



Canadian Parks and Recreation Association National Voice for the Parks and Recreation Sector - COVID-19

The Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA) is working hard to support the sector through the pandemic and post-pandemic stages.

The CPRA Board is providing important national insight and guidance. The CPRA Parks Task Group, Infrastructure and Facilities Task Group and the Framework Leadership Team will also serve as key advisors as the sector works together through these challenging times.

Each week, CPRA hosts a virtual meeting with its 13 provincial/territorial (PT) members so that members can learn from each other's experiences and identify common needs for the sector. The PT members have indicated that these sessions are providing great value and insight to support their membership.

An online repository of COVID-19 information, tools and templates has been made available to our 13 PT members to support knowledge transfer and reduce duplication. CPRA is examining the possibility of making this information available in a repository open to all in the sector.

CPRA recently hosted a national webinar about working from home, to support the sector's new reality. The webinar was attended by 220 individuals and the recording is available on the [CPRA website](#). Additional webinars to support the sector are forthcoming. We are also actively posting information, tools and ideas on social media.

CPRA has developed a [briefing note](#) targeted at the federal government. It outlines the immediate challenges for the municipal parks and recreation sector. It also presents how the sector can play a fundamental role in community and societal recovery, as well as economic revival in the post-pandemic phase.

The briefing note presents four requests to the government: a parks and recreation youth employment program (with wage subsidies); a community parks and recreation recovery fund to support the re-opening of facilities and return of programs; infrastructure funds dedicated to community parks and recreation; and immediate funding for not-for-profit organizations.

This briefing note has also been shared with the 13 PT members to support a consistent message going into all levels of government. The PT members are tweaking the brief to reflect the realities of their region.

This briefing note has been shared on social media and posted on the CPRA website. It was also distributed to the members of the inter-provincial sports and recreation government community.

As CPRA aligns its messages and activities with other national partners (i.e. ParticipACTION, Federation of Canadian Municipalities), it has also enlisted expertise in data collection to create statistics to support our case to government. These will be shared in the coming weeks.

CPRA has distributed the brief to relevant federal ministers, parliamentary secretaries, critics and bureaucrats responsible for: sport; infrastructure & communities; families, children and social development; health; parks; seniors; finance; employment; youth; and rural economic development.

As follow-up, CPRA has had direct conversations with ministerial staff and bureaucrats responsible for the above noted priorities.

CPRA is encouraged that our messages are resonating and is confident that additional support for not-for-profits, municipalities and the recreation and parks sector will be forthcoming.

CPRA, in alignment with the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), is considering the creation of tools to facilitate the re-opening of facilities and parks. The tools could include consistent cleaning protocols that align with public health standards, best practices for physical distancing in recreation places and spaces, messaging to the public to reclaim confidence in public recreation facilities and future pandemic readiness.

If you have suggestions for pandemic webinar topics or ideas on the support required by the sector in the pandemic and post pandemic stages, please do not hesitate to reach out to your PT association or directly to CPRA at info@cpra.ca.