



Saskatchewan
Parks and Recreation
Association

2010 - 2011 ANNUAL REPORT



PROGRESS

PROGRESS



**Saskatchewan
Parks and Recreation
Association**

100 - 1445 Park Street
Regina, SK S4N 4C5
Phone: 306.780.9231
Toll-free: 1.800.563.2555
Fax: 306.780.9257
Website: www.spra.sk.ca

About SPRA

Our Vision

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

Our Mission

We provide leadership and support to enhance the quality of the parks and recreation network.

Our Roles

- Training
- Education
- Advocacy
- Funding
- Information management
- Research
- Networking

Our Ends

SPRA's six Ends define what results we hold ourselves accountable for achieving, and for what audience. Trends, challenges, emerging opportunities and the core elements contributing to the success of the organization, along with member needs, have all shaped creation of the Ends.

- End 1** The parks and recreation network is coordinated
End 2 There is a strong recreation component throughout the Province
End 3 The parks and recreation network is supported
End 4 The network advocates for parks and recreation in Saskatchewan
End 5 Parks and open spaces are supported
End 6 Recreation facilities are supported

2010 - 2011 SPRA Board of Directors

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

President – Darrell Lessmeister
Director at Large – Mimi Lodoen
Director at Large – Mike Powell
Director at Large – Corrine Galarneau
Director at Large – Clint McConnell
Director for Cities – Jasmine Jackman
Director for Towns – Mike Schwean
Director for Villages – Clive Craig
Director for the North – Sandy Rediron (missing from photo)



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President and CEO Report



*Darrell Lessmeister
SPRA President*



*Norm Campbell
SPRA Chief Executive Officer*

2010 was a significant year in the history of the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association. The Association transitioned from a centrally located Regina based organization to a province wide operations network dedicated to providing increased and more effective service to our members. The implementation of the Enhanced Member Services Initiative and the hiring of SPRA field staff was a major highlight of the year. As a member based organization whose Vision is "We are the leader for a parks and recreation network that builds healthy active communities in Saskatchewan", it was imperative that action be taken to get closer to those we serve. We need to interact directly with our members to better understand the concerns and issues at the local community level, more efficiently identify trends, and ensure that we are positively positioned to lead and provide support for local and provincial programs and advocacy efforts. SPRA has a duty and responsibility to ensure that there are province wide services, processes and mechanisms in place that support the work of the practitioners, volunteers and organizations within the sector and, by expanding our operations outside of Regina, we are a much stronger responsive and more dynamic organization.

In 2010, SPRA conducted a Saskatchewan Recreation Strategy Environmental Scan that will provide the foundation for the development of a Provincial Recreation Policy - to help guide the development of parks and recreation services in the Province into the future. Working together with the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport (TPCS), and guided by an Advisory Committee of individuals from within the sector, SPRA is co-chairing the project team responsible for development of the policy. We are excited to be working on this project and are committed to ensuring that the consultation process is comprehensive and inclusive. It is anticipated that the policy should be completed in early to mid 2012 and will provide a road map for the sector to work together in improving the quality of life in our Province.

2010 also saw a continued increase in the strength of the partnerships SPRA has developed with the Ministry and with our 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 TPCS has continued to grow and, in addition to the Ministry's continued support of SPRA through the Lottery License Agreement, we worked together on a number of joint projects. These included the continued development of the HIGH FIVE® Initiatives, the Saskatchewan Recreation Strategy Environmental Scan, and conducting research into programming during the after school time period. SPRA has developed strong working

relationships with our partners and is looking forward to our continued collaborations in 2011.

Significant progress was also made at the National Level with the continued evolution of the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA) from an individual based member organization to a membership model more closely resembling a federation of Provincial Partners. SPRA continued to play an active role in the development of the new CPRA and we are committed to providing support and working with our Provincial Partners from across the country in developing a strong national organization. By having a strong presence at the CPRA Board table, we can ensure that the national policies and strategies being developed are sensitive to the needs of Saskatchewan.

Read on to learn more about the great accomplishments achieved by SPRA in 2010. The ongoing work of the organization, and the continued support of the members, had the biggest positive impact on our progress. From advocating for parks and open spaces to the development of leadership initiatives, from providing fitness certification opportunities to the sharing of information and research, from developing programs for Aboriginal populations to grant adjudication, SPRA was extremely successful in representing and providing quality services to our members.

SPRA is fortunate to have dedicated, well trained and educated staff, an army of skilled volunteers committed to making a difference, and a membership that actively supports and advocates for the sector. As we move into the future, we will continue to be committed to improving the quality of life in our Province and the betterment of our Province.



A Stronger Parks and Recreation

The recreation and parks network took advantage of a wide variety of financial opportunities presented by SPRA, which allowed them to deliver quality recreation and parks programming throughout the Province!

Annual Funding - Recreation Section Review Committee

Thirty-two organizations and nine Sport, Culture and Recreation Districts received a total of **1.8 million in funding** through the Recreation Section of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation. Through this funding, these organizations were able to increase access to quality recreational experiences to residents across Saskatchewan.

Member's Initiative Grant - Volunteer Development Grant

SPRA members took advantage of the opportunity to increase the skill level of volunteers in their communities, and to further develop recreation in their communities, through the Member's Initiative grant. A total of **\$51,720 was distributed across 17 projects!**

Community Funding Program

The Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Funding Program continued to assist in the development of sport, culture and recreation programs by providing funds to non-profit community organizations operated by volunteers. A total of **\$4.5 million** was distributed:

- Urban Aboriginal Community Grant Program: A total of \$195,000 was delivered across six communities
- Seven Sport, Culture and Recreation Districts: \$2,044,700
- Northern Community and School Recreation Coordinator Program: \$992,550
- Northern Saskatchewan Sport, Culture & Recreation Festival (Northern Sport, Culture & Recreation District): \$260,000 (committed over three years)
- Dream Broker Program in Regina and Saskatoon: \$657,250 (committed over 18 months)

District Support Grant

Six Sport, Culture and Recreation Districts received a total of \$90,000 through the District Support Grant. Through the Grant, Sport, Culture and Recreation Districts were instrumental in increasing their role in advocacy, community development and capacity building throughout their District.

SPRA Scholarship Program

SPRA continued to support individuals pursuing careers in recreation by awarding scholarships to students enrolled in Recreation and Leisure Programs across Saskatchewan through the SPRA Scholarship Program. The following recipients were selected on the basis of academic achievement and demonstrated involvement as a volunteer in recreation, parks or leisure services:

- Karen Finley - College of Kinesiology
– University of Saskatchewan
- Nicole Hedman - Faculty of Kinesiology
– University of Regina
- Annette Michaud - Recreation and Tourism Management Program – Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST)

on Network

Four new funding opportunities were made available for 2010-11 in response to trends identified in the field:

National Event Hosting Grant

Through the National Event Hosting Grant, the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association received \$2,500 to assist in hosting the National Snowmobile Trail Symposium and the Saskatchewan Outdoor and Environmental Education Association (SOEEA) received \$2,500 to assist in hosting the 2011 National Environmental Education and Communication Conference. The National Event Hosting Grant not only increased the organization's capacity to host the event but also promoted tourism in Saskatchewan and ultimately, increased the exposure of recreation and parks in Saskatchewan.

Strengthening Recreation Organizations Grant

The Strengthening Recreation Organizations Grant assisted Provincial Recreation Associations and Sport, Culture and Recreation Districts in enhancing the marketability of their programs and services, and their organization as a whole. A total of 13 projects were approved, totaling **\$122,500**.

Active Family Grant

Families in 85 communities across the Province had the opportunity to become more physically active as a result of the SPRA Active Family Grant. Through the Grant, a total of **\$57,077** was provided for communities to host family focused recreation events.

June is Recreation & Parks Month Celebration Grant

A total of 46 JRPM Ambassadors took advantage of the new JRPM Celebration Grant, which provided up to \$500 to fund a JRPM event and increase local parks and recreation services.



Knowlegable Parks, Recreation Facility Professionals and Volu

Safe, quality and efficient recreation environments are a product of knowledgeable parks, recreation and facility professionals and volunteers. To achieve this goal, SPRA provided a number of quality and cost effective training opportunities to its membership:

SPRA Conference

The 2010 SPRA Conference and Annual General Meeting was held in Regina from October 14 - 16, 2010. The Conference theme, "Surge", recognized the growing impact that Technology, Community Engagement, Physical Inactivity and Operational Effectiveness have on Saskatchewan's quality of life. The 260 registered delegates enjoyed events such as the Trade Show, President's/Minister's Luncheon, AGM and the SPRA Awards Banquet. Delegates also had the opportunity to participate in a Pre-Conference Panel Discussion, 14 Concurrent Sessions and Keynote Presentations by Dr. John Crompton, Ron McCarville and Jim Carroll.

Spring Education and Training Symposium

The 2011 Spring Education and Training Symposium continued to provide cutting edge information on the management of parks, facilities and public spaces. A total of 109 participants registered for the event and enjoyed a broad spectrum of topics ranging from the maintenance of parks, sportsfields, buildings and the operation of pools and arenas.

Saskatchewan Green Trades Conference

SPRA continued to support the 2nd Annual Saskatchewan Green Trades Conference. This event provided the opportunity for municipal officials, responsible for the management of parks and volunteers to gather to discuss the economic, social and environmental values placed on municipal green spaces and to walk away with the resources necessary to take action at the local level. The Parks Stream attracted 22 delegates across nine sessions.

Facility Training

SPRA held a number of facility courses, including: Arena Operator Level 1, Arena Operator Level 2 and Pool Operator Level 1 in communities across the Province. The courses provided participants with the knowledge and resources necessary to improve the operation of their facilities and to ensure their recreation programs and services are offered in safe and efficient environments.

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SPRA also continued to work with SaskPower and the Saskatchewan Research Council to assist communities in lowering their power and gas consumption through the Municipal Ice Rink Program. This five year program is addressing operational inefficiencies and retrofits.

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A Stronger, More Physically Active

SPRA remained dedicated to addressing the physical inactivity crisis impacting the Province through its involvement in a number of programs and initiatives:

Sogo Active

The Active Healthy Kids Canada's 2011 Report Card indicates that only **9% of boys and 4% of girls** are meeting the **minimum recommendation** of 60 – 90 minutes of physical activity every day. As the Provincial Coordinator of Sogo Active, a national physical activity program, SPRA is addressing the problem by empowering youth, ages 13 – 19, to challenge themselves to solve the physical inactivity crisis in Canada. In 2010–11, Sogo Active provided grant funding to 17 groups in the Province, totaling \$10,800. These grants supported youth physical activity programs such as the Get Fit! Be Fit! event in Swift Current, a Youth Yoga Program in Leader, the Lestock Youth Group Programs and many other activities and events.

Take the Lead!

Through the Take the Lead! program, SPRA continued to train and mentor young people, ages 11 – 14, in schools and communities to lead active play opportunities for their peers. In June 2011, ten individuals participated in the Take the Lead! Train the Trainer course. This program has been instrumental in increasing leadership skill development and physical activity among youth.

SPRA will continue to support the Take the Lead! provincial strategy in 2011–12, with support from the Saskatchewan Legacy Fund. Some organizations currently involved in supporting Take the Lead! include: the Southeast Connection Sport, Culture & Recreation District, the South West District for Culture, Recreation & Sport and the Prince Albert Parkland Health Region.

Youth Fitness Leadership Program

SPRA's Youth Fitness Leadership Program encouraged youth to become Fitness Leaders and be a part of the solution to address the physical inactivity crisis affecting Saskatchewan! The program, offered with support from the Community Initiatives Fund (CIF), was made available to grade 11 and 12 students who were interested in fitness and wanted an alternative physical education class. The focus was on individual health and wellness and to encourage healthy, active lifestyles for a lifetime. Courses for Youth Fitness Leadership, in accordance with the Saskatchewan Education Policy and Procedures for Locally Developed Courses of Study, were developed including the Active Living and Fitness Leadership 20 (based on the SPRA Fitness Theory Module) and the Active Living and Fitness Leadership 30 (based on the SPRA Group Exercise Module). Within the Saskatoon School Division, the 20 level course was offered to 48 students in three schools and to 21 students in the 30 level course in one school during the 2010-11 school year. To assist schools in implementing the program, a sharing plan package was made available, which includes course development information, outcomes, successes, challenges and instructional resources and tools.

Fitness Leadership Certification Program

Through the SPRA Fitness Leadership Program, leaders were trained in Fitness Theory, Group Exercise, Aquatic Exercise and Exercise for Older Adults, as per the National Fitness Leadership Alliance (NFLA) performance standards. In a response to trends in the fitness industry and in an effort to provide new and more specialized classes, Fitness

Active Saskatchewan

Yoga Certification and Cycling specialties were implemented and became eligible for insurance. SPRA's Annual SaskFit Conference continued to provide Fitness Leaders with the latest information and trends in the fitness industry and the opportunity to complete the continuing education credits required for recertification. In Saskatoon, 175 participants attended the 2010 Conference, "so you think you can... danceaquacisecyclestep..." in November. There are currently **over 350 SPRA Fitness Leaders** providing quality Fitness Leadership in communities across the Province and encouraging participants to foster a lifelong commitment to fitness and physical activity.

Saskatchewan in motion

SPRA plays a significant role in the management of the **in motion** initiative. The **in motion** movement has been growing over the past seven years, with SPRA assisting in advocating for changes in public policy that support increased physical activity and creating a greater awareness of the benefits of physical activity.

GPS and Pedometer Lending Kits

SPRA's GPS and Pedometer Lending Kit Program has challenged over 50 Saskatchewan schools, communities, organizations and groups to get more physically active. By loaning out geocaching and walking program equipment and resources, SPRA provided free access to physical activity opportunities suitable for a variety of ages and abilities, as well as encouraging the use of parks, green spaces and trails.

Physical Activity Network of Saskatchewan

The Physical Activity Network of Saskatchewan (PANS) continued to assist SPRA with the Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) Physical Activity Grant Program (PAGP), a pilot program that supports strategic projects and initiatives that will advance the physical activity movement in Saskatchewan and increase the level of physical activity of Saskatchewan people. The PANS Grant Review Committee provided a province wide perspective and representation while serving to review and recommend the allocation of funds for all CIF Physical Activity Grant Program proposals.

Active Living Alliance for Canadians with a Disability

SPRA continued to represent 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. There are three specific initiatives within the ALACD umbrella, including All Abilities Welcome (AAW), Moving to Inclusion (MTI) and the Youth Ambassador Program (YAP). SPRA continues to support ALACD by promoting these initiatives within the Province, so that members have the increased capacity to offer inclusive physical activity programs!

Safe, Quality Recreation Oppo

SPRA offered a number of quality assurance and leadership training opportunities designed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to provide children with positive play experiences in safe, quality recreation environments.

Playground Safety

Outdoor play is a major component in the fight against childhood obesity as well as the overall health of children. As a result, SPRA remained dedicated to ensuring members had access to the training and resources necessary to provide safe outdoor play spaces for children. SPRA held a one day Playground Safety Education Course in La Ronge in May 2011 that provided individuals with a thorough understanding of the Canadian Playspace Safety Standard from CAN/CSA Z614 “Children’s Playspaces and Equipment” and taught participants how to conduct a hands-on inspection/audit of a playspace.

Play Leadership

In 2010-11, eight Play Leadership Workshops were held across Saskatchewan and 74 Play Leaders were trained. These Play Leaders are now providing safe, quality programming to children and families within their communities. Some of the organizations involved in offering Play Leadership Workshops include the Lakeland District for Sport, Culture and Recreation, the Parkland Valley Sport, Culture & Recreation District and the South West District for Culture, Recreation & Sport.

HIGH FIVE® continued to provide recreation program staff and supervisors with the knowledge and skills necessary to implement safe, developmentally appropriate and diverse and unique recreation programs for children ages 6 – 12. The Principles of Healthy Childhood Development (PHCD) course provides Leaders with the skills to plan and provide

quality recreation programs, while ensuring that the HIGH FIVE® Principles are met. QUEST training provides program supervisors with an evaluation tool to assess the quality of their programs and leaders.

In partnership with the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport, and the Parkland Valley Sport, Culture & Recreation District, SPRA held a number of complimentary PHCD, QUEST and HIGH FIVE® Trainer courses in 2010–11:

- Eleven PHCD courses were offered and 99 leaders were trained
- Nine QUEST sessions were held with 73 supervisors being trained
- One HIGH FIVE® Trainer course in which 17 HIGH FIVE® Trainers were trained

Throughout 2010–11, a total of 28 PHCD sessions and 12 QUEST sessions were held training over 325 individuals and 119 supervisors respectively.

RespectED for Sport, Culture and Recreation

RespectED is a initiative designed to ensure that children and youth have a safe environment in which to participate, free from abuse, harassment and bullying. Through this initiative, SPRA members and the general public have access to a toll free support line for direct assistance when dealing with abuse, harassment, bullying or hazing complaints, and for inquiries regarding Risk Management information, resources or education. A variety of resources were also made available to members on the SPRA website.

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An Engaged Aboriginal Popula

Throughout the year, SPRA completed visitations to a number of Aboriginal communities to share information with recreation programmers on initiatives, programs and services offered by SPRA, and to encourage member communities to apply for Aboriginal specific grants that support culture based recreation programming. SPRA currently has 55 Active Aboriginal member communities.

Grant Writing Workshops

Working with the seven Sport, Culture and Recreation Districts, SPRA was able to host Grant Writing Workshops in 15 Aboriginal communities, thereby training over 165 participants in the proposal/grant writing process. Through the Workshops, participants received a comprehensive overview of the grant writing process, a hands-on, practical approach to all elements of a proposal/grant application, and discovered the value of a well written submission. Participants also benefited from a summary of the many programs and services offered through SPRA, as well as in depth information on the ASPYR camps and the grants available to Aboriginal communities. The high number of Workshops has been very instrumental in communities receiving grants from different funding agencies.

The Aboriginal Summer Program for Youth in Recreation (ASPYR)

Aboriginal youth gained the knowledge and skills necessary to provide quality recreation programming in their communities through the SPRA ASPYR program. In July 2010 and June 2011, camps were held at the Poundmaker First Nation and at Camp McKay, Ochapowace First Nation. Thirty participants attended the camps and receiving quality instruction from certified trainers on topics including

Drowning Prevention, Emergency First Aid, CPR B, HIGH FIVE®, Boat Operators and Aboriginal Coaching Modules. The training encouraged Aboriginal youth to pursue recreation studies as part of their future endeavors and to take the knowledge gained back into the communities where the youth have the opportunity to deliver quality recreation activities.

First Nation, Inuit and Métis' Everybody gets to play™ Workshop

The goal of the Everybody gets to play™ (EGTP) program is to provide specific information about First Nation, Inuit and Métis people and to teach how recreational activities can be better tied into their unique history, circumstances and culture. The overall objective is to reduce barriers to recreation participation and to increase awareness and understanding about core Aboriginal values, as well as traditional customs. This Workshop provides research and facts about poverty in Canada, the health and social consequences of poverty, and how added recreation opportunities can improve the lives of kids, families and communities. The workshop also provided step-by-step information on how to mobilize a community to increase access to recreation. Currently, 15 Ambassadors have been trained to present the program in communities in the fall of 2011. This program was first introduced in Fort Qu'Appelle in June 2011.

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SPRA offered a number of funding opportunities to assist the delivery of recreation opportunities in First Nation and Métis communities:

First Nation Member's Recreation Grant

The SPRA First Nation Member's Recreation Grant assists First Nation members in developing recreation opportunities in First Nation communities within Saskatchewan. In 2010–11, 26 projects totaling \$51,500 were approved. This grant has not only increased recreation programming in First Nation communities, but has fostered an understanding of the value of recreation and parks and how it positively impacts quality of life.

Métis Recreation Development Grant

Through this program, SPRA is ensuring that funding is available to continue the development of recreation within Métis communities in Saskatchewan. In 2010–11, nine projects were approved, totaling \$17,500.

Urban Aboriginal Community Grant Program

This Community Initiative Fund program assists in the development of sport, culture and recreation programs and leadership opportunities for Aboriginal people through non-profit community organizations in designated urban centers. A total of \$195,000 was distributed across six communities. This grant has provided communities with a large Aboriginal base with the capacity to offer quality programming for Aboriginal people.



Recreation and Parks on the R

Parks and recreation benefit all levels of society – the individual, the family, the community, the Province and the country as a whole. These benefits help strengthen families, build healthy communities, improve quality of life and support the healthy development of children. In dedication to advancing parks and recreation in the Province, and ensuring the benefits of parks and recreation remained top of mind among decisions makers and the general public, SPRA implemented a number of targeted advocacy initiatives.

District Support Program

To assist the Sport, Culture and Recreation Districts to raise awareness of the benefits of recreation through advocacy, and to increase awareness within their member communities of the District's role in community development, capacity building and quality of life, SPRA developed the District Support Program. The District Support Program invited Districts to attend specific advocacy training modules and to develop a District Advocacy Plan, with assistance from a Consultant. Those who participated were eligible for up to \$15,000 in financial assistance. The end result of the work undertaken through this initiative was an Advocacy Handbook and the collection of Advocacy Tools to assist Districts in their advocacy efforts.

Communities in Bloom (CiB)

Communities in Bloom, which is administered provincially by SPRA, recognizes civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification through community involvement, and the promotion of green spaces in community settings. In 2010, 12 communities participated in the competitive category, 26 in the friends' category and six in the National *Communities in Bloom* program. The Town of Assiniboia was selected as a winner at the 16th Edition of the *Communities in Bloom* National Awards Ceremony, which took place October 30, 2010 in Nova Scotia. The 2011 program, which is currently underway, includes 11 communities in the competitive category, 22 in the friends' category and five in the National *Communities in Bloom* program.

June is Recreation & Parks Month (JRPM)

The City of Yorkton kicked off the official June is Recreation & Parks Month celebration on June 11, 2011 by hosting a number of fabulous recreation events and activities that brought together people of all ages to celebrate the benefits of participation in leisure activities. In addition to Yorkton, 71 communities, agencies or groups also showed their support for the 2011 edition of JRPM by becoming Ambassadors and recognizing JRPM at an activity or event and by signing a JRPM Proclamation.

Advocacy Webpage

SPRA's Advocacy webpage houses a number of resources to assist members in advocating for the field. Included on the webpage are Benefits Fact Sheets that provide evidence to advocate for recreation, parks and physical activity.

Additionally, SPRA's Information and Research Services monitors and posts research findings and trends on the SPRA website to maintain currency of knowledge in the field. The goal is to support and provide a central collection of current recreation research, with a focus on Saskatchewan data.

Federal Election Tool Kit

Provincial and Federal Elections provide an opportunity to work together and ensure key issues impacting the parks and recreation sector are addressed with leaders and candidates of provincial and national parties. To assist members with their advocacy efforts for the 2011 Federal Election, SPRA prepared an Election Kit: Ensure Parks and Recreation is on the Radar. This document included:

- A Backgrounder - Defines recreation and includes facts and statistics that support statements regarding the value and benefits of parks and recreation.
- Briefing Notes - Addresses a specific issue related to the parks and recreation field, provides background into the issue and requested action.
- Tips to Help You Advocate for Parks and Recreation in Your Community
- The Tool Kit was made available to members on the SPRA website and promoted nationally on the LIN network and CPRA website.

The Future of Recreation Education in Saskatchewan

The future of recreation education in Saskatchewan faced a significant blow, in April 2010, with the announcement that the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIASST), Kelsey Campus would be cutting its Recreation and Tourism Management Program in half, by only accepting first year students every second year. Concerned that cuts would

jeopardize the future of recreation education in the Province and ultimately, the future of recreation, SPRA developed and implemented a comprehensive advocacy campaign that included the formation of a Task Group for the Future of Recreation Education in Saskatchewan. This Task Group advocated for the continuation of the program at its existing capacity. The Task Group, which includes representatives from SPRA and the Saskatchewan Association of Recreation Professionals, commenced a letter writing campaign directed at SIASST, key Government Departments, MLAs and the media, expressing the implications of the cuts and requesting the Program be restored to its original capacity. An Advocacy Tool Kit was also developed and distributed to communities and recreation departments throughout the Province. Communities and recreation departments were encouraged to use the Tool Kit to advocate to their local MLAs, the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport (TPCS), the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration (AEEI) and SIASST for the continuation of the Program at its existing capacity.

In response to the advocacy campaign, the Task Group has been in conversations with TPCS, AEEI and SIASST, expressing their concern over the lack of an informed process directing the cuts, the absence of input from the recreation and parks sector, and the lack of involvement from the Recreation and Tourism Management Advisory Committee. The Task Group has requested a review of the process utilized by SIASST to make program changes. At this time, SIASST has indicated the Recreation and Tourism Management Program will continue to run in the fall of 2011, without changes. SIASST has now engaged an independent firm to conduct a labor market assessment of some of their programs, including the Recreation and Tourism Management Program. The Task Group, which most recently includes representation from the Ministry of TPCS, continues to advocate for the Program and is now reviewing options to access research to support Saskatchewan based recreation education.

An Informed Parks and Recreation

SPRA is dedicated to providing its members with the most up-to-date information and research in the parks and recreation field. The evidence speaks for itself!

Research Education Advocacy Project (REAP)

REAP funding was available to SPRA members that completed Rec-opoly, a basic research training workshop. Districts, Provincial Recreation Associations and community organizations took part in the training, which provided the tools to understand basic research methods and to conduct and evaluate research projects that provide the evidence to support advocacy and decision-making.

Through REAP, SPRA invested over \$15,000 to community recreation research, which has led to:

- Seniors having improved access to information on locally available services and activities
- Increased understanding of the factors motivating rural volunteers
- Data supporting the need to advocate for basic swimming skills to prevent drowning
- Strengthened support for the value of professionalization in the recreation field

Recreation Compensation Survey

To address the challenges of recruitment and retention, and the larger concern of repositioning recreation and its professionals, a province wide survey was conducted to gather information on salaries and compensation among practitioners. The results created a collection of credible baseline data for all levels of recreation and leisure services staff, which can be used to:

- Support salary negotiations and budget decisions

- Establish comparative salary and benefits data
- Assist in assessing recruitment and retention policies

Benefits Resources

Providing access to benefits resources, such as Fact Sheets and the National Benefits HUB, reminds ourselves, as well as others, of the valuable work we do. To support advocacy, we ensure Saskatchewan based information is included in the HUB and available on our website.

Knowledge is power! SPRA provided members with access to a wide variety of resources and tools to assist them in their role of as parks and recreation practitioners and volunteers.

Information Portal

This comprehensive online resource connects website visitors to articles, websites, news, resources, research and funding opportunities relevant to the recreation, fitness, sport, park and volunteer sectors. The Portal has expanded to include over 40 subject areas, which include valuable resources that support innovation, decision-making and ongoing learning.

Media Monitor

Recreation has been making headlines! In the past year, the Media Monitor showcased over 300 local and provincial news stories on the SPRA website. The Media Monitor searches community, provincial and government sites to keep readers up-to-date with the latest news, successes and issues in the field. By acknowledging developments in the field, SPRA strengthens its role in advocacy for parks and recreation in Saskatchewan and encourages opportunities for communities to connect, collaborate and stay informed.

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KnowNet Connection

Nearly 100 non-profit groups and individuals subscribe to this bi-weekly update on new grants and funding, education opportunities and other resources. The information is used and forwarded by subscribers from many sectors, including: Health Regions, Municipalities, Districts, Parks and Culture.

DIRECTION

Stay informed with DIRECTION, SPRA's official magazine. Each issue of DIRECTION is developed around a specific theme of interest to the parks, recreation and facilities sectors. The magazine focuses on issue-based cover stories and feature articles submitted by members and experts in the field. 2010-11 editions provided information to members on Being an Active Role Model: Healthy Lifestyles and Great Life Choices; Youth and Recreation: Developing the Leaders of Tomorrow; Recreation Infrastructure and Outdoor Life: Taking Winter By Storm.

SPRA Website

SPRA's website address is www.spra.sk.ca. Our website provides details on SPRA programs and services, grants and funding opportunities, information and research, information on SPRA Commercial members, valuable downloadable resources, Media Monitor, job opportunities and events. In 2010-11, SPRA announced new features to the website, including a special section for registered users and online registration capabilities.

SPRA History Book

You won't know where you are going until you know where you have been!

To commemorate the last 25 years of the history of the recreation field in Saskatchewan, Benchmark Press was contracted to research and write the SPRA History Book, which captures the field of recreation from 1985-2010. This project picks up where the previous history book, Saskatchewan's Recreation Legacy, by Roy Ellis and Elva Nixon, ended in 1985. Get ready to take a trip down memory lane as the book is launched in fall 2011.



Summarized Financial Statements



AUDITORS' REPORT

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

The accompanying summarized statement of financial position and statement of operations are derived from the complete financial statements of Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association Inc. as at June 30, 2011 and for the year then ended on which we expressed an opinion without reservation in our report dated September 21, 2011. The fair summarization of the complete financial statements is the responsibility of management. Our responsibility, in accordance with the applicable Assurance guideline of The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, is to report on the summarized financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements fairly summarize, in all material respects, the related complete financial statements in accordance with the criteria described in the Guideline referred to above.

These summarized financials statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes. For more information on the Association's financial position, results of operations and cash flows, reference should be made to the related complete financial statements.

REGINA, Saskatchewan
September 21, 2011



Mintz & Wallace
Chartered Accountants LLP

SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Summarized Financial Statements June 30, 2011

	2011	2010
ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 110,052	\$ 96,247
Short-term investments	1,329,511	1,239,306
Accounts receivable	202,091	187,156
Prepaid and other	96,012	14,417
Capital assets	100,763	133,888
Long-term investments	686,498	506,874
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 2,524,927	\$ 2,177,888
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts and grants payable	\$ 409,330	\$ 254,773
Post retirement benefits payable	27,060	27,060
Payable to Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund	97,176	246,080
Deferred contributions and unearned membership revenues	778,570	722,270
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,312,138	1,250,183
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	526,294	420,831
Restricted	686,498	506,874
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,212,792	927,705
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 2,524,927	\$ 2,177,888



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SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

	2011	2010
REVENUES		
Operations	\$ 2,099,777	\$ 1,628,154
Program initiatives	953,669	818,493
<i>in motion</i>	1,632,010	1,820,886
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4,685,456	4,267,533
	<hr/>	<hr/>
EXPENSES		
Operations	1,925,314	1,613,804
Program initiatives	919,791	790,474
<i>in motion</i>	1,555,264	1,780,802
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4,400,369	4,185,080
	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET REVENUES (EXPENSES)	\$ 285,087	\$ 82,453
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Detailed financial statements are available to members on request.

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) Inc.
- 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 Inc.
- 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 Parks and Recreation Association Inc.
- Saskatchewan Physical Education Association Inc.
- Saskatchewan Regional Parks Association
- Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism
- Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association Inc.
- Saskatchewan Square and Round Dance Federation Inc.
- Saskatchewan Trails Association Inc.
- Saskatchewan Underwater Council Incorporated
- Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation
- Scouts Canada, Saskatchewan Provincial Council Inc.
- St. John Council for Saskatchewan Properties Inc.

Sport, Culture and Recreation Districts

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





PROGRESS



**Saskatchewan
Parks and Recreation
Association**

100 - 1445 Park Street
Regina, SK S4N 4C5
Phone: 306.780.9231
Toll-free: 1.800.563.2555
Fax: 306.780.9257
Website: www.spra.sk.ca