

Date: February 10, 2026

To: Victoria Tiqui-Sanford, Board of Governors & President's Office

Subject: Program Suspension Recommendation – Recreation and Leisure Services

Dear Ms. Tiqui-Sanford,

On behalf of concerned industry partners, alumni, students, and community stakeholders, I am writing to formally request an opportunity to address the Algonquin College Board of Governors regarding the recommended suspension of the Recreation and Leisure Services program.

Parks and Recreation Ontario (PRO) is the collective voice for more than 7,000 parks and recreation professionals across the province, including students currently training for careers in the sector. Our members work in municipalities, community organizations, health and wellness settings, and post-secondary institutions, and are directly impacted by workforce pipeline and training decisions.

The purpose of our address is to outline the significant and detrimental impacts that the suspension of the Recreation and Leisure Services program will have on students, the local and regional labour market, municipal and community partners, and the broader parks and recreation sector. While we understand that the College's suspension recommendations result from a portfolio review process, we believe it is critical for the Board to hear directly from sector representatives regarding:

- Growing demand for qualified recreation professionals across Ontario;
- The program's contribution to community health and wellbeing;
- Long-term workforce impacts of suspension in Eastern Ontario and beyond;
- Opportunities for renewal, partnerships, or alternative delivery models; and
- The social and economic consequences of limiting post-secondary pathways in recreation.

Our intention is to contribute constructively to the discussion, acknowledging the challenging operating environment facing the College while advocating for thoughtful consideration of the program's strategic and community value.

We respectfully request confirmation of the process, timing, and allotted speaking duration for delegations to the Board. We appreciate the opportunity to be heard and thank the Board for its consideration of this request.



Sarah Ane
Director of Policy and Partnerships
sane@prontario.org

Cc: Kim Gavine, CEO, Parks and Recreation Ontario
Jeff Pafford, Board Chair, Parks and Recreation Ontario