



**Vancouver Sun letter to the editor**

Submitted July 27, 2010

The July 24<sup>th</sup> article “‘Under the sun’ swimming a shrinking option in Metro Vancouver” illustrates the importance of community recreation facilities to us as individuals and shows how they are the life blood of our communities. They are the places where our children discover the fun of recreation and sport. They are the places that contribute to the health and well being of all British Columbians and connect us to our community.

Our recreation facilities, whether the pool, ice rink or trail, allow us to engage in physical activity which in itself is a key factor in combating a number of our current chronic health care issues such as obesity, type 2 diabetes and heart disease.

Throughout the province this infrastructure is reaching a crisis point. Almost half of BC’s current recreation facilities are in need of renewal and/or replacement. This is a critical public policy issue. With sustainable maintenance and funding for renewal, recreation facilities will continue to be one of the most cost-effective prescriptions for good health and engaged citizens.

Suzanne Allard Strutt  
Chief Executive Officer  
BC Recreation and Parks Association