

24 March 2005

A CALL TO ACTION

Act 1:

Tells us how you feel about some proposed changes to the structure and functions of the BCRPA Board of Directors and membership.

The proposals are outlined below. A full version is available in the Governance and Membership Summary Report.

Act 2:

Read the summary report that provides information on the research, consultations, rationale and benefits of these recommendations

Act 3:

Visit www.bcrpa.bc.ca/surveys/governance.htm to respond to the online survey and provide additional input.

Why this review and call to action?

Because the Association is increasingly involved in the sport and health sectors, as well as in the opportunities created by the 2010 Winter Games. We are at a place where we have always wanted to be: at the table, as a leader. This calls for us to realign our governance and membership models.

Because the Association has created new ways to more fully engage members through the work of short-term, outcome-focused task groups that reflect the current climate of volunteerism and member contributions in the development and delivery of Association functions.

Because the Board's role in policy development and planning has been evolving over time, complemented by efficient operations that are needed to ensure that the organization's contractual commitments with government are met.

Because our financial landscape has changed considerably in recent years; a budget of \$600,000 in 2000 will reach \$2.5M in 2005. This increase reflects government's confidence in the ability of the Association to develop and implement large-scale initiatives and requires a commitment to greater levels of financial management and accountability.

How is the organization different today?

1. In 2004 alone, over 400 volunteers participated in a range of Association activities, from serving on symposium planning committees to developing official responses to government consultations such as the Pool Operation and Child Care Regulations
2. BCRPA and its sector are seen as an essential partner in building healthy communities and has been identified by the Ministry of Health Services and 2010LegaciesNow as the delivery agency for the Active Communities Initiative, a multi-year, multi-million dollar program
3. BCRPA is not only on the BC Healthy Living Alliance, but its Executive Director was elected as Chair of the Alliance (BCHLA)
4. As Chair of BCHLA, the BCRPA was represented at the first of what will become an ongoing series of meetings with Premier Gordon Campbell, to implement the provincial health promotion plan developed by BCHLA "The Winning Legacy"
5. BCRPA sits on the Sport and Recreation Leadership Council where it can influence the agenda and a renewed collaborative framework between sport and recreation
6. The BCRPA Executive Director has been appointed by the provincial government to represent the provincial sport and recreation sector on the national Sport Council work group on infrastructure
7. Professional development opportunities provided by BCRPA are valued by members and are financially viable
8. The BCRPA website and electronic communiqués are reaching all members and allied stakeholders with pertinent and valuable information. Members from all regions contribute on the editorial committee of the BCRPA magazine and bring to our flagship publication a broad range of voices and perspectives.

Vibrant. Nimble. Ready to respond to opportunities. Results oriented: This is BCRPA in 2005.

Our successes are recognized; and we want to capitalize on them. We have been doing some things differently – that's what has led us to where we are today and prepares us for a promising future. Our organizational structure should better reflect who we have become and position us for continued success. To that end, we recommend:

#1: that we confirm the **results-oriented model** (as described in the Summary Report) as BCRPA's preferred approach to organizational governance

#2: that we **revise the Board structure to include nine (9) voting members, plus the CEO as a non-voting member**. Voting members would include the President, Past President and President-elect, plus six (6) Directors. Regional directors would become regional liaisons and would not sit on the Board of Directors as their function to-date has been primarily one of communication, and not governance. Mechanisms will be installed to support and enhance this communication function of the regional liaisons, and to maintain the regional networks as key resources and delivery agents for the Association. Special interest branch functions will be transferred to task groups.

#3: that we simplify BCRPA's **membership structure to include four major categories of members – (1) local government, (2) individual members, (3) corporate members, and (4) affiliate members**. This simplified structure would reduce confusion. The emphasis on local government memberships would encourage municipalities to join the organization. Individual membership categories would provide options and choices, and would not be based on personal income. The corporate category would provide enhanced value to private sector members, including a vote and the ability to sit on the Board of Directors. The affiliate membership would formalize the connection between BCRPA and other like-minded not-for-profit organizations. Students in their graduating year of a recreation-related program of instruction would be eligible to join the Association free-of-charge.

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