community Challenge

This year marks *in motion's* 10th Anniversary and to celebrate, *in motion* has a revamped website with an Active Idea Jar App, ready to collect 10,000 great ideas to get children and youth moving. Over the past decade, Saskatchewan *in motion* has grown to become a strong, vibrant movement of thousands of champions working to increase opportunities to be active in our communities, schools and homes.

Government and Global Partners

Our relationship with Sask Sport and SaskCulture remains strong and we continue to work together on a number of Tri-Global initiatives. Our partnership with the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport continues to grow. In addition to the Ministry's continued support through the Lottery License Agreement, we worked together on projects that included the development of the After-School Time Period and the Community Rink Affordability Grant.

SUMA Partnership

A formal Partnership Agreement was signed between SPRA and the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association in May 2012. The partnership will forge strong bonds with urban governments and highlight the importance of recreation and parks in Saskatchewan.

Planning for the Future

Nationally, SPRA worked closely with the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association and the Interprovincial Sport and Recreation Committee on development of a National Recreation Agenda. SPRA was actively involved in planning the National Roundtable Summit in New Brunswick in May. A National Summit is scheduled for the fall of 2014 and a final draft of the plan will be forwarded to the Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers in early 2015.

Provincially, SPRA worked closely with the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport to develop a Provincial Recreation Framework for Action. Once completed, this policy will identify priority areas for action and provide guidance to the sector and the Ministry as we move forward.

SPRA consulted members for input into the 2014-19 SPRA Strategic Plan. Consultations with members, the Board, and staff, combined with data collected from members and from sector based research, provided a wealth of information that will create the next Plan. Alignment between these three strategies will be critical to their success and SPRA is working diligently to ensure that the needs of our members are reflected not only in the provincial strategy, but also at the National level.

A Strong Recreation Delivery System

SPRA and the Districts for Sport, Culture and Recreation strengthened their collaboration with signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOU). The MOUs and associated funding enhance recreation and parks initiatives that address the unique community and member needs in each District.



The Rivers West District for Sport, Culture & Recreation used District MOU funding to host and advertise HIGH FIVE® and QUEST workshops throughout the District. MOU funding was also utilized to provide the Facility Operator Support Program to District residents.

This funding enabled Facility Operators to take additional training and certification courses to take back to their home, community and facility.

DOLLARS AND SENSE

SPRA is committed to supporting the parks and recreation network to deliver quality recreation and parks programs and services through the provision of financial assistance opportunities.

\$2 Million for Recreation Associations

SPRA distributed \$2,060,000 to 32 Provincial Recreation Associations, as the steward for the Recreation Section of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation. With this annual funding our PRAs were able to deliver quality recreation experiences to the residents of Saskatchewan.

“Your support allows us to continue providing the training and developmental opportunities which will help our 4-H members become the leaders of tomorrow.”

- Lee Walerius
Saskatchewan 4-H Foundation

The Saskatchewan Lotteries continued to assist in the development of sport, culture and recreation programs by providing over

4.2 Million across 800 Communities through the Community Grant Program

And through the Community Fund:

- Urban Aboriginal Community Grant Program: A total of \$195,000 across six communities.
- Seven Sport, Culture and Recreation Districts: \$2,105,900.
- Northern Community and School Recreation Coordinator Program was expanded with five additional sites. 22 sites received a total of \$1,211,050.
- A commitment of approximately \$900,000 until March 2014 for the Dream Brokers Program.

“From the very positive comments received from all participants, the SRPA is expecting to see an increase in the ability of many of these parks to provide good HR services to their staff which will benefit their individual parks greatly in so many ways”

- Darlene Friesen, Saskatchewan Regional Parks Association

\$25,000 for Leadership Development

19 projects were approved as part of the Member's Initiative - Leadership Development Grant. Through the Grant, Active members built the community capacity necessary for advancement of recreation opportunities through the development of human resources.

\$4,000 to Support Métis Recreation

Two member communities with high Métis populations used the Métis Recreation Development Grant to develop recreation programming for Métis communities.

\$29,000 for First Nation Recreation

The First Nation Member's Recreation Grant assisted First Nation Active Members in developing recreational opportunities within their communities. 15 projects were approved.

53 Communities Celebrate Parks and Recreation

Through the SPRA Celebration Grant, 53 *June is Recreation & Parks Month* Ambassadors received up to \$500 to host events and parks and recreation celebrations to showcase the many benefits of parks and recreation.

Support for our Future Leaders

The SPRA Scholarship Program supported individuals pursuing careers in recreation who were enrolled in recreation and leisure programs across Saskatchewan. A total of three Scholarships were awarded: SIAST – Jessica Stephanson; University of Regina – Joseph Swarbrick; and University of Saskatchewan – Matthew Okrainec.

“By awarding me the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association Scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden which allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of school and learning. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.”

- Jessica Stephanson, 2012 SIAST Recipient of the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association Scholarship

1.65 Million For Community Rinks

The Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport distributed 1.7 million to Saskatchewan communities to support the operation of indoor ice facilities. The Ministry partnered with SPRA to deliver the grant of \$2,500 per ice surface.

- 401 were skating surfaces
- 261 were curling surfaces
- 23 facilities in First Nation Communities

\$1,655,000 distributed to 362 communities across 662 facilities.

Rinks are the centre of activity in many communities during the winter months and this grant will help ensure that rinks continue to be well-operated and well-maintained.



“The Community Rink in Red Pheasant hasn't been opened in 3 years. This grant funding provided us the opportunity to do the repairs necessary to open the facility. The rink has been very busy, hosting 25-30 kids per night. This is keeping our community active and giving the youth something to do during the evenings and on weekends.”

- Red Pheasant First Nation

IN THE KNOW

SPRA is dedicated to ensuring our members are current, connected and informed. We communicate information, trends and research to support lifelong learning and informed decision-making through resources and technologies.

Connecting You to Information

The Resource Centre and Portal continued to connect members, staff and public to resources, research and funding opportunities to enhance recreation, fitness and parks in communities.

45 communities and organizations were helped to find additional funding for their parks, fitness and recreation initiatives.

300 news stories on the Media Monitor let everyone read the headlines about parks and recreation issues and successes.

350 postings on our online job board connecting recreation job seekers with employers.

500 GPS units or pedometers were borrowed this year by Saskatchewan schools, communities and organizations. Free access to geocaching and walking program equipment encourages physical activity and the use of parks, green spaces and trails.

575 people were connected with resources, research and information on topics from arenas to volunteer recognition.

5,000 resources in the online portal supported ongoing learning with templates, tools and background research.

14,000 times information was accessed online or in print, to support informed decision making.

"Thanks for making your library catalogue available online. I teach fitness classes to our adult patients here in the Saskatoon Health Region and was impressed with the Resource Centre service and the variety of fitness music available. The music always improves my client's moods during the class."

- Marg Petty
Recreation Therapist

"Thank you so much for the use of the GPS units for our 8th Annual Wings over Wascana Nature Festival. Your Lending program is greatly appreciated."

- SPRA Member

In the Right DIRECTION

Our official magazine, DIRECTION, continued to offer issue-based cover stories and feature articles of interest to the parks and recreation sector. Articles were submitted by members and experts in the field. 2012-13 editions provided information on Making Technology Work for Parks and Recreation, Recreation in Aboriginal Communities, Parks and Open Spaces, and Recreation and the Older Adult.

News from the Field

The Media Monitor featured over 300 local and provincial parks and recreation stories to highlight the latest news, successes and issues in the field. These stories strengthen awareness and advocacy while encouraging opportunities for our communities to connect, collaborate and stay informed.

New Technologies

SPRA completed a significant upgrade to its technology system which improved functions and added new ones including social media, blogs and forums. The website was also redesigned for easier navigation and information sharing. The new services will activate conversations and feedback to facilitate sharing of resources, tips and best practices in the recreation community.

Currently have
600+
Twitter Followers



We Post an Average of 3.23 Posts per day.

Social Media

SPRA is currently active on 4 social networks:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SaskParksAndRec

Twitter: twitter.com/SaskParksandRec

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/saskatchewan-parks-and-recreation-association

YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/saskatchewanparks

Facebook Stats



Parks & Recreation Connection

E-News Update has a new look and a new name - Parks & Recreation Connection. It continues to feature up-to-date information about the programs, services, events and funding offered by SPRA. The new look and feel of the electronic newsletters not only has increased the documents visual appeal, but has also contributed to ease of reading.

A recent survey of the Communication, Information and Research Division indicated that online communications, print publications and the SPRA Resource Centre were the top three programs and services accessed within the past year.

ABORIGINAL SUPPORT

SPRA is committed to supporting the values and teachings of the First Nation and Métis people in our recreation delivery system.

Engaging the Network

SPRA drew upon the expertise of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee for recommendations and advice on how to increase opportunities for Aboriginal communities to access and provide quality recreation programs and services. The Committee met twice in 2012-13 to discuss programming and provide feedback on how SPRA can engage Aboriginal groups and meet the needs of communities in the North. This information was considered when determining which types of programs and initiatives to move forward.

DID YOU KNOW...

By 2031, it is estimated that Aboriginal people will make up between 21% and 24% of Saskatchewan's population.⁴

Everybody Gets to Play™

SPRA partnered with the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association to provide two Everybody Gets to Play™ Workshops in Saskatchewan communities.

17 participants and 15 Ambassadors Trained

The program was expanded to include a First Nation, Inuit and Métis supplement that focused on engaging Aboriginal communities and the recreational professionals serving these populations. The new supplement taught participants how to reduce barriers to recreation participation and increase awareness and understanding about core Aboriginal values, as well as traditional customs.

Developing Quality Recreation Boards

SPRA developed a manual to assist First Nation and Métis communities build quality recreation boards and committees. The Aboriginal Recreation Board Manual will provide the basics behind committee development and provide insight into how values and traditions can be sustained through culturally based recreation programs. Training opportunities will be available to First Nation communities in 2013.

Holistic Empowerment Leadership Program

SPRA is collaborating with SaskCulture and Prairie Central District to develop the Holistic Empowerment Leadership Program (HELP). HELP strives to build leadership capacity and assist First Nation and Métis communities in developing the understanding, knowledge and skills required to provide holistic recreation, culture and sport programs.

4. Statistics Canada. (2011). Population projections by Aboriginal identity in Canada: 2006 to 2031. Retrieved from: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/111207/dq111207a-eng.htm>.

58 Aboriginal Communities Visited



SPRA visited Aboriginal Communities across the Province to share information on the many programs and services we have to offer, and to encourage communities to apply for grants that support culture based recreation programming.

DID YOU KNOW...

The top five benefits of participation in sport, culture and recreational activities identified by parents were:

- 1) socializing;
- 2) exercise;
- 3) being healthy;
- 4) self-confidence; and
- 5) sportsmanship.⁵

5. Saskatchewan Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport. (2008). Saskatchewan Children and Youth Participation in Sport, Recreation and Cultural Activities: A Re-analysis of data from the 2005 Aboriginal Participation in Sport, Culture and Recreation Study. Retrieved from: <http://www.tpcs.gov.sk.ca/ParticipationSurvey>.

Training Leaders and Increasing Funding Success

SPRA held 7 Grant Writing Workshops throughout the Province, training 62 individuals in the fundamentals of a successful grant application. SPRA also hosted two Train the Trainer Workshops, equipping 18 individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to deliver Grant Writing Workshops to Saskatchewan communities. To further assist participants and facilitators in the Grant Writing process, SPRA developed a Grant Writing Workshop Manual. The manual explains step-by-step the basics behind proper proposal writing and provides information on Community Profiles, Community Assets, Program Planning, Outcome Based Program Evaluation and other information needed for success.



SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Summarized Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS

	2013	2012
Cash	\$ 138,079	\$ 159,262
Short-term investments	1,476,873	1,326,000
Accounts receivable	188,052	179,691
GST receivable	9,795	10,924
Prepaid and other	23,215	22,604
Capital assets	83,950	104,143
Long-term investments	<u>730,908</u>	<u>696,009</u>
	<u>\$ 2,650,872</u>	<u>\$ 2,498,633</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities		
Accounts and adjudication payable	\$ 233,315	\$229,992
Post retirement benefits payable	39,476	35,189
Grants payable to funders	117,925	35,089
Deferred contributions and unearned membership revenues	<u>742,590</u>	<u>845,777</u>
	<u>\$1,133,306</u>	<u>\$1,146,047</u>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	786,658	656,577
Restricted	<u>730,908</u>	<u>696,009</u>
	<u>1,517,566</u>	<u>1,352,586</u>
	<u>\$2,650,872</u>	<u>\$2,498,633</u>

Summarized Statement of Operations

REVENUES

	2013	2012
Operations	\$ 3,269,683	\$ 3,181,382
Program initiatives	2,254,197	630,019
<i>in motion</i>	<u>1,550,298</u>	<u>1,714,223</u>
	<u>7,074,178</u>	<u>5,525,624</u>

EXPENSES

Operations	\$3,139,602	3,051,099
Program initiatives	2,239,962	617,773
<i>in motion</i>	<u>1,529,634</u>	<u>1,716,958</u>
	<u>6,909,198</u>	<u>5,385,830</u>

NET REVENUES (EXPENSES)

	<u>\$164,980</u>	<u>\$ 139,794</u>
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Detailed financial statements are available to members on request.

To the Board and Directors of Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association Inc.

The accompanying summarized statement of financial position and statement of operations are derived from the audited financial statements of Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association Inc. as at June 30, 2013 and for the year then ended. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated September 25, 2013. Those financial statements, and the summary financial statements, do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on those financial statements.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association Inc.

Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial statements in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures which were concluded in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standards (CAS) 810, "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements."

Opinion

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association for the year ended June 30, 2013 are a fair summary of those financial statements, in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations.

Mintz & Wallace
Chartered Accountants

Regina, Saskatchewan
September 25, 2013

SPRA Funded Partners

Provincial Recreation Associations

- Air Cadet League of Canada, Saskatchewan Provincial Committee
- Army Cadet League of Canada - Saskatchewan
- Association of Saskatchewan Urban Parks and Conservation Agencies Inc.
- Battleford's Boys and Girls Club Inc.
- Boys and Girls Club of Yorkton, Inc.
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Saskatoon
- Canadian Mental Health Association
 - Saskatchewan Division
- Canadian National Institute for the Blind
 - Saskatchewan Division
- Canadian Red Cross Society - Saskatchewan Division
- Canadian Ski Patrol System - Saskatchewan Division
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Canada
 - Saskatchewan Provincial Council
- Girl Guides of Canada, Saskatchewan Council
- Harvest Community
- Lifesaving Society of Canada
 - Saskatchewan Branch
- Navy League of Canada - Saskatchewan Division
- Saskatchewan 4-H Council
- Saskatchewan All Terrain Vehicle Association
- Saskatchewan Abilities Council Inc.
- Saskatchewan Association for Community Living
- Saskatchewan Association of Recreation Professionals
- Saskatchewan Camping Association
- Saskatchewan Outdoor and Environmental Education Association
- Saskatchewan Physical Education Association
- Saskatchewan Regional Parks Association
- Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism
- Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association
- Saskatchewan Square and Round Dance Federation
- Saskatchewan Trails Association
- Saskatchewan Underwater Council Incorporated
- Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation
- Scouts Canada, Saskatchewan Provincial Council
- St. John Council for Saskatchewan Properties

Sport, Culture and Recreation Districts

- Lakeland District for Sport, Culture & Recreation
- Parkland Valley Sport, Culture & Recreation District
- Prairie Central District for Sport, Culture and Recreation
- Northern Sport, Culture & Recreation District
- ReginaSport District
- Rivers West District for Sport, Culture & Recreation
- Southeast Connection Sport, Culture & Recreation District
- South West District for Culture, Recreation & Sport
- Saskatoon Sport District



DID YOU KNOW...

Recreation contributes to the development of future capacity. Childhood recreation activity is associated with adult volunteering and community work.⁶

6. Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA). (1997). The Benefits Catalogue. Ottawa: CPRA and Health Canada.

Recreation and parks attract tourism and business opportunities while creating employment opportunities for local residents.

recreation

Parks and green space encourage socialization, thereby strengthening community relationships. The sense of belonging resulting from this interaction may help dissipate the feeling of isolation often experienced by marginalized groups and older adults.

You can
learn more
about a man
in an hour of
play
than in an
lifetime of
conversation
- Plato

We don't quit playing
because we grow old,
we grow old because
we quit playing.
- Oliver Wendell Holmes

Recreation and Parks are economic generators in your community
Recreation, sports and fitness improve work performance through increased productivity, decreased absenteeism, decreased staff turnover and reduced 'on the job' accidents.

Parks offer safe, accessible and low/no cost opportunities for recreation and active living.

People who cannot find time for
recreation are obliged sooner or
later to find time for illness
- John Wanamaker

Recreation improves self-esteem and self-image, life satisfaction levels and enhances perceived quality of life.

Parks, trails and pathways
save energy and protect
air quality by encouraging
active transportation.



Recreation is an ideal antidote to the build up of otherwise negative tension, anger and adrenalin.

parks and open spaces

If bread is the first
necessity of life,
recreation is a close
second
- Edward Bellamy

Recreation improves work performance through increased productivity, decreased absenteeism, decreased staff turnover and reduced 'on the job' accidents.

Recreation provides
access to **role
models**
and leads to the
adoption of positive
life choices.

In our leisure we reveal
what kind of people we are
- Ovid

Recreation and parks
attract tourism and
business opportunities

Supported by:
**Saskatchewan
LOTTERIES**



RUN, JUMP, THROW, SWIM - RECREATE.