

Promotion of the IAKS Study trip through the BCPRA network

The IAKS is the largest international non-profit organization promoting the planning, development, construction and operation of sports and leisure facilities. It shares many of the same values as the Canadian Parks + Recreation Association and the Provincial members of that group. The IAKS has as a primary focus the development of exemplary, relevant, and sustainable indoor and outdoor sports and leisure opportunities.

The IAKS has long been aware of the unique and enviable capacity of Canada to produce some of the world's finest sports and leisure facilities. The IAKS in conjunction with the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee holds a biennial international competition for Exemplary Sports and Leisure Facilities. Over the past decade Canadian projects have won more IAKS Awards than any other country and in 2019 Canadian projects won a total of 7 awards, a new IAKS record. Award-winning projects in 2019 were Vancouver's UBC Aquatic Centre and More Awesome Now, Rogers Centre in Edmonton, Great Plains Recreation Facility in Calgary, Manitoboggan in Winnipeg (winning both an IOC award and an IPC Distinction Award for Accessibility), and the Videotron Centre in Quebec City.

"sb" is the journal of the IAKS and is published bi-monthly in both English and German. The journal has highlighted over 25 Canadian projects in the past decade. Recent projects of interest to members of the BCRPA include the Concord Pop-Up Park in Vancouver, Westminster Pier Park in New Westminster, and the Guildford Community Recreation Centre in Surrey which was also the cover story for sb 3/2017. No regional or national journal in Canada is more successful at featuring exceptional Canadian recreation and leisure facilities than the IAKS.

The IAKS is committed to fostering opportunities for knowledge-transfer and has recognized Canadian projects, and in particular those on the west coast of Canada as worthy of an International Study Trip. This event will be centred in New Westminster and will run May 26th and 27th. The Study Trip will have an opening event at the Anvil Centre before touring the Edmonds Community Centre, Grandview Heights Aquatic Centre, a sneak preview of the Clayton Community Centre, ending at Westminster Pier Park. May 27th will see the Study Trip continue to Hillcrest Centre, Delbrook Community Recreation Centre, the UBC Aquatic Centre, and end at the Richmond Oval – winner of the prestigious IAKS "All Time Award". In addition to the facility tours, there will be a special presentation on each day. Kelsey Swanson will provide a background to the development of the Clayton Community Centre and Heather Turner will provide a similar background presentation on the Delbrook facility. Delegates will also have an opportunity to discuss the day's events at a Study Trip dinner the evening of May 26th.

For more information on the IAKS Study Trip to Metro Vancouver and New Westminster visit the IAKS website at www.iaks.sport.

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