
Parks and Recreation Ontario Announces CEO Leadership Transition

Toronto, ON (February 9, 2026) – Parks and Recreation Ontario (PRO) announced today that Kim Gavine will retire from her role as Chief Executive Officer, after several years of dedication and outstanding leadership. The Board of Directors has appointed Sarah Ane as the organization's Acting Chief Executive Officer, effective March 1, 2026.

Kim led PRO through a period of significant change, including pandemic recovery and strengthened provincial advocacy efforts, reinforcing the organization's role as a trusted voice for parks and recreation across Ontario.

"Kim has been an exceptional leader and a tireless advocate for the sector," said Jeff Pafford, Chair of the PRO Board of Directors. "Her vision, integrity, and commitment to community well-being have left a lasting legacy, and we wish her every happiness as she begins this exciting new chapter of her life."

The Board has appointed Sarah Ane to lead PRO into its next chapter. Prior to joining PRO in 2023 as the Director of Policy and Partnerships, Sarah worked in a variety of municipal parks and recreation roles. Sarah has extensive experience in sector leadership, advocacy, governance, policy engagement, and member relations, and has worked closely with PRO's Board, staff, and partners.

"Sarah is a highly respected leader with a strong understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the parks and recreation sector," said Pafford. "She brings the experience, credibility, and collaborative approach needed to advance PRO's strategic priorities and to continue delivering value to our members."

Incoming Acting CEO Sarah Ane, underscored the vital role parks and recreation play as foundational in all communities to ensure community well-being, social inclusion, and long-term resilience across Ontario.

"It is an honour to step into the role of Acting CEO at PRO," said Ane. "Parks and recreation opportunities are vital services that support physical and mental health, community connection, and quality of life. I look forward to working with our members, partners, and team to continue strengthening the sector and advocating for the communities we serve."

For more information, please contact:

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