

Recreation & Parks Sector Key Election Issues

Background: BCRPA

- The **BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA)** is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in our province.
- Our extensive network of over **2,700 members** include local government leaders in public recreation, parks, and physical activity.
- They are the staff who help **create active, healthy, and connected communities** to enrich the lives of taxpayers.

Background: CPRA

- The Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA) is a national organization that represents **municipal parks and recreation services**.
- The services our members provide are **essential to individual and community health** and vibrancy.
- Our extensive membership base represents **90% of Canadian communities**.

Background: Municipal Recreation and Parks

- Municipal recreation and parks services deliver solutions to **health, social and environmental challenges**.
- Parks and recreation services are also **economic drivers** and provide increased productivity, community economic development, sport tourism, job creation, community entry points for new Canadians, welcoming environments for those with a disability and sustainability of the social fabric of rural and remote communities.

Issue: Municipal Recreation and Parks Infrastructure

- High quality, accessible recreation and sport opportunities are essential to **healthy, productive and contributing individuals and communities**.
- Research demonstrates that amongst all categories, recreation (including sport) infrastructure faces the most immediate and critical need for repair and refurbishment. Yet, when tough decisions need to be made by municipalities on infrastructure priorities, sport and recreation projects are often trumped by other commitments.
- The **estimated costs to repair existing recreation facilities across Canada is over \$16 billion**, not including required funding for new sport and recreation infrastructure for the growing, aging and diversifying population. A [2009 BCRPA finding](#) reported that \$5.2 billion (in 2009 dollars) is required to address the needs in BC.

- In the 2017 federal budget, \$1.3 billion was committed to a **dedicated funding envelope for recreation** and culture infrastructure. This is an excellent starting point but the needs far outstrip the available funding. In addition, the distribution of these funds has lacked clarity and timeliness.
- **Significantly increasing the funding** in this dedicated envelope and delivering the funds **via the Gas Tax Fund** would ensure support to municipalities in the form of direct and reliable funding.
- **Provide funding to enable municipal parks to adapt trails for inclusion of all abilities.**

If elected, will you support an increase in funding for community recreation infrastructure via the dedicated envelope and Gas Tax Fund?

[Issue: Continuation of Current Recreation Programs](#)

Green Jobs

- The **Green Jobs in Green Spaces program** (<https://www.cpra.ca/green-jobs>) is a youth employment partnership between CPRA and Employment and Social Development Canada that allows youth to gain valuable work experience in the green sector.
- Through this program, by March 2020, Canadian organizations and municipalities will have hired over 4,500 young, bright minds to help them on green projects in the community.
- This includes initiatives such as building community trails, maintaining urban parks, green research and animating municipal parks.
- British Columbia has been the largest recipient of Green Jobs funding in all of Canada.
- The **current program ends in March 2020** and the renewal of this program would harness the tremendous momentum that has been growing both amongst employers and youth for green career opportunities.
- The interest by youth and employers in this program has outstripped the funding from the onset. And, the enthusiasm for the potential impact of a renewed program is contagious amongst our organizations, employers and youth.

If elected, will you advocate for the renewal of the Green Jobs in Green Spaces program until 2025?

Issue: Creation of a Secretary of State of Physical Activity

- Physical inactivity amongst Canadians is one of the most significant challenges we face as a country.
- The impacts are far-reaching including increased health care costs, reduced productivity and competitiveness, increased mental health challenges, lower community vibrancy and engagement, increased environmental impact, and decreased quality of life.
- An impactful national **response** to physical inactivity will require **multiple** federal departments and **Ministerial mandates** (i.e. health, sport, parks, Indigenous, heritage, employment, environment, youth, rural development, seniors, finance, infrastructure, transport).
- Further, the 'lense' of physical inactivity must be applied to all federal government decisions and a coordinated response needs to be driven by a **designated leader at the Cabinet table**.
- This leadership and the implementation of the recently developed federal physical activity strategy, will deliver significant economic and social benefits to Canadians. Without this leadership, a mediocre national response will result and the impacts on Canadians will be acute.

If elected, will you support the creation of the Cabinet position of Secretary of State for Physical Activity?