

# West Vancouver

## PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

150 17TH STREET, WEST VANCOUVER, BC V7V 3E3  
TELEPHONE: 604 925 7200 FACSIMILE: 604 925 5928

(8)

August 25, 2009

File: 0055-20-BCRP1

Suzanne Allard Strutt  
Chief Executive Officer  
BC Recreation and Parks Association  
101 - 4664 Lougheed Highway  
Burnaby BC V5C 5T5

Dear Ms. Strutt:

### RE: Letter of Support

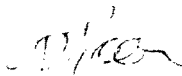
Your letter to Mayor and Council has been referred to me for comment.

The District of West Vancouver recognized its recreation facility deficit over 20 years ago and in response, established an endowment fund and a capital facilities fund in order to replace its aging leisure service buildings. In step with the Recreation Facilities Master Plan, development began at the turn of the new millennium with improvements and expansions to the Ice Arena and Seniors' Centre. By 2003 the satellite community centre in the western end of the community was complete and by 2004, the new Aquatic Centre opened, as well as two new artificial turf playing fields. In the spring of 2009, West Vancouver opened its multi-faceted and multi-partnered Community Centre at its Civic Site; 80 thousand square feet of recreation and health infrastructure. West Vancouver has recognized the importance of recreation and active living to its citizens. We can now be confident that our recreation facilities are state of the art and in place for the next 50 years.

The District of West Vancouver recognizes that recreation has the capacity to improve the general health and well being of all British Columbians. We support the efforts of the BC Recreation and Parks Association in addressing recreation infrastructure renewal in our Province.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 604 925 7235 or via email at [amooi@westvancouver.ca](mailto:amooi@westvancouver.ca).

Sincerely,



Anne Mooi  
Director  
Parks and Community Services

copy: Mayor and Council  
Grant McRadu, Chief Administrative Officer



July 16, 2009

Mayor & Council  
District of West Vancouver  
750 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
West Vancouver, BC V7V 3T3

ATTACHMENTS  
AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING  
IN LEGISLATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

(19)  
0055-01

Dear Mayor & Council,

I am writing to request 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 in our province.

Just last month, we released *A Time for Renewal: Assessing the State of Recreation Facilities in British Columbia*. The Executive Summary is attached; the full report is available on our website: [http://www.bcrpa.bc.ca/recreation\\_parks/facilities/sports\\_recreation/a\\_time\\_for\\_renewal/background.htm](http://www.bcrpa.bc.ca/recreation_parks/facilities/sports_recreation/a_time_for_renewal/background.htm).

Based on five years of comprehensive research, study and analysis, we conclude in this report that 68% of BC's indoor recreation facilities are 25 years or older and in urgent need of upgrade or replacement. We have determined that for this to occur \$5.2 billion is needed over the next decade. BC's aging infrastructure is unable to keep up with the demands of a growing population that has changing needs, and it is reaching the crisis point for capital investment.

At the request of its members, BCRPA has set recreation infrastructure renewal as a top priority and will soon be meeting with government officials to bring awareness to the issue and gain the support and commitment needed to initiate action on this pressing problem.

Our recreation infrastructure plays an essential role in our quality of life and overall well-being. The benefits of a healthy active population are felt at all levels.

Individuals engaging in physical activity and recreation lead healthier lives and have stronger connections to their communities. Active living reduces many health risks such as heart disease and stroke; certain types of cancers, type 2 diabetes, youth and adult obesity and the incidence of fall-related injuries and chronic conditions in older adults. Activity also fosters social opportunities and improves mental health.

Within communities, recreation builds stronger individuals and families, reducing negative, self-destructive behaviours such as smoking, substance abuse and juvenile delinquency - helping reduce social service and justice costs. It has the ability to break down cultural, class and identity barriers, engages people and builds social cohesion, generating healthy, inclusive communities.

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Environmentally, parks and natural areas protect habitat, improve air quality and clean water resources. Active people incorporate exercise and recreation into their daily lives, often choosing to walk and cycle rather than drive.

Economically, investment in recreation infrastructure offsets reactive investments in health and social justice infrastructure. Parks, trails and recreation facilities increase property values and tax revenue. Recreation facilities generate construction and jobs, and supports tourism by providing venues for everything from high performance sporting events to recreational attractions.

The case is clear. Recreation has the capacity to improve the quality of life for *all* British Columbians. Now is the time for renewal. 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 individuals, our communities, environments, and economy.

With your help we can ensure our recreation infrastructure remains functional and safe, continuing its role in improving our general health and wellbeing.

Thank you for your time and support. Please contact me with any question or comments you may have. I can be reached at [ssstrutt@bcrpa.bc.ca](mailto:ssstrutt@bcrpa.bc.ca) or 604.629.0965 ext 226.

Yours sincerely,



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

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