



Saskatchewan
Parks and Recreation
Association



LEARNING

SHARING

GROWING

..... **2015-16 ANNUAL REPORT**



ABOUT US



VISION AND MISSION

SPRA is the recognized leader for the wellbeing of people and communities through recreation. Our mission is to provide leadership, facilitation, programs and services to enhance the impact of recreation for the quality of life in Saskatchewan.



ROLES AND VALUES

Our roles include Training, Education, Public Relations, Funding, Information Management, Research and Networking. SPRA values Volunteerism, Professionalism, Collaboration, Accountability, Inclusivity and Community Engagement.



OUR MEMBERS

Our members are part of a parks and recreation network across Saskatchewan and include communities and municipalities, facility operators, sport and recreation clubs and associations, commercial organizations, youth organizations, parks practitioners, Tribal Councils, Métis Regions and Districts for Sport, Culture and Recreation.

A MESSAGE FROM

OUR PRESIDENT AND CEO

The past year has been a very successful one for SPRA. From increased registration numbers in our training programs to a substantial increase in the use of our electronic communications, we have been able to engage more members, more often. Feedback from the Mid-term Strategic Plan Evaluation Survey indicates that a large majority of our members are supportive of the Plan and the actions we are taking to implement it.

We have been aggressively working to increase the profile of recreation in the province and it is apparent that we need to continue our efforts to position the sector as the solution to some of the 'wicked problems' facing our society.

A wicked problem is 'a social or cultural problem that is difficult or impossible to solve for a number of reasons, including incomplete or contradictory knowledge, the number of people and opinions involved and the interconnected nature of the problem with other problems.'

Research has shown us that recreation services can help address many of the wicked problems being faced in Saskatchewan, including those currently being experienced in the health, social services and justice sectors. We have the tools to help, but our potential partners don't necessarily know how to use them or in many instances, that they even exist.

“

SPRA has remained relevant and brings forward needed services for the membership. SPRA is recognized by the membership as a valuable link to innovation and trends in sport, culture and recreation. - SPRA Strategic Plan Mid-Term Evaluation

”

Our challenge in the coming year will be to increase awareness of the value recreation services can provide in meeting some of the needs of these other sectors. Using the SPRA Strategic Plan and the Framework

for Recreation in Canada as a guide, we will continue to reach out to other sectors, positioning recreation as viable and necessary to the development of their programs and services. Working closely with our existing government partners, we will increase our efforts to become an equal partner in human services dialogues and an integral part of the government solution to a growing province.

The 2016 *Recreation and the Quality of Life in Saskatchewan* survey found recreation and access to quality recreation services are considered by Saskatchewan residents to be one of the top major contributors to their quality of life. Armed with Saskatchewan centric data, this survey provides valuable evidence that shows how important recreation is to community, individual and family wellbeing - while demonstrating how increased support and investment in recreation services is a strategic approach that will reap huge dividends in the future.

Our partnership with the Sport, Culture and Recreation Districts on the Recreation Board Development initiative is building momentum by supporting the development of long term community based recreation plans and strategies. We will build a strong foundation that future generations can use to move forward.

Through initiatives such as the First Nation Fitness Certification Program and our Cultural Diversity training opportunities, we will continue to focus our efforts on developing services and programs to assist our members in providing recreation for new Canadians and those individuals that are facing accessibility challenges.

SPRA is a strong, member oriented organization committed to providing high quality programs and services that meet the needs of our members. We are a progressive and continually evolving organization that is consistently at the forefront in the development of programs and services to meet emerging trends and sector needs. We are committed to serving our members as we learn, share and grow together.

Dawna Nielson, SPRA President
Norm Campbell, SPRA CEO

TRAINING

RECREATION ENVIRONMENTS

SPRA delivers high quality, cost effective training opportunities for recreation, facility and parks operators to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to maintain safe, quality recreation environments.

FACILITY MANAGEMENT

SPRA continued to train, educate and certify facility operators by offering the Arena Operators Level 1 Course (Ice Installation and Ice Maintenance) and the Arena Operators Level 2 Course (Refrigeration Operations).



participants certified in
Arena Operators Level 1



participants certified in
Arena Operators Level 2

This year, log books were made available for purchase so that communities could keep records to manage risk management issues like ice thickness, refrigeration operations and ice resurfacer operations.

“

The Arena Operators Course has really helped the community in developing a more efficiently run arena. The knowledge gained has enabled us to modify the operating procedures and keep more detailed records of daily, weekly and monthly maintenance tasks. - Arena Operators Course Participant

”

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES TRAINING

A variety of parks related training courses were offered at the SPRA Spring Education and Training Symposium including Tree Identification and Pruning, Mosquito and Biting Fly Applicators, and Cemeterian Operations and Management. SPRA is in the process of updating the Urban Parks Worker Course to better meet the needs of the Saskatchewan parks sector. The new Saskatchewan Parks Worker Course will be launched in 2017.

“

After attending the Parks Stream at the SPRA Spring Symposium, I feel confident in my abilities to identify, maintain and treat different trees in our community.

- Spring Symposium Participant

”

SPRING EDUCATION AND TRAINING SYMPOSIUM

The 2016 Spring Education and Training Symposium provided 115 participants with the knowledge, skills and resources necessary to develop quality parks and open spaces and operate safe, efficient recreation facilities. In response to member needs and industry trends, new courses were introduced in 2016 including Energy Management for Recreation Facilities, Cemeterian Management, Mosquito and Fly Biting Insects Applications and Power Mobile Equipment Theory. Many of the courses provided were also component courses of the Western Facility Operator Master Certification Program.

“

The Symposium was fantastic! I would recommend it as a 'must' to all new Recreation Directors!

- Spring Symposium Participant

”

“

The Symposium is very valuable for operators like myself to network with other people in my field of employment and to have knowledgeable instructors on hand to offer valuable information for attendees.

- Spring Symposium Participant

”

ENERGY MANAGEMENT

SaskPower and SPRA continue to work together to provide communities with solutions to reduce energy costs. At the 2016 Spring Education and Training Symposium SaskPower announced an incentive program to assist communities in upgrading their energy efficiencies capabilities by implementing a rebate program. SPRA is also partnering with Curl Saskatchewan to develop an energy management component for curling rinks that will be included in the Level 1 Technical Ice Makers Course.

PLAYGROUND INSPECTOR CERTIFICATION COURSE

A Playground Inspector Certification Course was held November 3-6, 2015 with 10 participants attending and receiving certification. This course helped participants understand CAN/CSA Z614 'Children's Playspaces and Equipment' standards and learn how to conduct a hands-on inspection and audit of playspaces - key components in quality assurance and safety.



TRAINING

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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

HIGH FIVE®

Through HIGH FIVE®, quality assurance training was delivered to program leaders and supervisors - which strengthened recreational programming for Saskatchewan youth ages 6 to 12.

33 Principles of Healthy Child Development workshops held, with **434** individuals trained

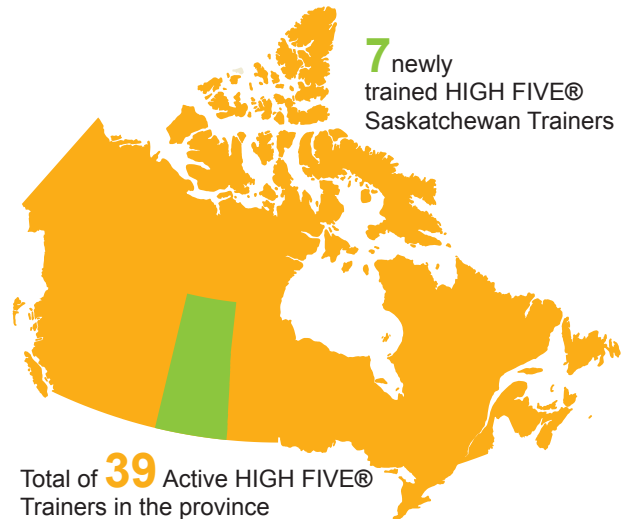
6 QUEST 2 workshops held, with **46** new QUEST 2 Assessors trained

16 individuals trained in HIGH FIVE® Sport

“

Knowledgeable, fun and very interactive. The HIGH FIVE® course was full of material that was interesting and informative. I felt comfortable to ask questions and was provided with answers to help understand. – PHCD Participant

”



95%

of PHCD participants indicated that the training has given them more confidence to work with children

100%

of QUEST 2 participants indicated that training provided them with valuable knowledge and resources to work with children

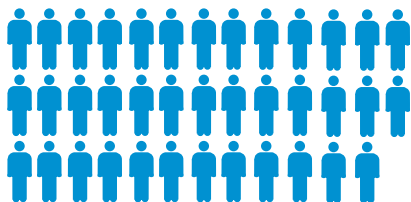
TAKE THE LEAD!®

Take the Lead!® continued to foster leadership skills in youth ages 11-14. Utilizing Take the Lead! resources and training, youth can practice leading active play opportunities, thus providing more physical activity opportunities for their peers. These same youth can later draw upon these skills as they reinvest in our communities.

28 confirmed active Take the Lead! sites in 2015-2016 school year, reaching approximately

560 Youth Leaders and over **3,000** younger students

38 New Take the Lead Leaders!



100% of Leadership Coaches surveyed agree that Take the Lead! improves youth's leadership skills and allows youth to be positive role models

100% of Leadership Coaches feel that Take the Lead! meets outcomes in the Physical Education curriculum, with **90%** agreeing it meets outcomes in Health Education curriculum

“

Take the Lead® has changed my life by helping me be a better role model. It gets me emotionally and physically better. - Student

”

“

It supports positive mental health at school, develops positive leadership skills, fosters confidence, improved self-esteem and increased physical activity. - Leadership Coach

”

PLAY LEADERSHIP

In 2015, SPRA revised the Play Leadership training curriculum and administration, to better serve the needs of trainers and user groups. This one-day course is now provided as a supplemental training to participants that have taken HIGH FIVE Principles of Healthy Child Development. Play Leadership training continues to provide participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to plan and coordinate safe, accessible and enjoyable play opportunities for children.

A total of **6** Play Leadership workshops were held



TRAINING

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

SPRA provides 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.

FOREVER...IN MOTION

Forever...in motion is a program which improves and maintains the health of older adults living in the community through physical activity and education. **Forever...in motion** was developed by the Saskatoon Health Region and provincially implemented by SPRA.

Forever...in motion groups are led by peer volunteer leaders or staff who have taken the **Forever...in motion** Leader training. This training includes information on how to lead safe exercise programs for older adults, chronic conditions and preventing falls, as well as lots of practical hands-on experience.



84 Forever...in motion Leaders trained!

SASKFIT

SaskFit is Saskatchewan's Premier Fitness and Health Conference. The 2015 SaskFit Conference brought together a unique team of presenters for an outstanding weekend of workshops, lectures and special events that inspired, educated and motivated Fitness Leaders! The Conference continued to provide Fitness Leaders with quality professional development, education and training.



200 participants attended SaskFit

“

I could not tie my shoes before and now I can...I can walk to church now...my health is better.

– Forever...in motion Participant

”

“

I always enjoy attending SaskFit - you can always learn a new way to jazz up an old program or be introduced to the newest trends in the fitness industry.

- SaskFit Participant 2015

”

FITNESS LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Since 1985, the SPRA Fitness Division has certified hundreds of dedicated Fitness Leaders to instruct a variety of fitness classes in facilities throughout Saskatchewan. SPRA Certification gives Fitness Leaders national recognition through the National Fitness Leadership Alliance (NFLA) which ensures leading practice, career portability and professional recognition for fitness certification across Canada.

Leaders were trained in Exercise Theory, Group Exercise, Aquatic Exercise and Exercise for Older Adults, according to NFLA performance standards.

Participants per Course



Older Adult

76



Group Exercise

57



Cycle

11



Theory

71



Aquatic

25

“

Often small communities are limited to the amount of programs we can provide but having a fitness leader in our community gives us the opportunity to offer a variety of fitness classes for the whole community to enjoy.

- Recreation Director, Town of Leader

”

391

certified Fitness Leaders working in the province to educate people to adopt a healthy, active lifestyle

FIRST NATION FITNESS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

SPRA has entered into an agreement with Health Canada, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, to focus on First Nations' physical activity needs and develop a 'First Nation Fitness Certification' model. The model will result in a framework for the administration, implementation, delivery and evaluation of a First Nation Certification within the existing SPRA Fitness Leadership Certification Program.



EDUCATION

SPRA is committed to providing individuals with the education and skills necessary to excel as leaders in the recreation and parks field.

RECREATION BOARD DEVELOPMENT

SPRA developed a Provincial Recreation Board Development Manual for communities looking to establish a Recreation Board, or revamp an existing Board. SPRA Field Consultants and District staff work together to assist communities through the process. Facilitation teams have been formed and they are currently assisting communities in Recreation Board Development throughout the province. Workshops are also available that support the development of Recreation Boards within First Nation communities.

“

This is a really informative workshop! It gave me more of an understanding of the planning needed and made the tools available to get the community to where you want it to be. - Five Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council

”

FUNDRAISING WORKSHOPS

SPRA engaged DCG Philanthropic Services Inc. to deliver two fundraising workshops, in Swift Current and Warman, in May 2016.

2 workshops were held with **22** participants.

Workshops focused on the structuring and implementation of small scale capital campaigns for great success.

SPRA CONFERENCE

The 2015 SPRA Conference was developed specifically for recreation practitioners, parks and facility operators and volunteers who are interested in networking and learning the latest information and trends in the parks and recreation field. The Conference, themed *Having Fun is Still Serious Business*, featured inspiring presenters, informative sessions, a Trade Show and entertaining social events.

183 delegates attended the Conference in Yorkton

RECEXCEL

RecExcel (formerly the Service Excellence Program) continued to help municipalities and communities measure their competencies and in turn, suggests relevant parks and recreation best practices that will help them achieve their strategic goals in the areas of Programs, Parks, Facilities, Community Building and Leadership Management. Communities involved in the RecExcel program include Prince Albert, Melfort, Estevan, Melville and Kindersley.

“

RecExcel has been instrumental in gauging where our community sits when it comes to recreation and parks. The tools and concepts provided through RecExcel will greatly assist in our Master Planning efforts moving forward. - City of Prince Albert

”

RESEARCH

SPRA conducts research in the field so that recreation practitioners can better understand the impact of their programs, justify future investments and build the competencies they need in order to meet professional standards.

AFTER-SCHOOL TIME PERIOD

SPRA has been actively engaged in the After-School Time Period (ASTP) initiative through advocacy, research and the development of resources and tools. Recognizing the impact communities, municipalities and schools have on providing quality ASTP opportunities for children and youth, SPRA offers training and education across the province to enhance the quality of ASTP programs.



Funding received from the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport to support the Saskatchewan After-School Time Period website - providing easily accessible tools, resources and training



Training in HIGH FIVE® Principles of Healthy Child Development and QUEST 2 was provided to the ASTP sector at low cost, resulting in an increase qualified leaders and providers

QUALITY OF LIFE RESEARCH

The *Recreation and the Quality of Life in Saskatchewan* survey established a baseline of provincial research that captures public perceptions on the contributions that parks and recreation make towards community vibrancy and quality of life in Saskatchewan. It forms the foundation for long-term research that will continue to demonstrate the benefits of the recreation sector in Saskatchewan. The survey results have been used to advocate for the sector in the recent Federal and Provincial elections and will continue to be of use to our members and partners in their own advocacy efforts.

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

SPRA continued to play a lead role in the development of strategies and initiatives in support of the *2015 Framework for Recreation in Canada: Pathways to Wellbeing*.

A number of tools have been developed for communities to use to help them in their efforts to use the Framework at the local level. We are in the process of developing a Framework for Recreation in Canada Provincial Engagement Strategy to further support implementation of the Framework in Saskatchewan. SPRA has put together an Engagement Team to gain their perspective and develop long term, sustainable processes and strategies that will engage Saskatchewan communities, SPRA members, decision-makers and provincial and local governments, and get them using the Framework to support their own work.

SPRA and the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport are also working together and will host a Framework For Recreation in Canada National Gathering in Saskatchewan, in the spring of 2018. Although plans are still in the preliminary stages, the Gathering will bring together individuals, groups, universities and municipalities from across the country to share information, resources, strategies and the actions they have taken to support the Framework.



PUBLIC RELATIONS

SPRA works to advance the profile of parks and recreation in the province and achieve recognition for the value of parks and recreation in your communities.

JUNE IS RECREATION & PARKS MONTH

Recreation service providers and park authorities throughout the country continued to utilize June to celebrate the return of summer programming, gather their communities together, recognize volunteers, get residents involved in fun outdoor physical activities, and gain support for the parks and recreation sectors.



Our 2016 Celebration of June is Recreation & Parks Month was launched on June 4th, in partnership with the Strasbourg Recreation Board. The event celebrated the grand opening of the Jubilee Splash Park in Strasbourg and featured a community BBQ, children's activities and musical entertainment. Through an official Proclamation, the Government of Saskatchewan continued to support the June is Recreation & Parks Month initiative.

200+ people attended the launch event!

COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM

SPRA continued to assist Saskatchewan communities in building community capacity and pride in the areas of:



Tidiness



Environmental Action



Heritage Conservation



Urban Forestry



Landscapes



Floral Displays

Total of **43** communities registered in Saskatchewan Communities in Bloom

Total of **6** Saskatchewan communities competed in the National Communities in Bloom program

In 2015, the communities of **Indian Head** and **Kinistino**, Saskatchewan were announced as National Winners of Communities in Bloom!

“

Through Communities in Bloom, I have seen respect and pride grow in our whole community, including youth that are now assisting with beautification up and down the Main Street. – Craik Communities in Bloom

”

RECREATION WORKS!

SPRA continued to promote the value of parks and recreation through its *Recreation Works* campaign. The campaign included the development of *Recreation Works* posters and videos. The new posters featured facts from the recent Quality of Life Survey, which showcased the value of parks and recreation to Saskatchewan residents.



The four new videos highlighted how programs like Take the Lead! make a difference in the lives of young people. These videos show real kids from schools in Saskatchewan, describing in their own words what Take the Lead! means to them.

SPRA also ensured recreation and parks remained on the political agenda by developing and distributing a brochure, *Recreation Works For Saskatchewan*, to provincial election candidates. The brochure outlined priorities in the recreation field, questions for candidates and opportunities for action.

PUBLIC RELATIONS STRATEGY

The Recreation Sector Public Relations Strategy was launched in 2015-2016 and informed the development of SPRA's communications, advocacy and marketing efforts throughout the fiscal year. Examples of the Strategy in action include: the *Recreation Works* advertising campaign, our advancement of the Recreation Agenda during the 2016 Provincial Election, the launch of our *Recreation and the Quality of Life in Saskatchewan* survey, and our continued promotion of the CPRA Professional Development Certification program.

SPRA AWARDS PROGRAM

SPRA continued to pay tribute to individuals and communities who have made outstanding and extraordinary contributions to the parks and recreation movement in Saskatchewan through its annual Awards Program. Recipients included:

- Award of Merit – Paul McGonigal, City of Warman
- Volunteer of the Year Award – Adam Fetsch, City of Yorkton
- Facility Operations Award – Don Wolfe, City of Lloydminster
- Cecil Nobes Facility Award of Excellence – Foam Lake Water Park
- Fitness Leadership Award – Rachele Fuller



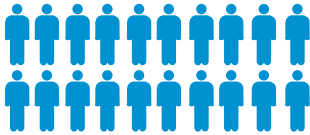
Funding

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

JUNE IS RECREATION & PARKS MONTH CELEBRATION GRANT

Through this grant, JRPM Ambassadors and SPRA Members hosted recreation and community events across the province during the month of June.

20 SPRA Members



Received up to \$500 each for a total of

= **\$10,000**

COMMUNITY CULTURAL DIVERSITY INCLUSION GRANT

The newly developed Community Cultural Diversity Inclusion Grant assisted members in developing new recreation programs, events, or enhancing existing recreation opportunities to target the diverse population within the members' community. For the purposes of this grant, diverse population was defined as New Canadians, First Nations, Métis and cultural minorities.

\$4,485 distributed across **8** projects

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Through this grant, SPRA helped develop community capacity by facilitating leadership opportunities to ensure recreation leaders were available to deliver quality recreational programs in the community.

\$42,736 distributed across **36** training opportunities

“

Through the training that was made possible by this Grant, we are now able to provide a better recreation experience to our community as our staff have more certifications and feel more confident in their abilities.

- City of Melville

”

FIRST NATIONS MEMBER'S RECREATION GRANT

This grant was able to assist in the development of recreation opportunities for the First Nation people of Saskatchewan.

\$32,500 distributed across **19** projects

“

The activity got our youth active after school and on weekends instead of them getting in trouble in the community – James Smith Cree Nation

”

MÉTIS RECREATION DEVELOPMENT GRANT

A total of **\$4,000** was distributed through this grant for the development of recreation opportunities for Métis people in Saskatchewan.

“

Keeping our northern youth active is important for our community and the benefits of promoting healthy lifestyle and wellness are perfect alternatives to drugs and alcohol.” - Apitokosan Youth Soccer

”


PARTICIPATION TEEN CHALLENGE

SPRA is proud to be the Provincial Coordinator of the ParticipACTION Teen Challenge in Saskatchewan. The Teen Challenge helps more teens get involved by reducing barriers to getting active through physical activity grants of up to \$500.

3,500 teens throughout Saskatchewan participated in Teen Challenge events/programs

64 approved funding requests to **46** different registered Community Organizations

93 new Community Organizations registered in 2015-2016 for the Teen Challenge

250%  in funding requests from 2014

“

This program keeps our youth engaged in sports and out of trouble, meanwhile promoting healthy lifestyles and choices.

- Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation

”

FOREVER...IN MOTION GRANT

A total of **\$15,000** was distributed to **13** communities for the development and implementation of **Forever...in motion** programming in their community.



Funding

ANNUAL FUNDING

SPRA distributed **\$2,247,261** to **32** Provincial Recreation Associations (PRAs), as the steward for the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation. The purpose of this funding is to support the development of effective and efficient volunteer recreation organizations. These organizations play a large role in the delivery of recreation programming across Saskatchewan. SPRA is actively working with all Provincial Recreation Associations in helping to build organizational capacity to move towards a three year funding model.

“

I want to thank SPRA and Saskatchewan Lotteries for their ongoing support of our efforts to include people of diverse abilities in recreation. - Saskatchewan Association of Community Living

”

“

Our vision is to make the Navy League a place where there are no social or economic barriers for children to join. Without this funding our junior program simply wouldn't be able to continue functioning. - Navy League of Canada Saskatchewan Division

”

COMMUNITY RINK AFFORDABILITY GRANT

The Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport continued to support the operation of indoor ice facilities through the Community Rink Affordability Grant. The Ministry partnered with SPRA to deliver the grant of \$2,500 per ice surface.



387 Skating surfaces



246 Curling surfaces



18 Facilities in First Nation communities

“

The Community Rink Affordability Grant helps us with the cost of utility payments. An often overlooked but critical component to our operations. With your assistance we are creating opportunities for recreation, sport, personal growth, self-expression and learning. Thank you! - Town of Indian Head

”

\$1,582,500 distributed to **372** communities across **651** facilities

COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

The Saskatchewan Lotteries continued to assist in the development of sport, culture and recreation programs through the Community Grant Program.

\$500,793



across 800+ communities

\$2,233,700 distributed across **7** Sport, Culture and Recreation Districts

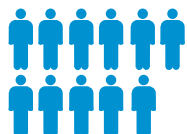
The Northern Community & School Recreation Coordinator Program continued to improve the quality of life for northern Saskatchewan residents by providing community-based sport, culture and recreation programs after school, in the evenings and on weekends.

22 coordinators working at **27** different sites

The Northern Sport, Culture & Recreation District received \$1,321,950 to deliver this program in 2015-16.

The Dream Brokers Program helped connect less fortunate children with sport, culture and recreation opportunities using local elementary schools as the hub for contact and facilitation. The Dream Brokers Program received \$1,045,200 in 2015-16.

11 Dream Brokers



18 Schools



+

=

2,400
children
and families
assisted

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN)

received **\$172,200** to develop sport, culture and recreation initiatives within First Nation communities across Saskatchewan.

GRANT AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES GUIDE

The SPRA Grant and Funding Opportunities Guide 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.

The Guide provided **160+** alternative sources of grants and funding!



INFORMATION


MANAGEMENT

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

SOCIAL MEDIA

Our social media presence continues to grow and we are experiencing more user engagement than ever before on Facebook and Twitter. Our ongoing Facebook promotions have increased awareness of our grants and funding opportunities, and the programs and services that SPRA offers.

3,141  on Facebook
a 86%  from 2014-2015

2,665 Followers on Twitter
a 29%  from 2014-2015

In 2015-2016, our website received:

68,228
Sessions

32,387
Users

202,249
Page Views



PARKS & RECREATION CONNECTION

With more than **1,300** subscribers, our official newsletter, *Parks & Recreation Connection*, continues to be a valued source of information on trends and issues affecting the recreation sector in Saskatchewan.

This year, we sent out **44** issues of Parks & Recreation Connection to readers across Saskatchewan.

DIRECTION

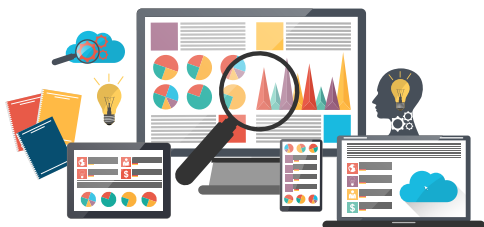
Our official magazine, DIRECTION, continued to offer issue-based cover stories and feature articles of interest to the parks and recreation sector. Articles were submitted by members and experts in the field. Two of the 4 editions mirrored the goals of the National Recreation Framework: Connecting with Nature and Active Living. December 2015 was our anniversary edition and June 2015 focused on Outdoor Adventure.

MEDIA MONITOR

The Media Monitor featured over **500** 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.

RESOURCE CENTRE

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



700 resources loaned

80+ new resources added to keep our borrowers current and in the know

500 questions answered - from information on funding for a new playground or where to find programming support to information on salaries in the recreation sector

“Thanks so much for the information on grants! We greatly appreciate it!”
- Stockholm Minor Ball

“I would like to thank you for the opportunity to borrow the pedometer kits. We use them as a fun way to get people kick started on getting active.”
- Delphine Gustilov, Government of Saskatchewan

“Thank you for providing access to front line healthcare providers for free resources that focus on improving the health of our seniors in Saskatchewan. Keep up the good work!”
- Recreation Therapist, Saskatoon Health Region

JOB BOARD

Our online job board continued to connect job seekers and organizations with employment opportunities in the parks and recreation sector. Recent improvements to the job board have made it easier to find and submit job postings. This service helps build capacity and sustainability within the recreation field in Saskatchewan.



NETWORKING

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

MINISTRY OF PARKS, CULTURE AND SPORT

SPRA has an excellent working relationship with the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport and actively seeks out opportunities on which to partner. As the number of these joint ventures increases, our relationship with the Ministry continues to grow and strengthen.

The Lottery License Agreement, signed between the Government of Saskatchewan and the three Globals: SPRA, Sask Sport and SaskCulture, is in its second year of a five-year term and is a model of government and non government agency cooperation that is envied across the country. Working together with the Ministry, our Global partners and Saskatchewan Lotteries, we have been able to offer programs and services that have provided significant benefits to our members and the general public.

In 2015-16, the Ministry provided over \$1.5 million for the Community Rink Affordability Grant - to support communities in the operations of their community ice surfaces. The Ministry partnered with SPRA and through the use of many of SPRA's existing systems and communication processes, we were able to distribute funds to communities in an effective and efficient manner.

SPRA has also partnered with the Ministry to further enhance the After-School Time Period network in Saskatchewan. A new online Saskatchewan ASTP website is in development. The site will provide an avenue for knowledge dissemination of best practices relevant to Saskatchewan After-School Time Period Providers, and will foster quality programs throughout the province.

SASKCULTURE AND SASK SPORT

Our relationship with our two Global partners, Sask Sport and SaskCulture, remains strong. Joint ventures including the Community Grant Program Initiative, Northern Community School Program, support to the Sport, Culture and Recreation Districts, RespectED and the Dream Brokers Program - have assisted communities, groups and individuals across the province in their recreation, sport and cultural endeavors. By working together, sharing information and finding ways to increase our reach, we continue to expand and strengthen recreation, sport and culture in the province.

CANADIAN PARKS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION

In 2015, the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association Professional Development Certification (CPRA PDC) program was officially launched across Canada. This online training initiative provides continued education and training for parks and recreation practitioners. Within Saskatchewan, SPRA initiated a PDC Advisory Committee to support and advise the CPRA PDC initiative within the province. The Committee includes six SPRA Members and one SPRA Staff Member. In 2015-16, a total of four Saskatchewan recreation practitioners became involved in this initiative, and they are all currently working towards their Certification within the program.

SPRA continues to play an active role on the CPRA Board and in May 2016, SPRA President Dawna Nielson was elected to the Board and former SPRA President, Mike Powell, was elected as CPRA President.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Members and experts from across the field serve on a number of SPRA Committees. We rely on their recommendations and advice to guide our programs, services and funding initiatives. Committees include: Facility Advisory, Fitness Advisory, Parks and Open Space, Awards, Aboriginal Advisory, Recreation Section Review and the Member's Initiative Grant Adjudication Committee.

COMMUNITY VISITATIONS



50 Villages
80 Towns
12 Cities
18 First Nations
17 Rural Municipalities
13 Regional Parks



“

SPRA Field Consultants are very good at checking in to see if we need anything and how things are going in our community.

– Member Feedback from Mid-Term Strategic Plan Review

”

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

SPRA is viewed as the 'provincial resource' for parks and recreation knowledge. This expertise and consultation supported trail, conservation and park development by working in partnership with organizations such as the Saskatchewan Trails Association, the Association of Saskatchewan Urban Park and Conservation Agencies, the Saskatchewan Regional Parks Association, the Trans Canada Trail and the Government of Saskatchewan, Ministry of Environment.



SUMMARIZED

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Summarized Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS

	2016	2015
Cash	\$ 80,763	\$ 227,676
Investments	1,241,796	1,113,800
Accounts receivable	47,944	169,727
GST receivable	2,596	6,842
Prepaid expenses	125,657	122,918
Capital assets	37,310	62,356
Restricted fund investments	<u>582,426</u>	<u>549,859</u>
	<u>\$ 2,118,492</u>	<u>\$ 2,253,178</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities		
Accounts and adjudication payable	\$ 127,602	\$ 338,989
Post retirement benefits payable	59,333	58,446
Grants payable to funders	-	25,209
Deferred contributions and unearned membership revenues	<u>239,171</u>	<u>173,070</u>
	<u>\$ 426,106</u>	<u>\$ 595,714</u>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	1,109,960	1,107,605
Restricted	<u>582,426</u>	<u>549,859</u>
	<u>1,692,386</u>	<u>1,657,464</u>
	<u>\$ 2,118,492</u>	<u>\$ 2,253,178</u>

Summarized Statement of Operations

REVENUES

	2016	2015
Operations	\$ 3,527,931	\$ 3,424,853
Program initiatives	1,918,826	2,243,590
<i>in motion</i>	-	711,863
	<u>5,446,757</u>	<u>6,380,306</u>

EXPENSES

Operations	\$ 3,390,577	3,307,843
Program initiatives	2,021,259	2,236,253
<i>in motion</i>	-	977,149
	<u>5,411,836</u>	<u>6,521,245</u>

NET REVENUES (EXPENSES)

	<u>\$ 34,921</u>	<u>\$ (140,939)</u>
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Detailed financial statements are available to members on request.

To the 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, 2016 and for the year then ended. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated September 22, 2016. 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 conducted 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 Inc. for the year ended June 30, 2016 are a fair summary of those financial statements, in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

MWCLLP Chartered Professional Accountants
REGINA, Saskatchewan
September 22, 2016

SPRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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

Back Row: Coralie Beuckert - Director at Large, Ken Ottenbreit - Director for Cities, Jaime Helgason - Director for Towns

Front Row: Guylaine Green - Director at Large, Dawna Nielson - President, Clive Craig - Director for Villages, TJ Biemans - Director for the North

Not Pictured: Dylan Czarnecki - Director at Large

Through an agreement with the Government of Saskatchewan, proceeds from Saskatchewan Lotteries are dedicated to sport, culture and recreation organizations to benefit communities.



Encouraging healthy lifestyles is rated to be the most important community benefit in terms of indoor recreation facilities and organized recreation programs.

recreation

82.4% say someone in their household has visited or used one of these outdoor recreation areas, parks, playgrounds or paths in the last 12 months.

79.7% of people in Saskatchewan agree that Green Spaces make a large contribution to communities in Saskatchewan.

Recreation programs, facilities and green spaces add the most to your quality of life

recreation facilities

96.4% of people in Saskatchewan who responded to our survey believe that leisure is important to their quality of life.

Saskatchewan is full of opportunities for active living outdoors and respondents to our Survey indicated a high level of awareness of the opportunities for outdoor recreation available in their communities.



Saskatchewan residents rate the benefits that Recreation Programs, Outdoor Environments and Indoor Facilities have on their communities as important or very important:



76.1%

Encouraging healthy lifestyles



67.8%

Providing positive opportunities for youth



65.5%

Attracting visitors to your community



59.0%

Helping build stronger links within the community



57.5%

Making the community visually attractive



55.3%

Attracting business and economic development

parks and open spaces

Recreation builds stronger, more active communities

A majority (**52.2%**) say that leisure has become more important to their overall quality of life in the last 2-3 years, as compared to work.

74% of households with children have accessed a recreation facility in the last 12 months, compared to **55.8%** for those without children.

Recreation keeps young people on the right track

Information from the 2016 Recreation and Quality of Life in Saskatchewan Survey