



July 15, 2010

Chair & Board
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
101 Martin Street
Penticton, BC V2A 5J9

Dear Chair & Board,

I am following up on our July 7, 2009 correspondence requesting from you a letter of support as the BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) moves forward in addressing the urgent need for recreation infrastructure renewal throughout our province.

Last year we released the "A Time for Renewal" report, a culmination of 5 years of research, study and analysis of BC's indoor recreation facilities, which concluded that 68% of the province's infrastructure is over 25 years of age and in urgent need of upgrade or replacement. Its inability to keep up with the demands of a growing population and their changing needs as well as local and provincial environmental stewardship goals is putting healthy communities at risk. Our recreation infrastructure is reaching the crisis point for capital investment.

Our advocacy work around this issue continues as we meet with government officials to increase their awareness of the issue and secure their financial commitment and support. Essential to this work is the demonstration of support local governments have for the need to renew and replace these valuable community resources – for the benefits they bring to their own communities as well as to the province as a whole – and for the work the BCRPA is doing on behalf of all communities within BC.

Now is the time for renewal. Recreation has the capacity to improve the quality of life for *all* British Columbians. With your help we can ensure our recreation infrastructure remains functional and safe, continuing its role in improving our general health and wellbeing.

Please, help us as we work to turn this pressing need into a public policy priority. Your letter will support the urgency and importance of this issue and how it impacts all of us across BC.

Thank you for your time and assistance. Please contact me with any questions or comments you may have. I can be reached at sstrutt@bcrpa.bc.ca or 604.629.0965 ext 226.

A copy of the "A Time for Renewal" report can be found on our website at www.bcrpa.bc.ca/atimeforrenewal.htm

Yours sincerely,

Suzanne Allard Strutt
Chief Executive Officer
Founding Chair, BC Healthy Living Alliance

Readers file per CAO

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