

Re-Opening Saskatchewan's Recreation Facilities: Starting the Conversation

May 26, 2020

Funded By



Saskatchewan
Parks and Recreation
Association

Presenter

Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA)

Tim Hanna, Consultant – Facilities and Training



**THANK
YOU!**

Where We Are At With COVID-19

- Unprecedented times
- Pace of change is remarkable
- Inundated with information/misinformation
- Lack of information, consistency, national perspective (in the works)
- Short, medium and long-term outlooks – difficult to predict with accuracy
- Remember – this presentation may be outdated by the end of the day
- Most challenging time I can remember – **P&R = resourceful and resilient**

Today's Recreation Practitioner

PRIDE + QUALITY + PROFESSIONALISM



Who Do We Take Direction From?

Authorities – experts/regulators

- Federal Government
- Provincial Government
- Saskatchewan Health Authority

Information Sharing – liaison/resources between authorities and practitioners

- SPRA – share information and updates with sector in a leadership capacity
- CPRA – national depository of information
- Other organizations (examples?)

Disclaimer

- The Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA) does not consider itself an authority on health and safety issues, including those pertaining to COVID-19
- It is the responsibility of our Members to determine how to meet or exceed the guidelines provided by the Government of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Health Authority
- Workplace Health and Safety Committees should be involved in all planning stages to ensure that local requirements are met
- The employer/owner is responsible for adhering to the most current Provincial Acts and Regulations

Where Are We At? Current State

- Federal Government – stressing caution and keep safety measures in place – e.g. physical distancing, hand washing, etc.
- Provinces are working within that framework to restart the economy, society, etc.
- Saskatchewan's Re-Open Plan
 - “Re-Open Saskatchewan is a plan built on a methodical and phased-in approach to slowly and responsibly lift restrictions on businesses and services”
 - Communities are trying to figure out how the Re-Open plan is going to be deployed

Poll Question #1

Have you read the Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Where Are We At – Recreation Industry?

- Dichotomy – stay isolated yet stay connected (through ingenuity)
- More questions than answers right now and not all questions will have an answer by the time this is done
- Key piece is to keep decision makers informed about the current status and short-term challenges
 - e.g. Resources required to meet public expectations
 - Social media can play a large role in information sharing
 - Internet is another resource for valuable information

Poll Question #2

How knowledgeable are your decision makers (e.g. Council and/or Board) about the status of COVID –19 and its impact on Recreation facilities and programs?

- High – they are very knowledgeable (even proactive)
- Medium – they know some information and impact
- Low – they know very little

Where Are We At – Recreation Industry?

- Timeliness is critical as information is changing at a rapid pace – **start now**
- COVID – 19 Planning is made very difficult since answers/directions are hard to find – results in a state of paralysis
 - e.g. operational issues + program issues = aaugh!
- Don't assume – ask the right authority
- New normal – undoubtedly (both for facilities and programs)
- Risk and liability – “reasonableness” but if you stray outside the authorized guidelines it could increase litigation
- Onus is on us as recreation practitioners to do our research, share information and plan for change – **P&R = resourceful and resilient**



Phases for Re-Open Saskatchewan

Phase One:

- Re-opening previously restricted medical services
- Opening of golf courses, parks and campgrounds

Phase Two:

- Re-opening retail and select personal care services

Phase Three:

- Re-opening restaurants and food services, gyms and fitness centres, licensed establishments and child care facilities
- Re-opening remaining personal care services

Phase Four:

- Re-opening indoor and outdoor recreation facilities
- Increasing the size of public and private gatherings to 30 people

Phase Five: Consider lifting long-term restrictions



Get a copy and read it.

Poll Question #3

Which Phase is most relevant to your recreation facilities and programs in your community? (Pick one)

- ☐ Phase One
- ☐ Phase Two
- ☐ Phase Three
- ☐ Phase Four
- ☐ Phase Five



Get a copy and read it.

Consistent Measures For All Phases

The following recommendations should remain in place through all 5 phases:

- Protective measures for vulnerable populations
- Individuals should continue working from home if they can do so effectively
- Physical distancing must be maintained, wherever possible
- People must stay at home when they are sick
- Vulnerable individuals, such as seniors and those with underlying health conditions, should continue to exercise caution and minimize high-risk exposures, such as public outings
- Personal hygiene will continue to be a key prevention measure
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection should take place in workplaces, public spaces and recreational facilities

Consistent Measures For All Phases

Although the public health order regarding the size of gatherings does not apply to businesses and workplaces, they are expected to follow the recommended public health measures, including:

- physical distancing for staff and clients
- regular cleaning and disinfection
- frequent handwashing and sanitizing
- use of PPE where available and appropriate
- keeping staff who demonstrate or report COVID-19 symptoms out of the workplace

Provincial Guidelines

Some services covered are:

- Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Guidelines
- Appropriate Use of PPE Guidelines
- Golf Course Guidelines
- Outdoor Individual Recreation Guidelines
- Parks and Campground Guidelines
- Gyms and Fitness Facilities
- 21 in total – more to come

Phase One

Golf Courses (May 15, 2020)

- Providing a fixed date and clear guidelines allows operators to begin preparing for opening. Members of the public can prepare to access these facilities online
- All golf courses are required to take precautionary measures, including expanding the cleaning and disinfecting of common and high-touch surfaces in accordance with the public health order
- Physical distancing must be observed at all times, with a minimum of 2 metres of space between individuals
- **Specific guidelines for golf course operators are available on P. 37.**

Phase One

Outdoor Individual Recreation (May 15, 2020)

- All outdoor recreation operations must take precautionary measures, including increased cleaning and disinfecting of common and high-touch surfaces, in addition to practicing physical distancing
- **Specific guidelines for outdoor recreation operators are available on P. 39.**

Phase One

Community Gardens (Allowed)

- Community gardens can be operational, subject to all physical distancing and public gathering restrictions
- Precautionary measures must include the cleaning and disinfection of commonly touched areas, including water taps, gardening tools and other frequent touch points.

* Other than in an allowable business, the size of public and private gatherings will remain at a maximum of 10 people

Phase Two

- Re-opening retail and select personal care services
 - Re-opening these businesses will allow many small business owners to bring their businesses back online in a safe and efficient manner
- * Other than in an allowable business, the size of public and private gatherings will remain at a maximum of 10 people.

Phase Three – Announced May 21

Re-Open Saskatchewan - Phase 3

Target Date:
June 8

Re-Opening:

- Restaurant & Licensed Establishments (at 50% capacity)
- Remaining Personal Care Services
- Places of Worship
- Gyms & Fitness Facilities
- Childcare Facilities

Increasing Gathering Sizes:

- Outdoor Gatherings: 30 people
- Indoor Gatherings: 15 people

Phase Three – Target Date June 8

- Recreation impact in Phase Three
 - Read at your convenience – note the following
 - Re-Opening Childcare Facilities – does this include rec programs like summer camps?
 - **“Further information will be available in next week's update of the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan”**
 - Re-Opening Gyms and Fitness Facilities – does this include multipurpose spaces?
 - “Re-opening gyms and fitness facilities promotes physical and mental wellness.”
 - **New – Guidelines for Gyms and Fitness Facilities (released May 22)**
- * Other than in an allowable business, the size of public and private gatherings will increase to a maximum of 15 people indoors and 30 people outdoors.

Phase Four – Date TBD

- Recreation impact in Phase Four (**most important phase**)
- Read at your convenience – note the following
- **Re-Opening Indoor and Outdoor Recreation** and Entertainment Facilities (TBD)
- Increasing the Size of Public and Private Gatherings to 30 People (TBD)
- **All recreational** and entertainment facilities, including casinos, bingo halls, **arenas, curling rinks, swimming pools, municipal parks and playgrounds, galleries, theaters, museums and similar facilities**
- **All seasonal programming, camps, recreational and athletic activities**
- All businesses and customers are expected to practice physical distancing

* Other than in an allowable business, the size of public and private gatherings will be increased to a maximum of 30 people.

Phase Four – What Will We Know By Then?

- Consistent messaging across the Phases
- Not inclusive...
 - Social distancing will remain
 - Cleaning and disinfecting will be a priority even if programs need to be adjusted
 - Guidelines must be adhered to
 - Employers have a responsibility
 - Sick – stay home (users, visitors, employees, etc.)
 - Limits on the size of gatherings

Phase Five – Date TBD

Phase Five – Date TBD

- Consider Lifting Some Long-Term Restrictions (TBD)
- Options include limits on the size of public gatherings

What will things look like at this Phase?

- Time will tell but it will be different than pre COVID – 19

How to Move Forward

Discuss some facilities – comments related to **municipal facilities**

Remember

- Things are changing almost daily
- Communicate with decision makers and community – regularly and transparently
- Stay connected, share ideas with peers and gather Best Practices
- Do your research – check with authoritative bodies for latest directives
- Be ready for change and be proactive
- Some facilities and programs may NOT be delivered this year (not our fault)
- **Create a COVID – 19 Plan as best as you can for facilities and programs**

Outdoor Swimming Pools – Closed

Fall under Phase Four – Date TBD (NO date) – communicate/signage

- Closed until Phase Three is complete – **aim for a state of readiness**

What should be done now? Some ideas:

- Pool Equipment – ensure operational and maintenance performed, clean and get ready to open, inventory chemicals, test kits, program supplies, etc.
- Check with your pool contractor to see what they would recommend
- HR – seeking out staff and revising cleaning standards and get ready to train
- Program – developing a few scenarios that can fit a short timeline
- **Start planning for a new way to operate – COVID -19 Plan and training**

Outdoor Swimming Pools – Closed

More ideas:

- Contact local Health Authority Inspector – update and communicate
- **COVID Change** – COVID – 19 Plan – start with HA Inspector and start to develop (e.g. capacity will undoubtedly be reduced and what is budget impact, open your whirlpool)
- Start to log activities taking place at the pool (maintenance)
- Timing – how long does it take to go from filling to swimming – communicate that to decision makers (not like a bathtub)
- **Goal – aim for a state of readiness but this may not be enough to warrant opening or to overcome challenges (e.g. no certified staff)**

Spray/Splash Pads – Closed

- Fall under Phase Four? Not specifically mentioned but most likely – communicate/signage
- Closed until Phase Three is reached – **aim for a state of readiness but...**

What should be done now? Some ideas:

- Equipment – make sure all components are in operational condition and make any repairs necessary
- Inspect regularly for safety (log)
- **COVID Change** – Review operational plans to see what needs to be changed to comply with COVID – 19 (e.g. cleaning and disinfecting, social distancing, signage, hours of operation, etc.) and remember training

Playgrounds – Closed

- Fall under Phase Four – Date TBD (NO date) – communicate/signage
- Closed until Phase Three is reached – **aim for a state of readiness but...**

What should be done now? Some ideas:

- Equipment – make sure all components are in operational condition and make any repairs that are necessary
- Inspect regularly for safety (log)
- **COVID Change** – expectation that playgrounds will be disinfected regularly and how would you manage this safely and environmentally?
- Review operational plans to see what needs to be changed to comply with COVID – 19 (e.g. cleaning and disinfecting, social distancing, signage, hours of operation, etc.) and remember training

Parks/Open Spaces – Closed

- Fall under Phase Four – Date TBD (NO date) – communicate/signage
- Closed until Phase Three is reached – **aim for a state of readiness but...**

What should be done now? Some ideas:

- Routine maintenance still needs to take place (e.g. mowing/trimming)
- Inspect regularly for safety (log)
- **COVID Change** – review operational plans to see what needs to be changed to comply with COVID – 19 (e.g. cleaning and disinfecting, social distancing, signage, hours of operation, etc.) and remember training
- **COVID Change** – how to regularly disinfect benches, garbage cans, etc.

Sport fields – Closed

- Does it fall under Phase Four – not clear but likely
- Communicate/signage will still be important
- Closed until Phase Three is reached – **aim for a state of readiness but ...**

What should be done now? Some ideas:

- Routine maintenance still needs to take place
- Inspect regularly for safety (log)
- **COVID Change** – review operational plans to see what needs to be changed to comply with COVID – 19 (e.g. cleaning and disinfecting, social distancing, signage, hours of operation, etc.) and remember training

Skateparks – Closed

- Does it fall under Phase Four – not clear but likely
- Communicate/signage
- Closed until Phase Three is reached – **aim for a state of readiness but...**

What should be done now? Some ideas:

- Routine maintenance still needs to take place
- Inspect regularly for safety (log)
- **COVID Change** – review operational plans to see what needs to be changed to comply with COVID – 19 (e.g. cleaning and disinfecting, social distancing, signage, hours of operation, etc.) and remember training

Tennis and Basketball Courts?

- Does it fall under Phase Four – not clear but likely
- Communicate/signage
- Closed until Phase Three is reached – **aim for a state of readiness but...**

What should be done now? Some ideas:

- Routine maintenance still needs to take place
- Inspect regularly for safety (log)
- **COVID Change** – review operational plans to see what needs to be changed to comply with COVID – 19 (e.g. cleaning and disinfecting, social distancing, signage, hours of operation, etc.) and remember training

Recreation Programs

- Fall under Phase Four – date TBD (NO date) – communicate/signage
- Communicate/signage
- Closed until Phase Three is reached – **aim for a state of readiness but...**

What should be done now? Some ideas:

- **COVID Change** – full review of existing/new programs to determine impact by COVID restrictions
- Scenarios, financial impact and communicate with decision makers
- **COVID Change** – review operational plans to see what needs to be changed to comply with COVID – 19 (e.g. cleaning and disinfecting, social distancing, signage, hours of operation, etc.) and remember training

Indoor Recreation Facilities

- Fall under Phase Four – date TBD (NO date) – communicate/signage
- Communicate/signage
- Closed until Phase Three is reached – **aim for a state of readiness but...**

What should be done now? Some ideas:

- Were the facilities properly closed/shutdown at the end of the season?
- Routine maintenance still needs to take place during downtime
- Inspect regularly for safety (log)
- **COVID Change** – review operational plans to see what needs to be changed to comply with COVID – 19 (e.g. cleaning and disinfecting, social distancing, signage, hours of operation, etc.) and remember training

Poll Question #4

With the information that is available to you today, will you be ready to re-open your indoor recreation facilities by September or October?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Resources Available Online

Saskatchewan.ca website:

COVID -19 Workplace Information

- General Workplace Information
- Cleaning, Disinfection and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Worker Health/Preventative Measures

Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Guidelines

- What Do I Need To Know?
- What Do I Need To Do?
- Is There a Difference Between Cleaning and Disinfecting?
- How Do I Make a Disinfecting Solution?

Resources Available Online

Saskatchewan Health Authority

<https://www.saskhealthauthority.ca/>

SPRA

<https://spra.sk.ca/>

National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health

<https://ncceh.ca/documents/guide/covid-19-and-outdoor-safety-considerations-use-outdoor-recreational-spaces>

Resources Available Online

Government of Canada

https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html?&utm_campaign=gc-hc-sc-coronaviruspublicedu2021-2021-0001-9762248618&utm_medium=search&utm_source=google-ads-99837326356&utm_content=text-en-428935858525&utm_term=%2Bcovid

National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA)

<https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Three-Pillars/health-wellness/coronavirus-disease-2019/path-to-recovery/specific-guidance-for-common-park-and-recreation-spaces-facilities-and-programs/>

Interesting article on the future of youth sports

<https://changingthegameproject.com/reimagining-youth-sports-in-a-post-covid-19-world/>

Resources Available Online

CPRA has created a new shared folder of COVID-19 resources for the parks and recreation sector.

CPRA is working on a COVID risk mitigation resource to help inform the management of outdoor spaces – soon to be released.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15K--poICQmFVSaxp2vpyrXMIDT8bMOZ?usp=sharing>

National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA)

<https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Three-Pillars/health-wellness/coronavirus-disease-2019/path-to-recovery/specific-guidance-for-common-park-and-recreation-spaces-facilities-and-programs/>

Governing bodies – Lifesaving Society, Red Cross, Hockey Canada, etc.

- National or Provincial levels
- **Owner is ultimately responsible – your facility**

Resources Available Online

NRPA – Assessing the Risk of Spaces, Facilities and Programs

<https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Three-Pillars/health-wellness/coronavirus-disease-2019/path-to-recovery/>

CATEGORY	CONTACT INTENSITY	NUMBER OF CONTACTS	MODIFICATION POTENTIAL
Parks, walking paths, trails, dog parks	Low	Low	Low
Noncontact sports	Low	Medium	High
Beaches, piers	Low	High	Medium
Pools	Medium	Low	High
Gyms, fitness studios	Medium	Medium	Medium
Playgrounds, skateparks and other outdoor recreation spaces	Medium	Medium	Medium
Athletic fields and other outdoor congregate settings	Medium	Medium	Low
Community centers	Medium	High	Medium
Theatres, museums and other indoor leisure spaces	Medium	High	Medium
Overnight programs	High	Medium	Low
Childcare facilities	High	Medium/High	Low/Medium
Contact sports	High	Medium/High	Low
Mass gatherings, community events, festivals, sports related tournaments and games	High	High	Medium
Outdoor large venues (concerts, sports)	High	High	Medium
Indoor large venues (concerts, sports)	High	High	Low
Summer camps	High	High	Low

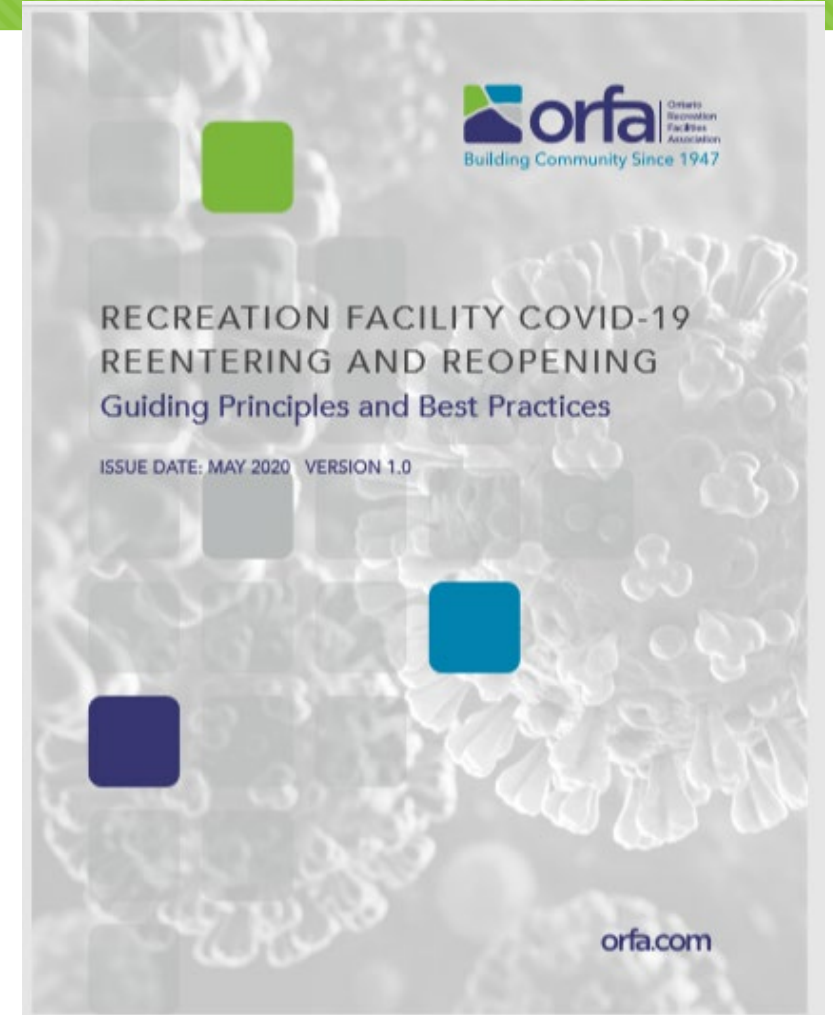
Resources Available Online

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Summer camps	High	High	Low

Resources Available Online

Ontario Recreation Facilities Association

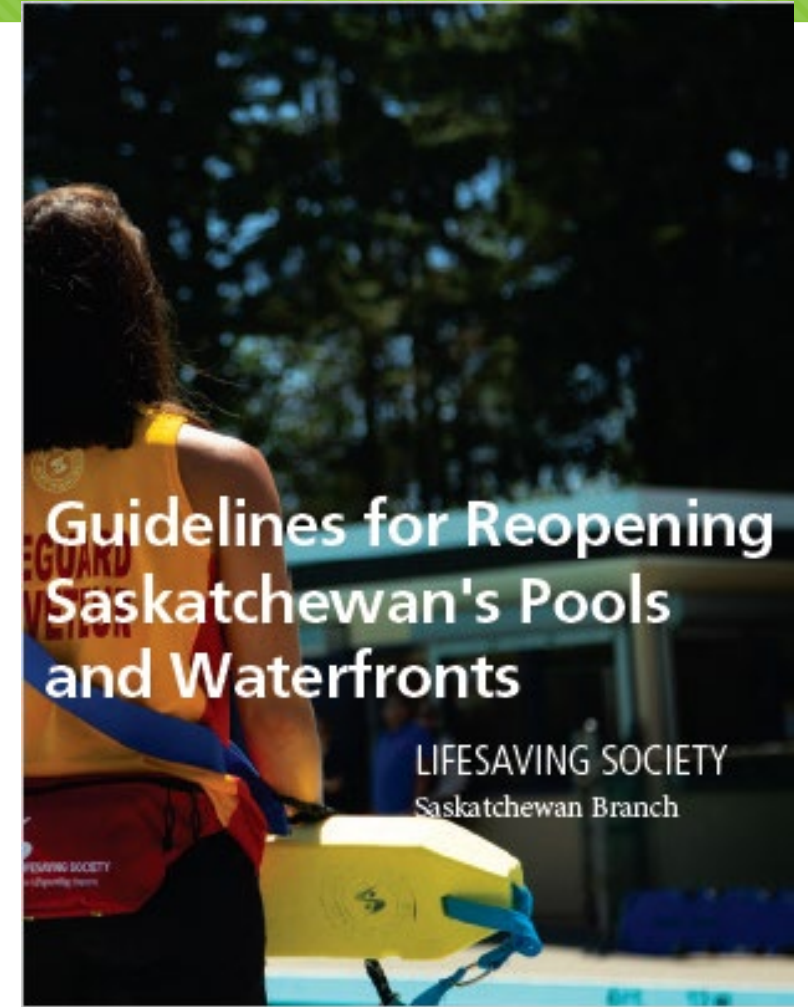
- https://orfa.com/resources/Documents_Public/gbp/ORFA%20ReEntering%20and%20ReOpening%20V1.0.pdf
- 40+ page document
- Check out table of contents



Resources Available Online

Lifesaving Society – soon to be released to Affiliates

- 50+ page document



Cautions – A Few To Consider

- Most authorities/experts suggest there will be another wave in the fall coinciding with cold/flu season – factor this into future plans
- When in doubt err on the side of safety – public and employee
- Users groups should have a COVID – 19 Plan
- Contractors should have a COVID –19 Plan – ensure they are working safely with you (e.g. electricians, refrigeration, etc.)
- Information is changing minute-to-minute – try to stay up-to-date
- Reach out – share information, challenges and solutions within and across industry – networking has never been as important as it is now
- No one has all the answers – but help is on the way (as much as possible)
- Be prepared for possible stimulus funding for recreation organizations, facilities and programs

Cautions – A Few More To Consider

- Start planning for change (be proactive) - is the mop and bucket up to the challenge?
- Environmental service vs custodian/janitor (new appreciation) - can this be done by only 1 person on shift?
- Workplace specific policies and practices – job hazard analysis?
- Legal and insurance ramifications - level of service should be clearly defined and maintained
- Suppliers and supply chain issues – possible challenges
- Business plan? Emergency Management Plan? – create and/or update?
- Don't open unless you are ready and think about a slow rollout – **would you want your family to...?**

What's Our End Goal?

Comments below are from SPRA Members:

Q: How can we ensure the public feels safe in participating in recreation again?

A: Makes changes to your operations/programs and communicate the changes to decision makers and stakeholders.

Q: Is running a program that doesn't match the tried and true, beloved camp experience worth running if it can't deliver on those expectations?

A: Perhaps it was time for a change anyways.

Create a "new" normal – able to meet public expectations

What's Our End Goal?

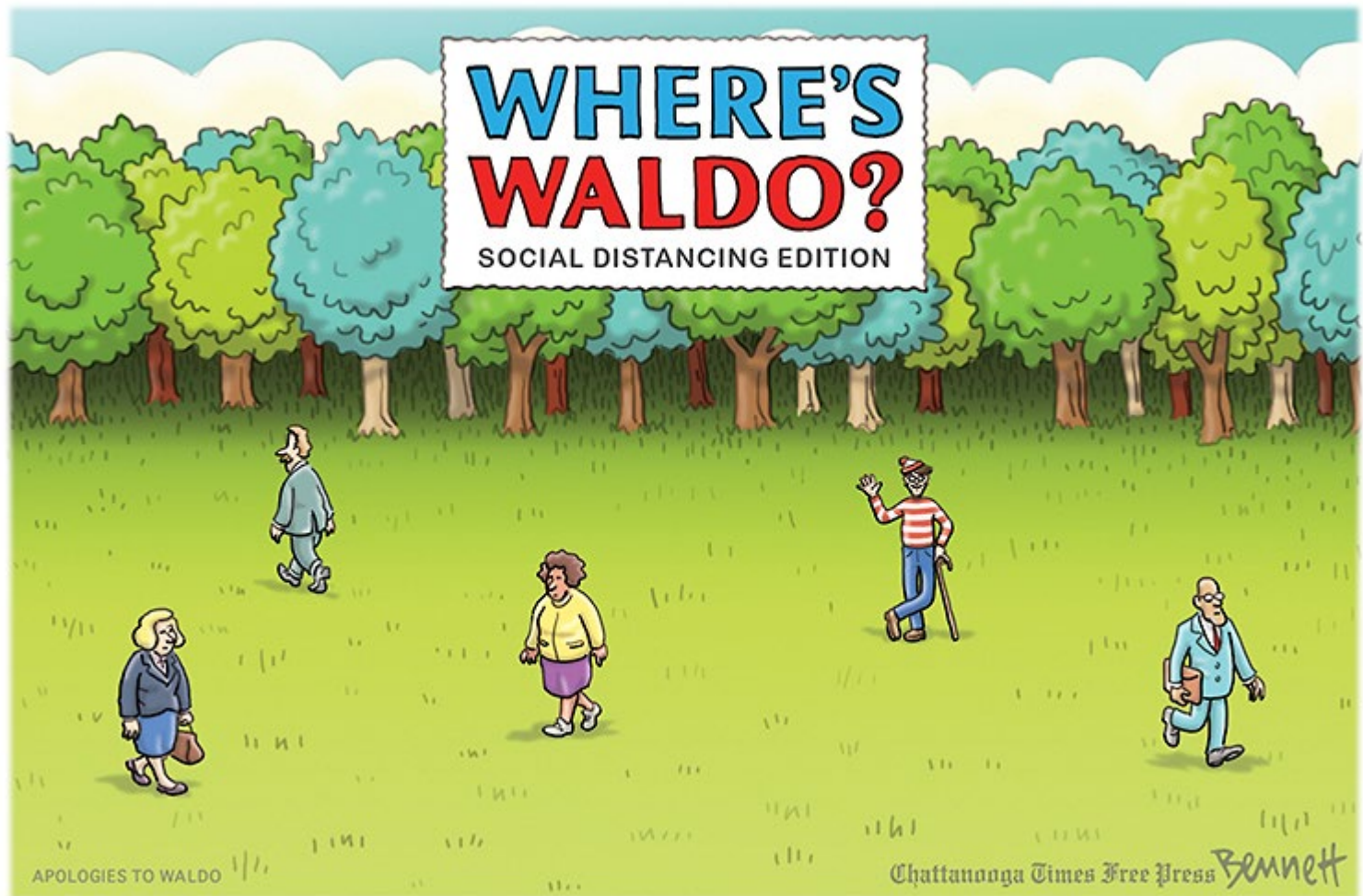
“It’s a combination of self-ownership, public responsibility and self-policing. People need space to get outside, get fresh air and clear their minds. The optimist in me wants to say this is possible, but it really comes down to taking personal responsibility and having plans in place to monitor and enforce and educating the public about the importance of it.”

Poll Question #5

Was this presentation useful?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Yes, but need more specifics/guidance
- ☐ No

Questions?



THANK YOU!

Tim Hanna

Consultant – Facilities and Training

306-780-9324

Toll Free: 1-800-563-2555

thanna@spra.sk.ca

Contact me for more information.



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