Alberta Recreation and Parks Association

December 6, 2021

Dear Mayor and elected Councillors,

On behalf of the Alberta Recreation and Parks Association (ARPA), I would like to extend my congratulations on your recent election to your municipal council! You should be proud of the passion and dedication you have to making your communities better places to live, work and play.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our Association. ARPA is a non-profit, volunteer run organization whose purpose is to collaboratively support our members and partners to (re)create healthy citizens, communities and environments, enhancing the wellbeing of all Albertans. The majority of municipalities in Alberta are members with ARPA, especially those that have recreation and parks within their planning and services.

Recreation and parks are the heart of our communities and often serve as the hubs for communities to gather and connect. In a recent study ARPA undertook, 77% of Albertans surveyed strongly agree that public recreation services are essential to their community and over 95% believe that recreation and parks make a community a desirable place to live.

Over the past 18 months, Albertans have reconnected with nature and the outdoors. This has led to both opportunities and challenges. Over this same period the pandemic and changing restrictions has made it difficult to provide consistent, equitable and quality recreation programs in our indoor spaces.

ARPA is here to help our municipal members more than ever to support our citizens and communities to recover and re-engage with the activities they have always loved, or maybe just recently discovered. We are here to support your staff, volunteers and community leaders. We are also here to help you as elected officials.

I would also like to highlight the important role you have as a member of council to ensuring everyone in your community has access to affordable, quality recreation and park experiences. If you and your council would like to learn more about providing leadership to the recreation and parks in your own communities please contact us in regards to the Recreation and Parks for Elected Officials training we have available for both virtual and in-person. We would also love to host you at our annual Conference next October in Jasper. We will send you all invitations next summer once we have the program finalized.

Once again, my sincere congratulations on your appointment to council. We value the work you are doing to support the quality of life in your community, and we encourage you to reach out at any time with questions or simply to connect. You can contact our Executive Director, Steve Allan at 780-415-1745 ext. 102 or sallan@arpaonline.ca

Warmest regards,

Heather Cowie
President

11759 Groat Road NW • Edmonton • Alberta • T5M 3K6
ph: 780-415-1745 • fax: 780-451-7915 • arpa@arpaonline.ca • www.arpaonline.ca