

NORTH PEACE REGION

# SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF RECREATION ACTIVITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND SERVICE DELIVERY

MAY 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2015



















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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Situational Analysis of Recreation Activities, Infrastructure and Service Delivery is the product of a partnership between County of Northern Lights, the Municipal District of Peace #135, Northern Sunrise County, the Towns of Peace River and Grimshaw, and the Villages of Nampa and Berwyn. The intent of the project was to utilize a variety of research and consultation mechanisms, leading to the development of recommendations that can help guide future planning decisions and discussions related to recreation services at both the local and regional level.

Critical to the project was consultation with the general public and recreation stakeholders. As identified in the following chart, the project was successful at gathering feedback through a variety of consultation mechanisms.

Consultation Mechanism	Participation/Responses		
Household survey (mail-out)	759 responses		
Household survey (web)	427 responses (full and partial)		
Student survey	572 responses		
Interviews	42 sessions (~60 interviews)		
Focus group sessions	4 sessions (~89 participants)		
Community group questionnaire	17 responses		

#### Key findings from the consultation included:

- Residents place a high value on recreation services and strongly believe that recreation impacts quality of life.
- There is a desire for new recreation infrastructure to be developed in the region.
- While residents and stakeholders agreed that regional cooperation should occur, local needs and priorities were also identified as being important.
- There exists a diversity of recreational interests throughout the region.
- Community organizations are widely recognized for playing a key role in providing recreation and related opportunities throughout the region.
- While organized indoor sports are significant and important, priority also needs to be given to "passive" and spontaneous recreation.
- Outdoor recreational pursuits are popular and form a significant part of resident recreational preferences.
- Some moderate levels of support exist for an increase in taxes and user fees to enhance recreation services.

The consultation was augmented with supporting secondary research which included population and demographics analysis, trends analysis, benchmarking, and a review of current practices and recreation inventory in the region. Key findings from the secondary research revealed that:

- The region has a generally stable population, with the fastest growth occurring in Peace River.
- Age demographics of the region generally align with provincial figures.
- Municipalities in the region generally invest in recreation and culture at levels similar to that of "comparable" municipalities in Alberta.
- The North Peace Region has a significant and diverse asset base of recreation facilities and spaces.
- Recreation services in the North Peace Region rely heavily on both municipalities and community based organizations.
- Trends in recreation suggest that interests are becoming more diverse with a preference towards spontaneous recreation.
- The nature of volunteerism is evolving, but not declining.

The consultation was then used to develop preliminary lists of indoor and outdoor facility priorities. While these preliminary lists help assess resident demand, it is important to note that these lists do not take into account a number of other factors (current provision in the region, capital and operating costs, current Council priorities, partnerships, etc.) that would need to be considered when making decisions regarding future projects and overall priorities. Rather these lists are an initial step towards identifying priorities. See Section 7 for the list of preliminary priorities.

Five (5) recommendations were ultimately developed:

**Recommendation #1**—Explore the Establishment of a Regional Recreation Advisory Committee

**Recommendation #2**—Further engage senior administration and Council to discuss the future level of collaboration required for recreation services in the region.

**Recommendation #3**—Consider implementing a project development framework (at a regional and local level) for proposed major infrastructure initiatives.

**Recommendation #4**—As a region, further explore and prioritize the preliminary list of indoor and outdoor facility priorities.

**Recommendation #5**—Enhance collaborations in the areas of marketing, volunteer development, and organizational capacity building.

The rationale and benefits, implementation strategies, and frameworks for the above strategies are further outlined in **Section 8**.

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## PROJECT BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

The County of Northern Lights, the Municipal District of Peace #135, Northern Sunrise County, the Towns of Peace River and Grimshaw, and the Villages of Nampa and Berwyn identified the need to collaborate and jointly access the current provision and future needs for recreation in the region. RC Strategies, an Alberta based consulting firm specializing in recreation planning, was selected through a request for proposal process to develop a Situational Analysis of Recreation Activities, Infrastructure, and Service Delivery.

This work plan and methodology outlined for the project was focused around a strong program of engagement and research, leading to initial recommendations that could assist with future planning and decision making. The project process is illustrated in the following graphic.

While the information gathered, analyzed, and used to develop the recommendations is valuable and should be strongly considered in future planning; it is important to note that the intent of the project was not to recommend or endorse specific infrastructure projects or major systematic changes to how services are delivered. Rather the project's intent was to provide sufficient research and lay foundations for future discussions around infrastructure and overall service provision.

### **Public and Stakeholder Consulation Household Survey Student Survey** Community Group Questionnaire Interviews and Dicussion Sessions **Review of Current Practices/Provision** How are services provided? **Analysis** Recommendations Current collaborations. Facilities and programs. **Secondary Research Trends** Benchmarking Population and Demographics

### MARKET OVERVIEW

Summarized as follows are brief profiles of the North Peace Region and the seven project partner municipalities. Identified are key historical traits or points of interest, economic drivers and selected community facilities and sites within each area. Also included in this section is a regional population analysis and population growth projections.

# THE NORTH PEACE REGION: HISTORY AND OVERVIEW

The North Peace Region is located in northwestern Alberta, approximately 450 km northwest of Edmonton and 150 km east of Grande Prairie. Municipalities in the region include the Towns of Peace River and Grimshaw, the Villages of Berwyn and Nampa, the Municipal District of Peace No. 135, Northern Sunshine County, and the County Northern Lights.

Settlement of the region first occurred when the Athapaskan (Beaver) and the Algonquian (Cree) tribes arrived. European settlers, specifically Alexander Mackenzie, came to the region seeking fur-trading opportunities. With trade increasing between the European settlers and the Aboriginal tribes, conflict increased between the Beaver and Cree tribes. A truce was eventually established and the Unchagah, (meaning 'peace') river became the boundary between the tribes' hunting territories'.

Abundant with resources, the North Peace Region includes significant agriculture, forestry, oil and gas, and tourism industries. The landscape draws the attention from people far and near to enjoy the rural setting and lifestyle. The "mighty" Peace River continues to be a strong influencer of the region's lifestyle, recreation, settlement, and economy.

#### TOWN OF PEACE RIVER

The Town of Peace River is located in the scenic Peace River valley and continues to be a significant urban service centre in northwest Alberta. With a population nearing 7,000 residents, the town continues to experience modest growth levels of both permanent and non-permanent residents.

With a rich history involving Beaver, Cree, and Metis tribes, and their connection with Alexander Mackenzie and the fur trade, the Town of Peace River is a historic landmark in early settlements of western Canada. Another historic character that gained the attraction to the region was Henry "Twelve Foot" Davis, who claimed a twelve-foot space of land during the gold rush and accumulated over \$15,000 worth of gold. With the establishment of The Northern Alberta Railway (NAR) station in 1916, the Town of Peace River become a centre for transportation in the region.

Peace River's economy is based around Government of Alberta occupations and resource extraction. The largest industries in the region are forestry, agriculture, and oil and gas. With four schools that offer education from kindergarten to high school level courses and two post-secondary institutions, Peace River offers an array of post-secondary opportunities for regional residents. The Town of Peace River provides a wide variety of recreational options. Major recreational sites and facilities in the community include the Baytex Energy Centre, Peace Regional Pool, Misery Mountain Ski Centre, Water Spray Park, Al Adair Recreation Centre (includes the Peace Country Sports Club), Riverfront Park, Normand Boucher Arboretum, and numerous other parks, trails, sports fields and smaller community facilities.

#### M.D. OF PFACE NO. 135

The Municipal District of Peace No. 135 is a rural municipality that was settled in early 1900's and incorporated in 1916. The M.D. is situated along the north bank of the Peace River. With a total land area of 850.88 km², the M.D. encompasses many communities. The Town of Grimshaw, the Village of Berwyn, and the Hamlet of Brownvale are found within the municipal district. Similar to the region, the municipal district shares in common work in common industries, such as agriculture, forestry, and oil and gas. The municipality is well known for a number of popular outdoor recreation and leisure sites which include the Lac Cardinal Recreation Area, Queen Elizabeth Provincial Park, Strong Creek Park, and Elk Island Campsite.

#### TOWN OF GRIMSHAW

The Town of Grimshaw, also known as 'Mile Zero' of the Mackenzie Highway, is located at the intersections of Highway 35, Highway 2, Highway 2A, and the Mackenzie Northern Railway. Grimshaw's location along a number of these important transportation routes has resulted in the community becoming a key staging area for land transportation operations and industries.

With the recent completion of the Mile Zero Regional Multiplex, the Town of Grimshaw has created new opportunities for its residents. With the inclusion of a field house, meeting room, walking track, fitness centre, and an arena, the complex compliments already established facilities in the community. Primary and secondary education in Grimshaw is provided at the Junior Senior High School, Kennedy Elementary School, and the Holy Family School. Residents and visitors to the town have the opportunity to learn about the community and region's history at the Lac Cardinal Regional Pioneer Museum.



#### VILLAGE OF BERWYN

The Village of Berwyn was first formally settled around 1910. The village was officially named 'Berwyn' in 1922 after the similarly named village in Denbigshire, Wales. Berwyn was officially incorporated as a village in 1936 and currently maintains a population of 526 residents. Similar to other communities in the region, the Village of Berwyn has historically been based largely around the agriculture sector with a growing presence in the forestry and oil and gas industries.

Community facilities found in Berwyn include the Tower Park Recreational Area (nature and cross-country ski trails, picnic areas, tennis courts, baseball diamonds, bird watching areas, and walking trails); Berwyn Municipal Library, Berwyn Playschool Society, and the Lloyd Garrison School for grades K to 6. The Berwyn Arena was recently decommissioned. The community spirit of Berwyn is reflected in the numerous events, programs and activities offered by the communities numerous organizations and social groups.

#### NORTHERN SUNRISE COUNTY

Northern Sunrise County was incorporated in 1994 and includes the Hamlets of St. Isidore, Marie Reine, Cadotte Lake, Little Buffalo, and Reno. Northern Sunrise County is located directly adjacent the Town of Peace River boundaries and encompassed the Village of Nampa. Transportation was a large contributor to the area's original settlement. With fur traders initially using the river system flowing through the region, it was not long until the introduction of a rail system that would solidify the region's presence. The County's location along a number of primary and secondary transportation routes has resulted in strong energy and agriculture sectors.

Cultural activities and heritage continue to be extremely important to the region and its communities. Each community has a unique cultural history which is reflected in numerous community events and organizations. The Carnaval de St. Isidore is one such event which attracts visitors from across the region and beyond. The event takes place at the recently renovated St. Isidore Cultural Centre. Other popular recreation sites and facilities located within the County include the Marie Reine Cultural Centre, McKinney Hall, Mamowintowin Cultural Centre, the Peace River Agricultural Society grounds, Twelve Foot Davis Gravesite, and the Harmon Valley Agricultural Grounds.

#### VILLAGE OF NAMPA

The Village of Nampa was first settled when "Pa" Christian developed the first homestead in the area in 1916. It was later in 1921 when the village officially became 'Nampa', an Aboriginal word meaning, "The Place." The village is located within Northern Sunrise County and compliments the area with strong presence in agriculture service industries, forestry, and oil and gas.

The Nampa Recreation Centre is the community's main hub for community and recreational services and includes a curling rink, ice arena, dance hall, and meetings rooms. Nearby Mill Brown Memorial Park includes baseball fields, tennis courts, a playground, and camping and picnic facilities. The Nampa Public School is home to students up to grade six. The Nampa Library was opened in 1969 and has since been upgraded and moved into the Arts and Crafts Centre.

#### COUNTY OF NORTHERN LIGHTS

The diverse geography of the County of Northern Lights gives the residents abundant opportunities to immerse themselves in nature and have a taste of the urban setting. The county was known as the Municipal District of Northern Lights No. 22 until 2010 when the name was officially changed. With a total land area of 20,745 square kilometers, the county includes the Hamlets of Deadwood, Dixonville, North Star, and Notikewin, and the Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement. The Town of Manning is also located within County boundaries.

The County's communities offer a strong diversity of recreation, cultural, and leisure opportunities. Dixonville LIFE AG Hall includes a curling arena, hall, and sport fields. Outdoor natural recreation spaces are also abundant in the area and include Leddy Lake, Figure Eight Lake Provincial Park, Twin Lakes Provincial Park, and Notikewin Provincial Park. These areas and others attract residents from across the region and beyond for camping, snowmobiling, ATVing, fishing, hunting, and numerous other outdoor pursuits.







#### POPULATION ANALYSIS1

The combined population of the North Peace Region was 17,399 residents in 2011; which reflects modest growth of 3.9% from the previous Census count in 2006. However, the region's population has experienced a decline of 6.1% since 1996. The chart below provides an overview of the historical population for the region and its seven municipalities using data from the 2011 Statistics Canada Census of the Population.

Consultation Mechanism	1996	2001	2006	2011
Town of Peace River	6,536	6,240	6,315	6,729
M.D. of Peace #135	1,562	1,496	1,487	1,446
Northern Sunrise County	2,264	2,123	1,747	1,791
County of Northern Lights	4,462	4,217	3,772	4,117*
Town of Grimshaw	2,661	2,435	2,537	2,515
Village of Nampa	427	372	360	362
Village of Berwyn	606	546	516	526
Total	18,518	17,429	16,734	17,486

<sup>\*</sup> Includes the Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement (562 residents).

The following table depicts the age distribution of the North Peace Region in contrast to the provincial distribution averages. The overall pattern of the age distribution aligns with the provincial average (within 2%). The only age segment with a greater variance than 2% was adults aged 25 to 34 (3% lower in the North Peace Region).

Age Group	North Peace Region (#)	North Peace Region (%)	Provincial Average (%)	
0 to 4 years	1,190	6.83%	6.72%	
5 to 9 years	1,200	6.88%	6.01%	
10 to 14 years	1,265	7.26%	6.06%	
15 to 19 years	1,240	7.11%	6.53%	
20 to 24 years	1,050	6.02%	7.09%	
25 to 34 years	2,170	12.45%	15.45%	
35 to 44 years	2,235	12.82%	14.23%	
45 to 54 years	2,610	14.97%	15.37%	
55 to 64 years	1,955	11.22%	11.41%	
65+ years	1,885	10.81%	11.13%	
Total	17,430 <sup>2</sup>	100%	100%	

<sup>1</sup> Data from the Statistics Canada Census of the Population.

<sup>2</sup> Overall population counts vary due to Census reporting discrepancies.

The median age of the region in 2011 was 40.4 years of age. While this overall regional figure is higher than the overall provincial median age of 36.5 years; it is important to note the diversity in ages between the seven municipalities. Consistent with provincial trends, the urban municipalities of Peace River (median age of 32.5 years old) and Grimshaw (median age of 36.2 years old) have median ages that are lower than the overall provincial average. The villages and rural municipalities had median ages between 39.0 and 46.9 years of age.

Primary, resource based industries continue to represent the highest proportion of the region workforce. In 2011, approximately 14% of the region's workforce was employed in agriculture, forestry, fishing, or hunting trades. Between 8% and 11% of the region's overall workforce is employed in retail trade, construction, or health care and social assistance sectors.

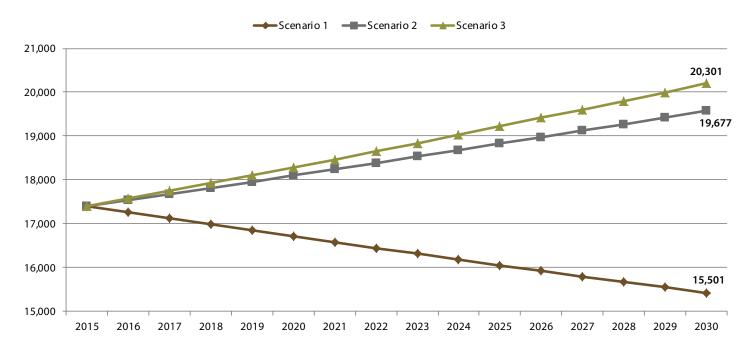
#### **GROWTH PROJECTIONS**

Twenty-five year growth projections have been developed for the region and are illustrated in the following graph. The first two scenarios are based on the most recently available Statistics Canada Census data. **Scenario 1** (-0.80% annual population change) reflects the small population decrease experienced in the region between 2001 and 2006. This scenario would result in a regional population of 15,501 regional residents in 2030.



Scenario 2 (0.79% annual population change) reflects the population increase experienced in the region between 2006 and 2011. This scenario would result in a 2030 population of 19,677 regional residents. A **third scenario** has also been developed to reflect more aggressive growth. This scenario reflects an annual increase of 1% and would result in a population of 20,301 regional residents.

## POPULATION GROWTH PROJECTIONS NORTH PEACE REGION



## PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Engagement with residents, recreation stakeholders and community organizations was identified as a critical component to the development of the Situational Analysis. In order to gather feedback and data from a variety of population segments and interests, a variety of consultation mechanisms were used. The following chart summarizes the participation/responses for each of the consultation mechanisms used.

Consultation Mechanism	Participation/ Responses		
Household survey (mail-out)	759 responses		
Household survey (web)	427 responses (full and partial)		
Student survey	572 responses		
Interviews	42 sessions (~60 interviews)		
Focus group sessions	4 sessions (~89 participants)		
Community group questionnaire	17 responses		

Presented in this section are the findings from the consultation. The findings presented are for the entire region.

Sub-segment analysis has been conducted for each of the municipalities and is identified where pertinent. The sub-segment findings have also been provided to each of the seven partner municipalities in a separate document.

#### HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

A survey was mailed to households in the North Peace Region in February 2015. The survey tool was developed by RC Strategies in conjunction with representatives from the seven partner municipalities. In total 6,762 surveys were mailed and 759 were returned. This return rate provides a margin of error of  $\pm 1.5\%$ .

A web based version of the questionnaire was also available on each of the partner municipality website. The responses from the web survey were not included in the analysis of the mail out survey findings in order to ensure statistical reliability of the findings.

As previously indicated, the findings presented reflect all responses that were provided (from across the region) by respondents to the mail out survey. Where applicable; key differences and points of interest from the sub-segment analysis of the mail out survey and the overall findings of the web survey are noted.



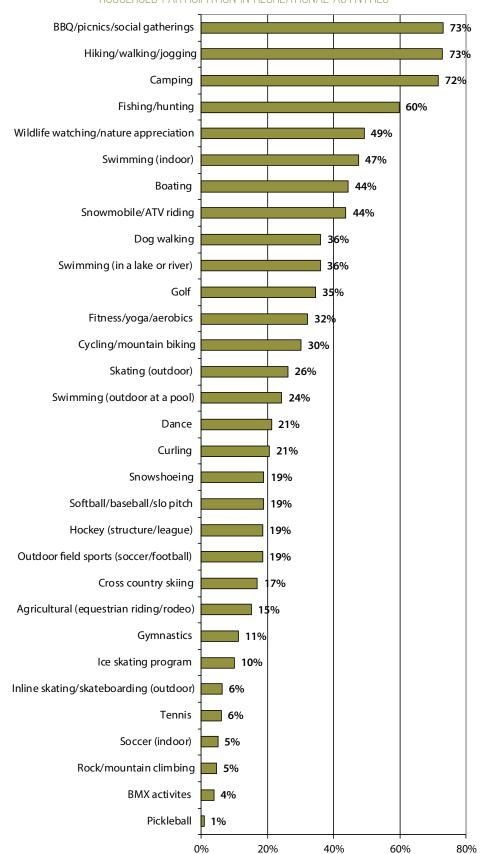
<sup>1</sup> If the same survey was fielded again, the findings would be accurate to 3.5% 19 times out of 20.

# SECTION I: ACTIVITIES

# The top 5 recreational activities participated in by regional residents were:

- BBQ/picnics/social gatherings (73% of households)
- 2. Hiking/walking/jogging (73% of households)
- 3. Camping (72% of households)
- 4. Fishing/hunting (60% of households)
- 5. Wildlife watching/ nature appreciation (49% of households)

#### HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATION IN RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES



# SECTION II: MOTIVATIONS

The top three motivators to participation in recreation activities were:

- 1. Physical health/ exercise (82%)
- 2. To be with friends/ family (78%)
- 3. Relaxation (71%)

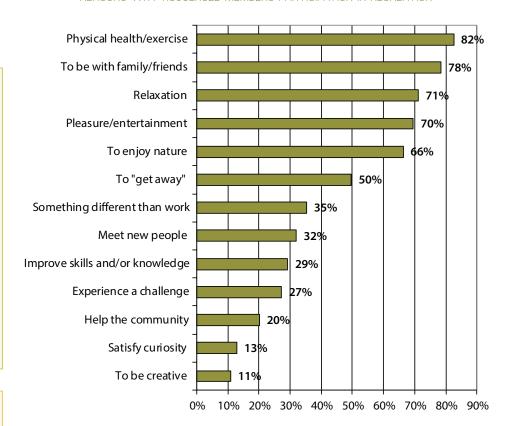
Sub-segment Analysis
Motivations for participating
in recreational activities were
generally consistent across
all seven municipalities.

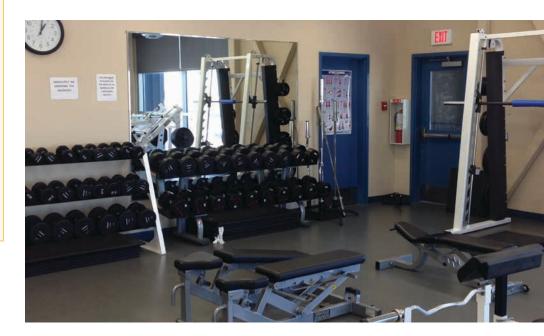
#### **Web Survey Findings**

Consistent with the mail out survey findings, the top three motivators for web survey respondents were physical health/exercise (93%); to be with friends/family (82%); and relaxation (71%).



#### REASONS WHY HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS PARTICIPATION IN RECREATION





# SECTION III: BENEFITS OF RECREATION

Statement	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Unsure	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Recreation is important to my quality of life	73%	21%	4%	1%	1%
My local community as a whole benefits from recreation programs and services	69%	19%	8%	2%	1%
The region as a whole benefits from recreation programs and services	72%	20%	6%	2%	1%
Residents can benefit even if they do not use recreation services directly.	45%	39%	12%	3%	2%
Recreation brings the community together	66%	26%	5%	1%	1%
Quality recreation programs and facilities can help attract and retain residents	74%	18%	5%	2%	1%

Respondents were provided with a number of statements and asked to indicate their level of agreement. As reflected in the chart, residents overwhelmingly agreed that recreation is important to quality of life, beneficial to the community and region, enhances community cohesion ("togetherness") and can play an important role in attracting and retaining residents.

#### **Web Survey Findings**

83% of web survey respondents strongly indicated that recreation was important to their quality of life. 79% strongly agreed that the region as a whole benefits from recreation programs and services.

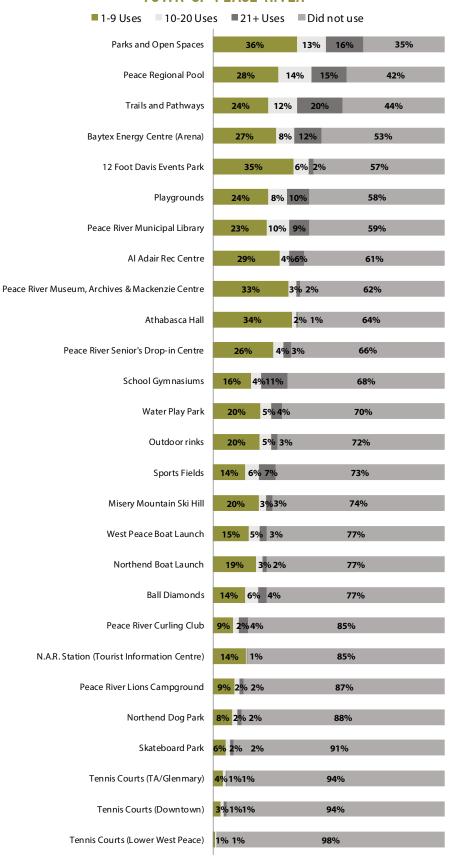


# SECTION IV: CURRENT FACILITY USAGE

Respondents were provided with separate lists of recreation (and related) facilities, parks and open in each of the seven municipalities and were then asked how often their household had used each in the previous twelve months. The following graphs illustrate utilization of the facilities, parks and open spaces by regional residents in each of the seven municipalities.



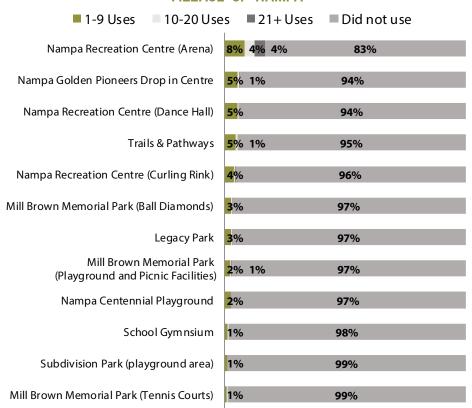
#### TOWN OF PEACE RIVER



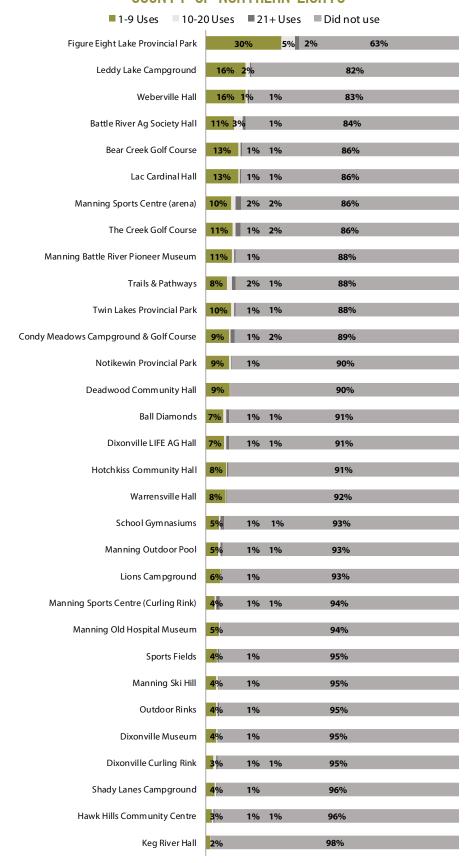
#### TOWN OF GRIMSHAW

■ 1-9 Uses ■ 10-20 Uses	■21+ Uses ■ Did not use
Mile Zero Regional Multiplex (Arena)	<b>28%</b> 8% <b>6</b> % 58%
Legion Hall	<b>24%</b> 4% 1% <b>70</b> %
Mile Zero Regional Multiplex (Field House)	16% 5% 4% 75%
Parks & Open Spaces	<b>16%</b> 4 <b>%</b> 3% 77%
Grimshaw Library	15% 3% 3% 79%
Mile Zero Regional Multiplex (Walking Track)	<b>12%</b> 3% 4% 80%
Trails & Pathways	13% 3% 3% 82%
Swimming Pool	<b>11% 3</b> % <b>3</b> % <b>83</b> %
Mile Zero Regional Multiplex (Fitness Centre)	1 <mark>0%</mark> 2% 4% 83%
Ball Diamonds	9% 3% 1% 86%
Mile Zero Regional Multiplex (Meeting Room)	<b>9%</b> 2% 1% 88%
New Horizon Drop-In Centre	<mark>8%</mark> 2% 2% 88%
	<mark>8%</mark>
Historical MacKenzie Highway Park/ Visitor Information Centre	<b>9%</b> 1% 1% <b>89</b> %
	<mark>6%</mark> 2% 1% 91%
Kinsmen Park Soccer Field	<b>3</b> % 1% 1% 95%
Sk8 "N" Bike Park	<b>3</b> % 1% 96%
Grimshaw Curling Club	3% 1% 96%
Hidden Lake Mile Zero RV Park	2% 98%

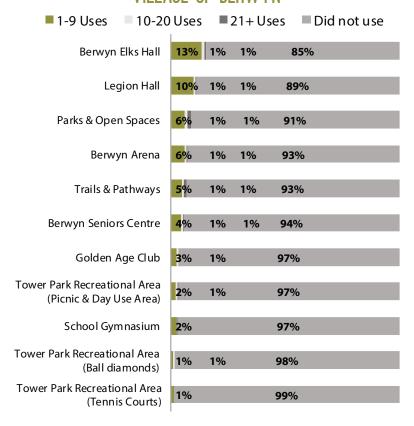
#### VILLAGE OF NAMPA



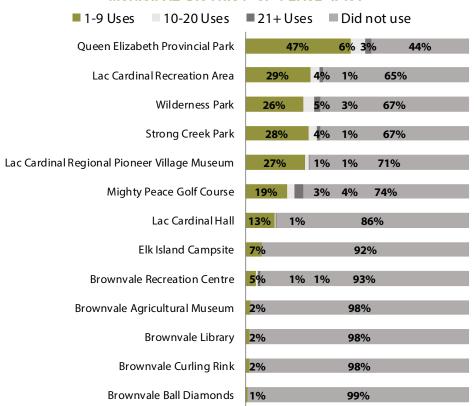
#### **COUNTY OF NORTHERN LIGHTS**



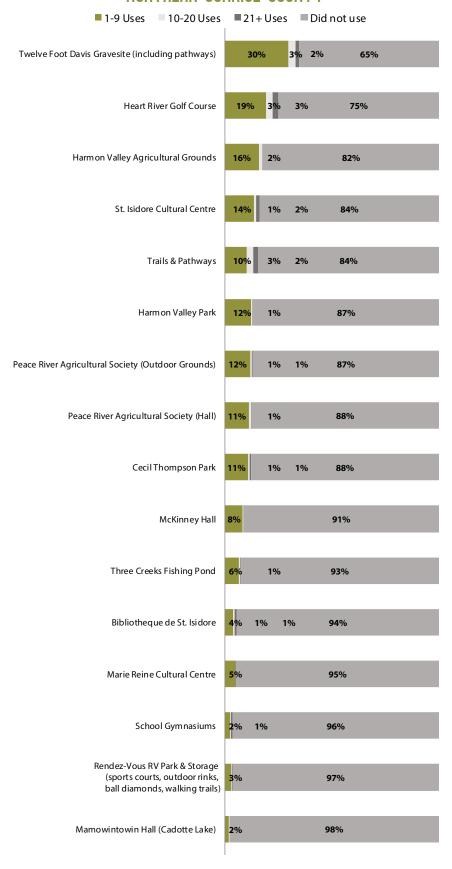
#### VILLAGE OF BERWYN



#### MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PEACE #135



#### NORTHERN SUNRISE COUNTY



#### **KEY FINDINGS**

Key facility, parks, and open space utilization findings included:

- "Passive" recreation spaces and sites are heavily utilized in the region (e.g. Provincial Parks, natural spaces, trails, campgrounds).
- Indoor recreation "hubs" such as the Mile Zero Regional Multiplex and Baytex Energy Centre are well utilized by both local and regional residents.
- The top 10 indoor facilities in the region with the highest proportion of overall uses or visits are:
  - 1. Peace Regional Pool (58% of regional residents used/visited at least once in the previous year)
  - 2. Baytex Energy Centre Arena (47% of regional residents used/ visited at least once in the previous year)
  - 3. Mile Zero Regional Multiplex Arena (42% of regional residents used/visited at least once in the previous year)
  - 4. Peace River Regional Library (41% of regional residents used/ visited at least once in the previous year)
  - 5. Al Adair Recreation Centre (39% of regional residents used/visited at least once in the previous year)
  - 6. Peace River Museum, Archives, and Mackenzie Centre (38% of regional residents used/visited at least once in the previous year)
  - 7. Athabasca Hall (36% of regional residents used/visited at least once in the previous year)
  - 8. Peace River Senior's Drop-In Centre (34% of regional residents used/visited at least once in the previous year)
  - 9. School gymnasiums in Peace River (32% of regional residents used/visited at least once in the previous year)
  - 10. Legion Hall in Grimshaw (30% of regional residents used/visited at least once in the previous year)
    - \* Components and amenities at the Mile Zero Regional Multiplex were identified separately in order to assess usage of each specific space. If combined, it could be reasonably assumed that the facility (in its entirety) would be among the top utilized facilities in the region.

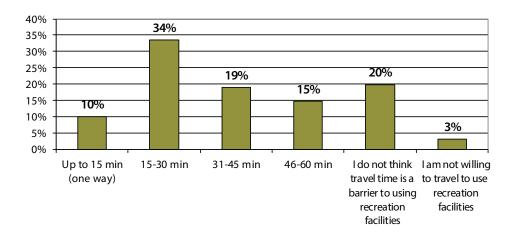
#### **KEY FINDINGS (CONTINUED)**

- The top 10 outdoor facilities, parks and open spaces in the region with the highest proportion of overall uses or visits are:
  - 1. Parks and open spaces in Peace River (65% of regional residents used/visited at least once in the previous year)
  - 2. Queen Elizabeth Provincial Park (56% of regional residents used/ visited at least once in the previous year)
  - 3. Trails and Pathways in Peace River (56% of regional residents used/visited at least once in the previous year)
  - 4. Twelve Foot Davis Events Park (43% of regional residents used/ visited at least once in the previous year)
  - 5. Playgrounds in Peace River (42% of regional residents used/visited at least once in the previous year)
  - 6. Figure Eight Provincial Park (37% of regional residents used/ visited at least once in the previous year)
  - 7. Lac Cardinal Recreation Area (35% of regional residents used/ visited at least once in the previous year)
  - 8. Twelve Foot Davis Gravesite (including pathways) (35% of regional residents used/visited at least once in the previous year)
  - 9. Wilderness Park (33% of regional residents used/visited at least once in the previous year)
  - 10. Strong Creek Park (33% of regional residents used/visited at least once in the previous year)

#### **Sub-segment Analysis**

- 21% of Peace River Respondents and 34% of Northern Sunrise County respondents used/visited the Nampa Arena in the previous year (significantly higher than respondents from the other municipalities excluding Nampa respondents).
- 40% of Peace River respondents have used/visit the Mile Zero Regional Multiplex Arena in the previous year (13% on more than 10 occasions); while 34% of Grimshaw respondents have used/visited the Baytex Energy Centre in the previous year (6% of more than 10 occasions).
- Urban residents utilize a number of outdoor spaces and facilities across the region (65% of Peace River respondents and 68% of Grimhsaw respondents have visited Queen Elizabeth Provincial Park in the past year).
- Rural residents are utilizing both indoor facilities and passive outdoor spaces in the urban communities (65% of Northern Sunrise County residents, 64% of M.D. of Peace #135 residents, and 47% of County of Northern Lights residents have used/visited Parks and Open Spaces in Peace River at least once in the previous year).

## AMOUNT OF TIME WILLING TO TRAVEL TO RECREATION FACILITIES BEFORE TRAVEL BECOMES A BARRIER



When asked about acceptable travel time to access recreation facilities, the highest proportion (34%) indicated 15-30 minutes was the range of time they were willing to travel. 34% also indicated that they were willing to travel more than 30 minutes and 20% indicated that travel time was not a barrier.

#### **Sub-segment Analysis**

Notable differences exist between the communities with regards to the willingness to travel in order to access recreation facilities.

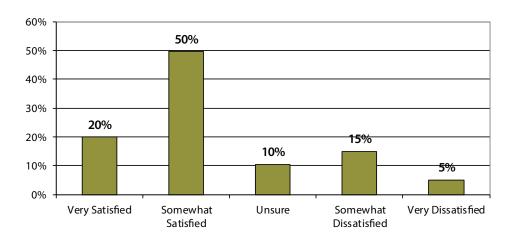
- 65% of County of Northern Lights residents were willing to travel more than 30 minutes or did not think travel was a barrier
- 64% of Grimshaw residents were willing to travel more than 30 minutes or did not think travel was a barrier
- 59% of Berwyn residents were willing to travel more than 30 minutes or did not think travel was a barrier
- 57% of M.D. of Peace #135 residents were willing to travel more than 30 minutes or did not think travel was a barrier
- 56% of Northern Sunrise County residents were willing to travel more than 30 minutes or did not think travel was a barrier
- 44% of Nampa residents were willing to travel more than 30 minutes or did not think travel was a barrier
- 41% of Peace River residents were willing to travel more than 30 minutes or did not think travel was a barrier

#### **Web Survey Findings**

Web survey respondents were less apt to travel than mail out survey respondents. Approximately 35% indicated that they were willing to travel more than 30 minutes or that travel was not a barrier.



## LEVEL OF SATISFACTION WITH THE AVAILABILITY OF LEISURE OPPORTUNITIES AND SERVICES CURRENTLY OFFERED



70% of respondents are satisfied with the availability of leisure opportunities and services in the region. One-fifth (20%) of respondents were unsatisfied and 10% were unsure. When asked to explain their response, the majority of comments provided identified a lack of facilities or the quality/amenities at existing facilities.

#### **Sub-segment Analysis**

Notable differences exist between the seven communities with regards to overall levels of satisfaction with leisure opportunities and services.

- 87% of Nampa residents were satisfied with leisure opportunities and services
- 80% of Grimshaw residents were satisfied with leisure opportunities and services
- 69% of County of Northern Lights residents were satisfied with leisure opportunities and services
- 69% of M.D. of Peace #135 County residents were satisfied with leisure opportunities and services
- 67% of Northern Sunrise County residents were satisfied with leisure opportunities and services
- 62% of Berwyn residents were satisfied with leisure opportunities and services
- 58% of Peace River residents were satisfied with leisure opportunities and services

#### **Web Survey Findings**

Generally consistent with the mail out survey findings, 64% of web survey respondents were satisfied with the availability of leisure opportunities and services currently offered in the region (15% were very satisfied, 49% were somewhat satisfied).

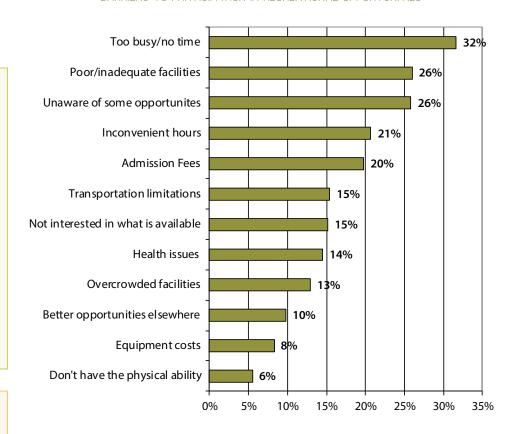


#### BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION IN RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The top three barriers to participating in recreational opportunities identified were:

- 1. Too busy/no time (32%)
- 2. Poor/inadequate facilities (26%)
- 3. Unaware of some opportunities (26%)

Sub-segment Analysis
Health issues as a barrier to
participation was identified by
over one-quarter of respondents in
Nampa, Grimshaw, and Berwyn but
were not a significant barrier in the
other four communities.



#### **Web Survey Findings**

The top 3 barriers identified by web survey respondents were poor/inadequate facilities (51%); being unware of some opportunities (30%); and overcrowded facilities (30%).



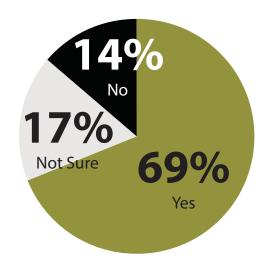


DO YOU THINK THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR NEW AND/OR UPGRADED RECREATION FACILITIES (INCLUDING PARKS AND OUTDOOR SPACES) TO BE DEVELOPED?

Over two-thirds (69%) of respondents believe that new and/or upgraded recreation facilities, parks and open spaces should be developed in the North Peace Region.

#### **Sub-segment Analysis**

Over 60% of respondents in all seven communities believed new and/ or enhanced recreation facilities, parks and open spaces should be developed in the region. Support for development was highest in Berwyn (83%); Peace River (80%); and Nampa (75%) and lowest in the M.D. of Peace (60%); Grimshaw (60%); and the County of Northern Lights (62%). 67% of Northern Sunrise County residents support development.



#### **Web Survey Findings**

86% of web survey respondents believe new and/or upgraded recreation facilities, parks and open spaces should be developed in the North Peace Region.





Respondents who indicated they were "yes" or "not sure" regarding new development were then provided with separate lists of indoor and outdoor facility and amenity types, and asked to identify up to five (5) that they believe are needed.

#### Top five indoor facility priorities:

- 1. Aquatics facilities (37%)
- 2. Walking/running track (35%)
- 3. Ice arena facilities (27%)
- 4. Fitness/wellness facilities (26%)
- 5. Indoor climbing wall (24%)

#### **Sub-segment Analysis**

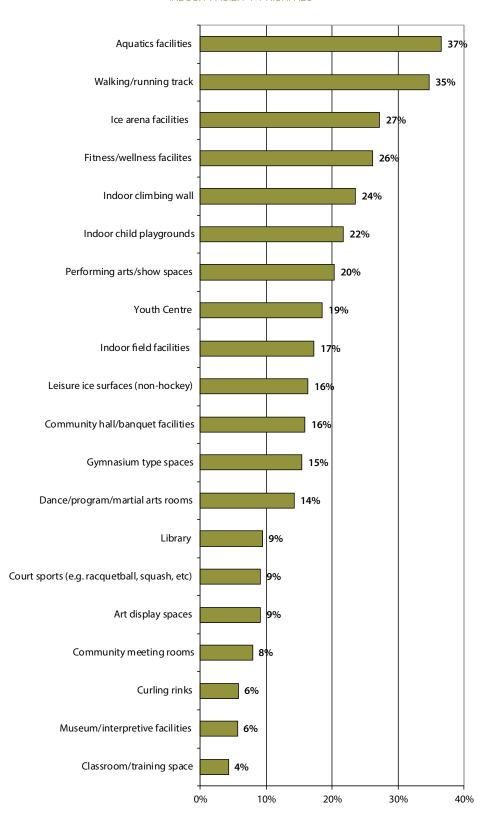
Aquatics facilities were identified as a top three priority in every municipality. Fitness/wellness facilities; walking/running tracks; and ice arenas were a top five priority in at least four of the seven municipalities.

#### **Web Survey Findings**

The top five indoor facility priorities identified by web survey respondents were walking/running tracks (45%); aquatics facilities (43%); fitness/wellness facilities (39%); indoor climbing walls (33%); and indoor field facilities (32%).



#### INDOOR FACILITY PRIORITIES



#### OUTDOOR FACILITY PRIORITIES

Top five outdoor facility, parks, and open space priorities:

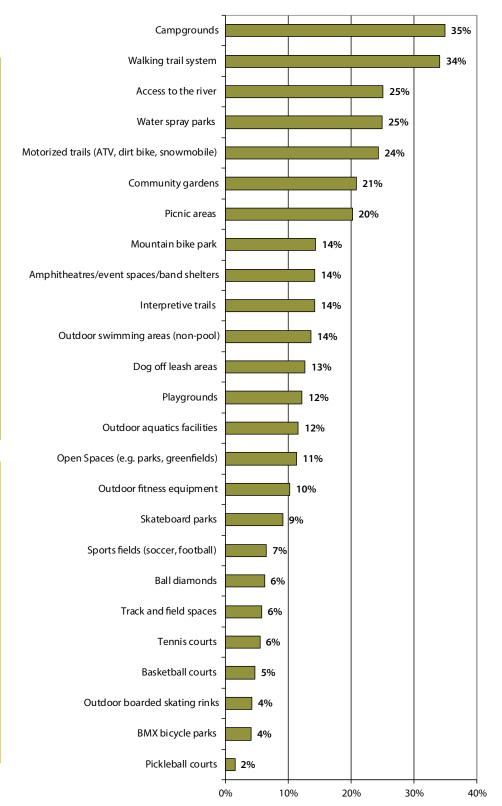
- 1. Campgrounds (35%)
- 2. Walking trail system (34%)
- 3. Access to the river (25%)
- 4. Water spray parks (25%)
- 5. Motorized trails (ATV, dirt bike, snowmobile) (24%)

**Sub-segment Analysis**Campgrounds and walking trail
systems were a common priority in
all of the municipalities.

**Web Survey Findings** 

The top five outdoor facility priorities identified by web survey respondents were walking trail systems (38%); water spray parks (31%); access to the river (30%); campgrounds (25%); and motorized trails (25%).





# SECTION VII: RECREATION PROGRAMMING

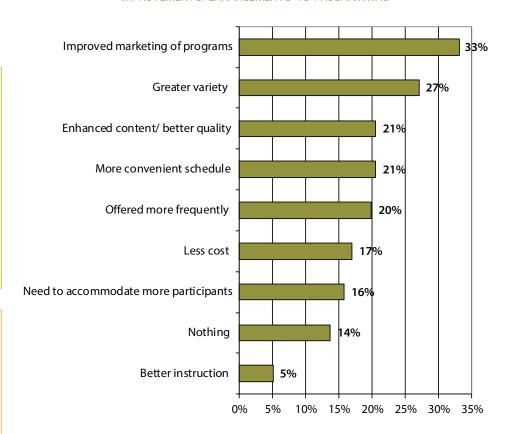
When asked about improvements or enhancements that are required for recreation programming in the region, the highest proportion of respondents (33%) identified "marketing". Over one-quarter of respondents (27%) identified that a "greater variety" of programming is needed.

#### **Web Survey Findings**

The top 3 improvements/ enhancements identified by web survey respondents were improved marketing of programs (47%); offered more frequently (39%); and more convenient schedules (38%).



#### IMPROVEMENTS/ENHANCEMENTS TO PROGRAMMING

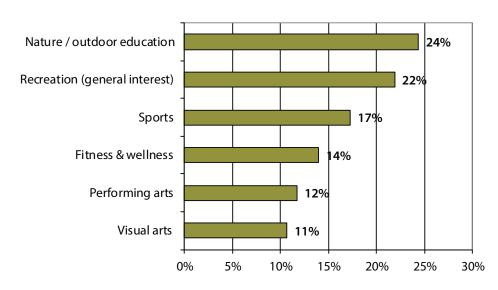




Respondents were then asked to identify (from a list) those types of programming that should be more readily available for specific age groups.

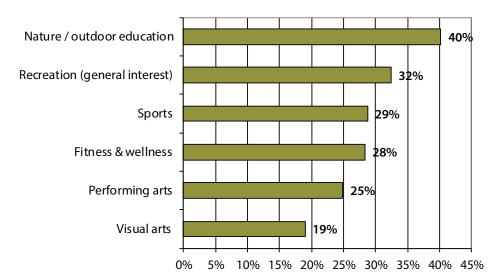
The top two programming priorities identified for children (aged 0 to 5 years) is nature/outdoor education (24% identified as a priority) and recreation programs (22% identified as a priority).

#### PROGRAMMING NEEDS FOR CHILDREN (0 TO 5 YEARS)



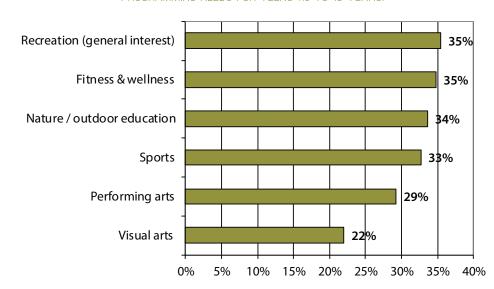
The top two programming priorities identified for youth (aged 6 to 12 years) is nature/outdoor education (40% identified as a priority) and recreation programs (32% identified as a priority).

#### PROGRAMMING NEEDS FOR YOUTH (6 TO 12 YEARS)



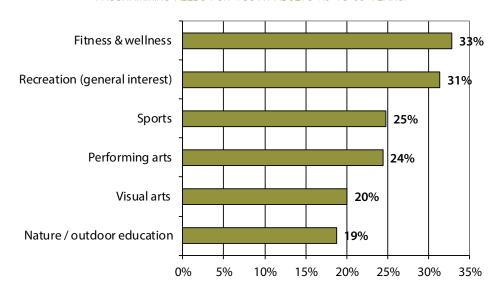
The top two programming priorities identified for teens (aged 13 to 18 years) is recreation programs (35% identified as a priority) and fitness and wellness (35% identified as a priority).

#### PROGRAMMING NEEDS FOR TEENS (13 TO 18 YEARS)



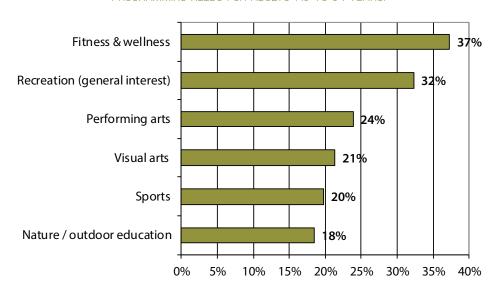
The top two programming priorities identified for young adults (aged 19 to 39 years) is fitness and wellness (33% identified as a priority) and recreation programs (31% identified as a priority).

#### PROGRAMMING NEEDS FOR YOUTH ADULTS (19 TO 39 YEARS)



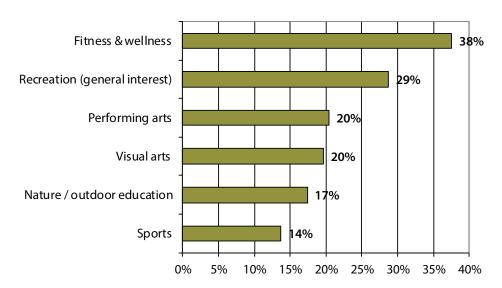
The top two programming priorities identified for adults aged 40 to 64 years is fitness and wellness (37% identified as a priority) and recreation programs (32% identified as a priority).

#### PROGRAMMING NEEDS FOR ADULTS (40 TO 64 YEARS)



The top two programming priorities identified for seniors (aged 65 years and older) is fitness and wellness (38% identified as a priority) and recreation programs (29% identified as a priority).

#### PROGRAMMING NEEDS FOR SENIORS (65+ YEARS)



# SECTION VIII: PLANNING PRIORITIES

Respondents were provided with a list of criteria that would need to be considered when setting priorities for future recreation infrastructure. For each criteria, respondents were asked to identify how important each should be.



Statement	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Unsure	Somewhat Unimportant	Very Unimportant
Demand from residents	56%	26%	15%	2%	1%
Aligns with the priorities of the municipality	21%	37%	32%	8%	2%
Overall cost of operating the facility	50%	32%	15%	1%	1%
Overall cost of building the facility	48%	33%	15%	3%	2%
The existing supply/ availability in the region	40%	35%	20%	3%	1%
Potential cost savings through partnerships or grants	54%	26%	16%	3%	1%
Expected economic impact	36%	35%	22%	5%	2%
Geographic balance throughout the North Peace Region (making sure facilities are available in multiple communities)	41%	29%	19%	7%	3%

Demand from residents, overall cost of operating the facility, and potential costs savings through partnerships and grants were identified as being "very important" by over 50% of respondents.

#### **Sub-segment Analysis**

Residents' perspectives on "Geographic balance throughout the North Peace Region" as an important planning criteria varied by municipality. While the majority of residents in all communities indicated that it was important to some degree, over 50% of residents in Nampa and Grimsahw indicated that geographic balance was "very important". Conversely, 40% or less of respondents in Peace River, County of Northern Lights, M.D. Peace #135, and Berwyn thought geographic balance was "very important".

#### **Web Survey Findings**

Web survey responses were generally consistent with the mail out survey findings. However a high proportion of web survey respondents (50%) identified "expected economic impacts" as a very important criteria.



# SECTION IX: COMMUNICATIONS

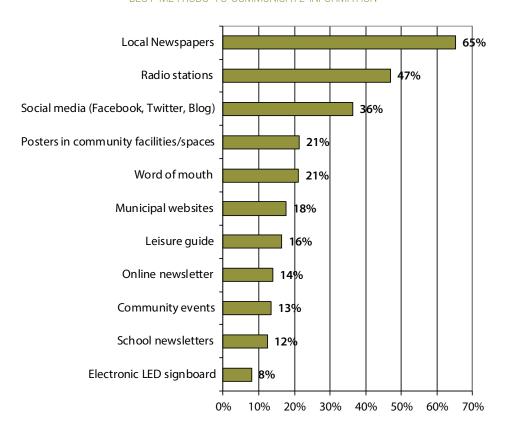
Nearly two-thirds (65%) of respondents identified that local newspapers was the best method to communicate information about recreation programs and event to their household. Over one-quarter of respondents identified radio stations (47%) and social media (36%).

#### **Web Survey Findings**

In contrast to the mail out survey findings, 76% of web survey respondents indicated that social media was the best method to get them information on recreation programs.

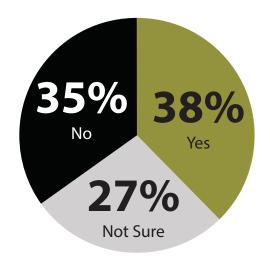


#### BEST METHODS TO COMMUNICATE INFORMATION





## WOULD YOU SUPPORT AN INCREASED IN ANNUAL PROPERTY TAX TO ENSURE THAT THE COMMUNITY NEEDS FOR RECREATION FACILITIES ARE BETTER MET?



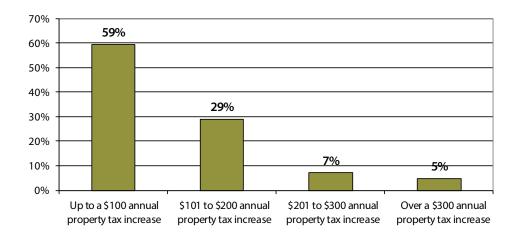
Residents were split on whether they would support an increase in taxes to ensure community needs for recreation could be better met. 38% indicated they would support and increase while 35% would not. A large proportion (27%) of respondents were unsure.

#### Web Survey Findings

44% of web survey respondents supported an increase in taxes to ensure community needs for recreation could be better met.



### HOW MUCH OF AN INCREASE IN ANNUAL PROPERTY TAX WOULD YOU SUPPORT? SUBSET: RESPONDENTS WHO WOULD SUPPORT AN INCREASE



Respondents who answered "yes" or "not sure" to the previous question were next asked to indicate the the level of increase they would support. The highest proportion (59%) indicated that they would support a small increase of up to \$100 annually. 41% indicated they would support an increase over \$100 annually.

#### **Sub-segment Analysis**

Respondents in Peace River (46%), Northern Sunrise County (41%), and the M.D. of Peace (41%) were the most willing to support increased taxes. Respondents in the County of Northern Lights (26%) were the least supportive of an increase.

### Web Survey Findings

49% of web survey respondents supported up to a \$100 increase while 46% supported an increase greater than \$100.



### SECTION IX: RESPONDENT PROFILE

To conclude the survey, respondents were asked to identify a number of characteristics about their household. The following chart contrasts the responses from the mail out and web survey with available data from Statistics Canada. With regards to residency, the strongest levels of participation in the mail out survey were from residents in the rural municipalities. The age distribution of overall regional respondents to the household mail out survey is generally consistent with data from the 2011 Statistics Canada Census of the Population.



Respondent Characteristic	Household Mail-out Survey (%)	Resident Web Survey (%)	Statistics Canada Census of the Population (2011) (%)
Where do you live?			
Town of Peace River	33%	67%	39%
County of Northern Lights	27%	7%	24%
Northern Sunrise County	15%	12%	10%
Municipal District of Peace #135	13%	4%	8%
Town of Grimshaw	6%	5%	14%
Village of Berwyn	4%	1%	3%
Village of Nampa	2%	2%	2%
Other	1%	2%	N/A
How long have you lived in the	North Peace Re	gion?	
Less than a year	1%	2%	N/A
1 to 5 years	6%	17%	N/A
6 to 10 years	7%	10%	N/A
10+ years	86%	71%	N/A
Do you expect to be residing in	the area for the	next five years	?
Yes	86%	88%	N/A
Not sure	12%	11%	N/A
No	2%	1%	N/A
Do you own or rent?			
Own	92%	85%	N/A
Rent	8%	15%	N/A
Age composition of household	members		
0 to 9 years	11%	16%	14%
10 to 19 years	16%	13%	14%
20 to 29 years	10%	14%	13%
30 to 39 years	9%	18%	13%
40 to 49 years	14%	14%	15%
50 to 59 years	17%	11%	15%
60 to 69 years	13%	7%	9%
70 to 79 years	7%	4%	5%
80 years and older	2%	3%	3%

### STUDENT SURVEY

In order to gather perspectives from the youth in the North Peace Region, a student survey was fielded with assistance from the local municipalities and school administration. In total, 572 students completed the short survey. Grades 5 and above were targeted for the survey as reflected in the chart below.

Note: 25 students did not provide their age.

Age	Number of Respondents	Percent of Total Student Respondents (%)
10	10	2%
11	54	10%
12	89	16%
13	89	16%
14	82	15%
15	86	16%
16	51	9%
17	57	10%
18	25	5%
19	4	1%

Presented as follows are findings from the survey.

### FAVOURITE THINGS ABOUT RECREATION IN THE COMMUNITY AND REGION

To begin the survey, students were provided with space to comment generally about what they like best about recreation in their own community and the region. In total, 468 students provided wide-ranging comments. Common themes included:

- · Comments specific to their favourite program;
- Swimming pools and overall enjoyment of aquatics activities;
- · Team sport (hockey, baseball, and basketball); and
- Social benefits of recreation (and related activities) (e.g. making new friends, opportunities to spend time with existing friends).

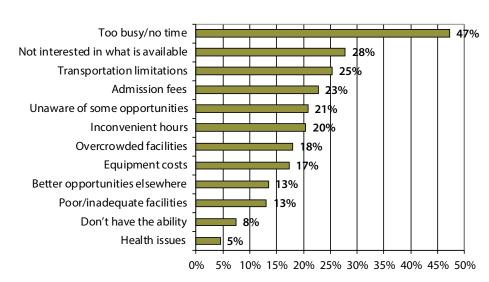




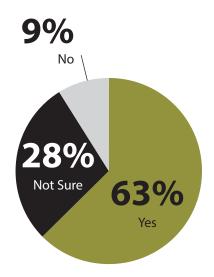
A number of positive comments were additionally provided specific to the Mile Zero Regional Multiplex. Many of these comments expressed that the existence of the new facility has provided opportunities for their sports teams/clubs and a place to participate in "casual" recreation or sports activities with their friends (shooting a basketball, fitness, walking/running on the track, etc.).

The top 3 barriers identified by students were too busy/no time (47%); not interested in what is available (28%); and transportation limitations (25%).

#### BARRIERS TO RECREATIONAL PARTICIPATION

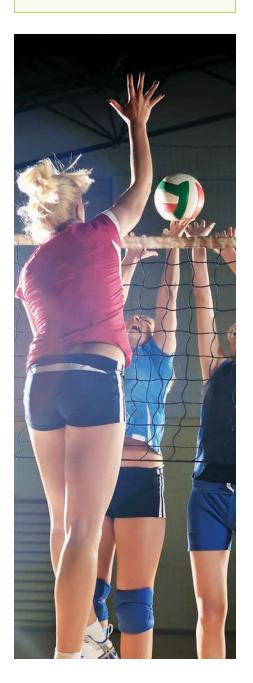


63% of students believe that new or upgraded recreation facilities and spaces are needed in the community or region. DO YOU THINK THERE IS A NEED FOR NEW OR UPGRADED RECREATION FACILITIES AND SPACES TO BE DEVELOPED IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND/OR THE REGION?

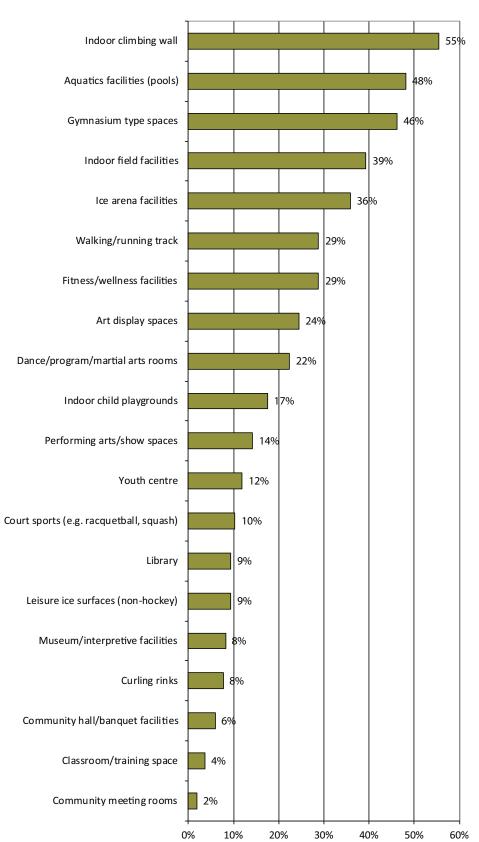


### The top 5 indoor facility priorities among students were:

- 1. Indoor climbing wall (55%)
- 2. Aquatics facilities (48%)
- 3. Gymnasium type spaces (46%)
- 4. Indoor field facilities (39%)
- 5. Ice arena facilities (36%)



#### INDOOR FACILITY PRIORITIES

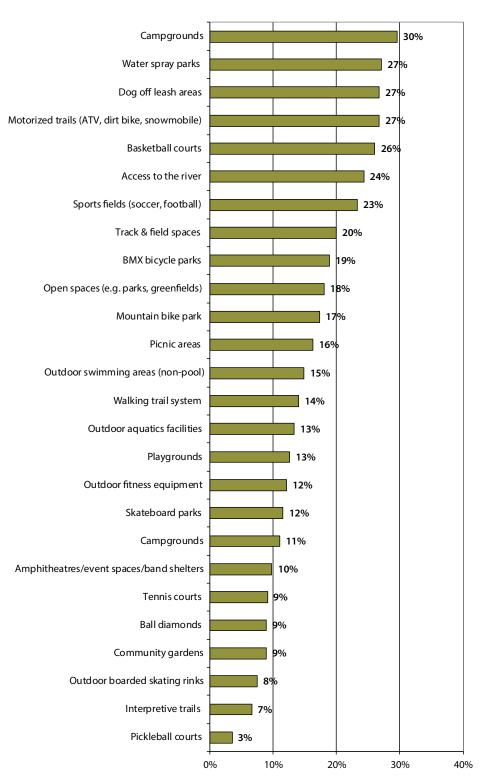


### The top 5 outdoor facility priorities among students were:

- 1. Campgrounds (30%)
- 2. Water spray parks (27%)
- 3. Dog off leash areas (27%)
- 4. Motorized trails (27%)
- 5. Basketball courts (26%)



#### OUTDOOR FACILITY PRIORITIES



### **NEW PROGRAMS**

Students were provided space to identify new programs that they would like to see available before or after school. Approximately 200 students provided suggestions and ideas. Three common themes emerged from the suggestions:

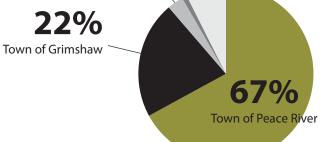
- 1. Desire for more "adventure sport" type programs and opportunities (e.g. paintball, racing)
- 2. More recreational sport opportunities (non-competitive, drop-in type programs)
- 3. The need for better facilities to support existing and new programs



Students were asked to identify in which community they participate in the majority of their recreation (or related) activities. 67% of students identified Peace River and 22% identified Grimshaw.

# 1% Village of Berwyn 3% Other Village of Nampa

PRIMARY LOCATION OF RECREATIONAL PARTICIPATION



### COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONNAIRE

A questionnaire was fielded to community organizations in the North Peace Region in order to gather information on the opportunities and challenges facing groups, as well as perspectives on future needs for recreation facilities and partnerships. The questionnaire was distributed by email to a variety of community organizations that utilize recreation and related facilities and programs in the region. Respondents had the option of completing an online version of the questionnaire or a PDF version.

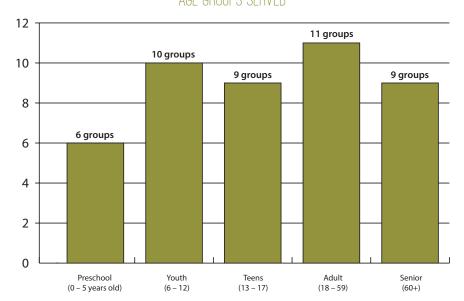
Seventeen (17) community organizations responded to the questionnaire (see the Appendix for a list of the participating groups). Presented as follows are findings from the group questionnaire.

Note: In some instances, not all groups completed every question.



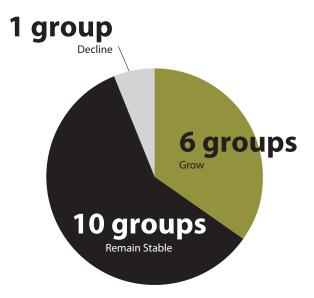
As reflected in the graph, participating groups had members/participants or clients representing a wide spectrum of age ranges.

### AGE GROUPS SERVED



The majority of responding groups (10) expect to remain stable, while 6 expect to experience growth. Only one group expected to experience a decline.

#### EXPECTATIONS FOR FUTURE PARTICIPANT/MEMBERSHIP OR CLIENT NUMBERS



### CURRENT FACILITY UTILIZATION

Groups were asked to identify up to five (5) facilities that there organization uses most frequently in the region. In total, responding groups identified 30 facilities (or spaces) that they use. Those facilities or spaces identified by two or more groups responding groups included the Peace Regional Pool (5 mentions); Peace River Museum (3 mentions); Lac Cardinal (2 mentions); Peace River Library (2 mentions); Berwyn Elks Hall (2 mentions); school gymnasiums (2 mentions); and the Nampa Complex (2 mentions)

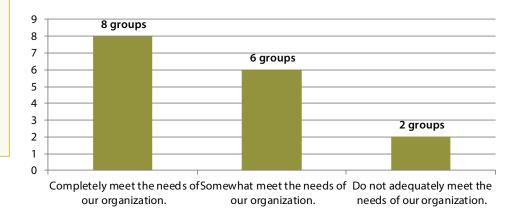
Group representatives were then asked to identify any enhancements or improvements that they felt were needed to the facilities or spaces that they identified. Fourteen (14) comments were provided. Comments provided included:

- Desire for more leisure and child friendly amenities at the Peace Regional Pool;
- Better storage and amenities at community halls;
- Issues with aging facilities (Nampa Complex, N.A.R. Station)
- Need for new amenities and equipment at cultural facilities (new piano at St. James Church)



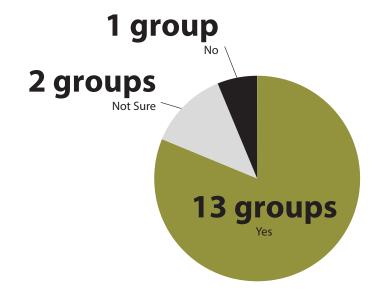
The majority of participating groups indicated that the current recreation facilities and spaces in the region either completely or somewhat meet their needs.

### TO WHAT DEGREE DO THE CURRENT RECREATION FACILITIES AND SPACES IN THE NORTH PEACE REGION MEET THE NEEDS OF YOUR ORGANIZATION?



DO YOU THINK THERE IS A NEED FOR NEW AND/OR UPGRADED RECREATION FACILITIES?

The majority of participating groups (16) believe there is a need for new and/or upgraded facilities.



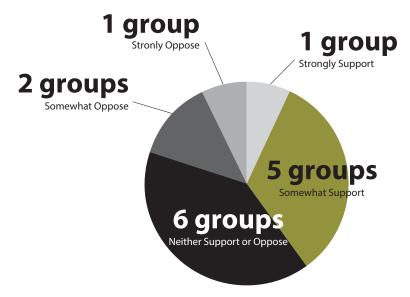
Participating groups were provided with separate list of indoor and outdoor facilities (including parks and open spaces) and asked to identify up to five (5) that they believe are needed. Those facilities identified by the most groups are presented in the chart below.



	Top 5 Facility Priorities of Participating Groups							
INI	INDOOR		ITDOOR					
1.	Indoor field facilities (7 groups)	1.	Walking trail system (7 groups)					
2.	Museum/interpretive spaces (5 groups)	2.	Water spray parks (4 groups)					
3.	Indoor child playgrounds (5 groups)	3.	Amphitheatres/event spaces/band shelters (3 groups)					
4.	Performing arts/show spaces (4 groups)	3.	Community gardens (3 groups)					
4.	Community meeting rooms (4 groups)	3.	Open spaces (3 groups)					
4.	Library (4 groups)	3.	Picnic areas (3 groups)					

5 groups indicated that they would somewhat support an increase in user/rental fees to enhance the level of service their group receives. 6 groups neither supported nor opposed, while 3 groups opposed an increase.

### SUPPORT FOR INCREASE IN USER/RENTAL FEES



#### PARTNERSHIPS AND SUPPORT

Participating groups were asked if they partner with other organizations (including other groups, businesses, local municipalities) to provide recreation opportunities in the North Peace Region. Eight (8) groups indicated that they do partner, while 7 indicated that they currently do not (1 was "not sure"). When asked to describe the partners, the following examples were provided:

- Grants from recreation boards
- · Sponsorship of community events
- Financial support/assistance provided to other groups
- Providing space for other groups to use for programs
- · Direct or indirect funding from municipalities
- Partnering to organize community events and programs

Participating groups were then asked to identify any other opportunities that may exist for groups to work together to enhance recreation programs and facilities in their communities or the region. Potential opportunities identified included:

- Older organizations assisting new organizations with governance and administration
- Finding new dates and community events for performing arts groups to perform at
- Sharing resources to save time
- Working together to engage new (younger) volunteers

While a handful of opportunities were identified, comments were also provided which identified that a lack of time is a barrier to partnerships. It was also suggested that, although possibilities exist, maximizing collaborations in the region or at a community level requires someone to coordinate these activities.

#### MAIN CHALLENGES

Participating groups were next asked to identify the main challenges their organization is dealing with as it delivers its programs and services. Fifteen (15) comments were provided. Common challenges identified were:

- Reduced levels of provincial government funding for childhood development programs
- Challenges recruiting participants/members with the skills sets to meet certain roles
- Diminishing sense of community
- Lack of suitable program space
- Challenges recruiting and retaining volunteers
- Aging infrastructure
- Loss of membership due to changes in local demographics (aging populations)
- Transportation costs

Considering the challenges identified, participating groups were then asked to describe the single most important action or resource that the local municipalities in the North Peace Region could provide to help their organization meet its program goals. Thirteen (13) comments were provided. Common themes and suggestions included:

- Better understand the importance and need for early childhood education, and its role in attracting and retaining residents.
- Promoting not-for-profit operated facilities to community members
- Investing in new infrastructure to meet needs for program space
- Ensuring affordability and transportation exists
- Enhanced cost sharing between municipalities
- Providing meeting rooms and administrative space

### STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS AND DISCUSSION SESSIONS

A number of stakeholder interviews and public discussion sessions were convened between December 2014 and February 2015 throughout the region. Stakeholder interviews and discussion sessions were scheduled and promoted by each municipality. These engagement tactics provided the consulting team with the opportunity to meet in-person with key recreation stakeholder, representatives from community organizations, and elected officials. The public discussion sessions additionally offered members of the public with the chance to provide in-person input and feedback.

In total, 42 stakeholder interviews were conducted with approximately 60 individuals. Four (4) public focus groups sessions were hosted and attended by an estimated 89 participants. While the conversations were often wide ranging and touched on a number of issues and opportunities related to recreation (and related services) in the region, a number of key themes emerged. Provided as follows is a summary of the key themes and findings from the stakeholder interviews and public discussion sessions.

### IMPORTANCE AND VALUE OF RECREATION

- Numerous comments and conversations re-affirmed the important role of recreation to quality of life and community spirit.
- The availability of facilities and programs were commonly mentioned as being an important factor in attracting and retaining residents.
- The abundant outdoor recreation opportunities in the region are valued by many residents and could be better promoted.
- The important role that community groups play in providing recreation and leisure opportunities was routinely mentioned.
- Recent community driven projects such as the Peace River Gymnastics Club and Mile Zero Regional Multiplex are a significant source of pride for many residents.

### THE FUTURE OF RECREATION (AND RELATED) INFRASTRUCTURE

- Many facilities in the region are aging and will require immediate attention.
- Decisions on whether to invest in existing facilities should consider both local and regional needs, future potential for utilization, and capacity of the main users.
- The Mile Zero Regional Multiplex was commonly cited as being a major asset to the region; however a number of interviewees expressed concern (or questions) over utilization.
- The Peace River arena situation was a considerable topic of discussion locally and in the region; a wide range of opinions exist on future solutions and responsibilities.
  - While interviewees generally agree that a new arena is needed in Peace River, regional consensus does not appear to exist regarding the scope of a potential new facility (components and amenities required), location, and funding.
- The current status of the ski hill in Peace River was commonly cited as a major issue and loss for the region.
- Great concern was expressed over the future status of facilities in Nampa and Berwyn, and how future development in the region's larger communities may impact existing facilities in both villages.
  - The importance of the recreation facilities in the villages to businesses and young families was commonly mentioned.

### ISSUES RELATING TO RECREATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION

- Issues with recruiting new volunteers were commonly mentioned, especially pertaining to younger age groups.
- A lack of suitable spaces for programs and events limits a number of groups.
- A number of community organizations and municipalities identified that they struggle finding instructors to meet community needs and demands.
- Many program providers do not have regular sources of operating funds and must spend considerable time and resources procuring grants, sponsorships, etc.
- The region is diverse with a mixture of highly urban and highly rural populations along with numerous cultural groups and demographics; providing programs and activities to meet a wide array of demands and expectations is challenging.

### THOUGHTS ON REGIONAL COOPERATION

- Varying and inconsistent levels of cooperation exist between local municipalities.
- A regional approach to recreation can be beneficial, but local needs are extremely important to consider as well.
- The majority of those interviewed agreed that a more coordinated approach to recreation and leisure is needed.
- A wide range of opinions exist on the level of collaboration and cooperation that should be implemented.
  - A number of those interviewed suggested that recreation services could be optimized by completely amalgamating community service departments; however others believed that a strong level of independence is needed to ensure local needs are met.
- It was commonly identified that local municipalities in the region could better work together in a couple of key areas:
  - Coordinating the supports and resources provided to community organizations (e.g. developing common funding practices, jointly offering training opportunities);
  - Planning future infrastructure (through enhanced communication and understanding); and
  - Cross promotion of facilities and programs throughout the region.







4

### CURRENT PROVISION IN THE REGION

### SERVICE DELIVERY

Recreation and related services in the North Peace Region are delivered using a combination of direct and indirect provision. The region's two urban municipalities (Peace River and Grimshaw) directly operate major community and regional facilities such as the Mile Zero Regional Multiplex (Grimshaw), Peace Regional Pool (Peace River) and Baytex Energy Centre (Peace River). Both Town's directly program these facilities as well as provide space to community organizations (e.g. minor sport clubs and associations) for programs and events.

Villages in the region offer programs and have staff dedicated to coordinating programs and assisting groups that offer programs and events. This is often done in conjunction with FCSS programs. While the rural municipalities in the region have staff that are directly involved in service provision, the majority of programs and opportunities are provided through support to community organizations and partnerships.

Community organizations also continue to play a critical role in the provision of infrastructure and programs. A number of well utilized facilities and sites throughout the region are operated by not-for-profit organizations (e.g. Nampa Recreation Centre, Al Adair Recreation Centre, St. Isidore Cultural Centre, Lac Cardinal Hall, Dixonville Life AG Hall) with support from local municipalities.

Cooperation and cost sharing agreements exist between some municipalities in the region for recreation services. These agreements generally relate to annual operational contributions and not capital expenditures. Requests for capital assistance between municipalities in the region occur on a one off or as needed basis. There is not currently a standardized cost sharing agreement or template between all of the seven regional municipalities.

Support to community organizations varies within each municipality. Each municipality has identified funds to assist local community groups with initiatives and projects, however the structure associated with these granting programs varies.



### **INFRASTRUCTURE**

Existing within the region is a large asset base of recreation and related facilities and amenities. As previously mentioned, these facilities are primarily provided by a combination of municipalities and not-for-profit organizations. The private sector operates a small number of facilities in the region.

Identified as follows is an inventory of selected recreation facilities, amenities and sites in the region. This inventory does not include private sector facilities or those in the Town of Manning and other surrounding municipalities.



### INDOOR

Facility Type	#	Name and Location(s)
Multiplex facilities	1	Mile Zero Regional Multiplex (Grimshaw)
Indoor ice arena (# sheets)	3	Baytex Energy Centre (Peace River); Mile Zero Regional Multiplex (Grimshaw); Nampa Recreation Complex
Indoor aquatics facilities	1	Peace Regional Pool
Indoor field houses	1	Mile Zero Regional Multiplex (Grimshaw)
Gymnasium spaces (schools with some level of public accessibility)	10	Peace River (3); Grimshaw (3); Nampa (1); Berwyn (1); Dixonville (1); Little Buffalo (1);
Fitness centres	2	Al Adair Recreation Centre (Peace River), Mile Zero Regional Multiplex (Grimshaw)
Indoor walking/running tracks	1	Mile Zero Regional Multiplex (Grimshaw)
Curling rinks (# of facilities)	4	Peace River Curling Club (Peace River); Brownvale Curling Club (M.D. of Peace #135); Nampa Recreation Complex; Dixonville AG LIFE (County of Northern Lights)
		* The Grimshaw Curling Club is not currently operational.
Ski hills	1	Misery Mountain (Peace River)
		* A ski hill is also operation in the Town of Manning.
Community halls/indoor social gathering facilities	19	Athabasca Hall (Peace River); Catholic Conference Centre (Peace River); Legion Hall (Grimshaw); Nampa Recreation Centre Dance Hall (Nampa); Berwyn Elks Hall (Berwyn); Legion Hall (Berwyn); Deadwood Community Hall (County of Northern Lights); Dixonville LIFE Ag Hall (County of Northern Lights); Hawks Hill Community Centre (County of Northern Lights); Hotchkiss Community Hall (County of Northern Lights); Keg River Hall (County of Northern Lights); Lac Cardinal Hall (County of Northern Lights); Warrensville Hall (County of Northern Lights); Weberville Hall (County of Northern Lights); Mamowintowin Hall (Northern Sunrise County); Marie Reine Cultural Centre (Northern Sunrise County); McKinney Hall (Northern Sunrise County); Peace River Agricultural Society Hall (Northern Sunrise County).

Facility Type	#	Name and Location(s)
Performing arts facility (dedicated)	1	Athabasca Hall (Peace River)
Museums	6	Peace River Museum (Peace River), Archives and Mackenzie Centre (Peace River); Lac Cardinal Pioneer Village Museum; Dixonville Museum (County of Northern Lights); Brownvale Agricultural Museum (M.D. of Peace #135); Lac Cardinal Regional Pioneer Village Museum (M.D. of Peace #135); St. Isidore Museum (Northen Sunrise County)
Seniors centres (dedicated)	7	Peace River Senior's Drop-In Centre (Peace River); New Horizon Drop-In Centre (Grimshaw); Nampa Golden Pionerrs Drop-In Centre (Nampa); Berwyn Seniors Centre (Berwyn); Berwyn Golden Age Club (Berwyn); St. Isidore Cultural Centre (Northern Sunrise County)
Libraries	6	Peace River Municipal Library (Peace River); Grimshaw Library (Grimshaw); Brownvale Library (M.D. of Peace #135); Nampa Municipal Library (Nampa); Berwyn Municipal Library (Berwyn); Dixonville Library (County of Northern Lights)

### OUTDOOR

Facility Type	#	Name and Location(s)
Ski hills	1	Misery Mountain (Peace River)
Campgrounds (with basic services)		Peace River Lions Campgrounds (Peace River); Condy Meadows Campground (County of Northern Lights); Leddy Lake Campground (County of Northern Lights); Shady Lanes Campground (County of Northern Lights); Queen Elizabeth Provincial Park (M.D. of Peace #135); Elk Island Campsite (M.D. of Peace #135); Notikewin Provincial Park (County of Northern Lights); Figure Eight Park (County of Northern Lights); Strong Creek (M.D. of Peace #135)
		* An additional campground (Lions Campground) also exists in the Town of Manning.
Spray Parks	1	Peace River Water Play Park
Agricultural Grounds	2	Peace River Agricultural Society Grounds (Northern Sunrise County); Harmon Valley Agricultural Society Grounds (Northern Sunrise County)
Outdoor skating rinks	8	Grimshaw (1); Peace River (5); Berwyn (1); Dixonville (1)
Golf courses	5	The Creek Golf Course; Mighty Peace Golf Course; Heart River Golf Course; Condy Meadows Golf Course; Bear Creek Golf Course
Tennis courts (sites)	3	Peace River (3)
		Grimshaw (1)
Outdoor aquatics	1	* An outdoor pool is also operational in the Town of Manning.
		** The Town of Peace River operates a water spray park.
Rectangular sports fields		<< <to be="" confirmed="">&gt;&gt;</to>
Baseball diamonds		<< <to be="" confirmed="">&gt;&gt;</to>

## 5

### **TRENDS**

A review of trends can help identify best practices in the delivery of recreation services as well as emerging or evolving interests that may be important to consider when developing programming and infrastructure. Summarized in the following section are key trends in pursuits and activities, service delivery and infrastructure.

### PURSUIT AND ACTIVITY TRENDS

### PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND WELLNESS LEVELS

The Canadian Health Measures Survey (Statistics Canada) concludes that the fitness levels of Canadian children and youth, as well as adults, have declined significantly between 1981 and 2009. Among youth aged 15 to 19, the percentage who were at an increased or high risk of health problems more than tripled; for adults aged 20 to 39 this percentage quadrupled.

In Alberta it appears that a number of demographic and socioeconomic factors contribute significantly to overall physical activity and wellness levels. Listed below are relevant findings from the 2013 Alberta Survey on Physical Activity:

- Although 94% of Albertans agree that physical activity will keep them healthy, only 59% are considered active enough to gain health benefits.
- Age appears to significantly impact activity levels:
  - 87% of young adults aged 18 to 24 are considered physically active
  - Only 37% of seniors aged 65 and older meet sufficient physical activity levels
- Household income has a direct impact on physical activity levels, with physical activity generally decreasing in relation to overall household income levels.
- 75% of Albertans believe that they have sufficient access to places where they can be physically active.

- Educational attainment relates to physical activity;
   60.9% of Albertans that completed High School are considered physically active as compared to only 46.1% among Albertans that did not completed High School.
  - Marital status appears to factor into activity levels:
  - 66.8% of 'single' Albertans are active
  - 64.1% of 'common-law/live-in partner' Albertans are active
  - 63.2% of 'separated' Albertans are active
  - 57.9% of 'married' Albertans are active
  - 56.9% of 'divorced' Albertans are active
  - 34.8% of 'widowed' Albertans are active

The Active Healthy Kids Canada Annual Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth (2014) also reports some concerning trends related to children's participation in physical activity:

- Only 24% of 5 to 17 year olds use only active modes of transportation to get to school (62% use only inactive modes, 14% use a combination of active and inactive modes)
- Only 7% of 5 to 11 year-olds and 4% of 12 to 17 year-olds year meet the Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines for Children and Youth.

However poor physical activity levels nationally do not appear to result from a lack of interest or awareness of the issues surrounding child and youth physical inactivity. The Report Card found that 82% of parents agree that the education system should place more importance on providing quality physical education and 79% of parents contribute financially to their kids' physical activities. However only 37% of parents actively play with their children.

#### PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PREFERENCES

The 2013 Canadian Community Health Survey reveals data that provides some insight into the recreation and leisure preferences of Canadians. The **top 5 most popular adult** activities identified were walking, gardening, home exercise, swimming and bicycling. The **top 5 most popular youth activities** were walking, bicycling, swimming, running/jogging and basketball.<sup>1</sup>

Participation levels and preferences for sporting activities continue to garner much attention given the impact on infrastructure development and overall service delivery in most municipalities. The Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institutes 2011-2012 Sport Monitor report identified a number of updated statistics and trends pertaining to sport participation in Canada.<sup>2</sup>

- The highest proportion of Canadians prefers noncompetitive sports or activities.
   Nearly half (44%) of Canadians preferred noncompetitive sports while 40% like both non-competitive and competitive sports. Only 8% of Canadians prefer competitive sports or activities and 8% prefer neither competitive nor non-competitive sports.
- Sport participation is directly related to age. Over three-quarters (70%) of Canadians aged 15 – 17 participate in sports, with participation rates decreasing in each subsequent age group. The largest fall-off in sport participation occurs between the age categories of 15 – 17 and 18 – 24 (~20%).
- Substantially more men (45%) than women (24%) participate in sport.
- Participation in sport is directly related to household income levels.
   Households with an annual income of >\$100,000 have

Households with an annual income of >\$100,000 have the highest participation levels, nearly twice as high as households earning between \$20,000 - \$39,999 annually and over three times as high as households earning less than \$20,000 annually.

- The highest proportion of sport participants continue to do so in "structured environments".
   Just under half (48%) of sport participants indicated that their participation occurs primarily in organized environments, while 20% participants in unstructured or casual environments and 32% do so in both structured and unstructured environments.
- Community sport programs and venues remain important.

The vast majority (82%) of Canadians that participate in sport do so in the community. Approximately one-fifth (21%) participate at school while 17% participate in sports at work. A significant proportion (43%) also indicated that they participate in sporting activities at home.





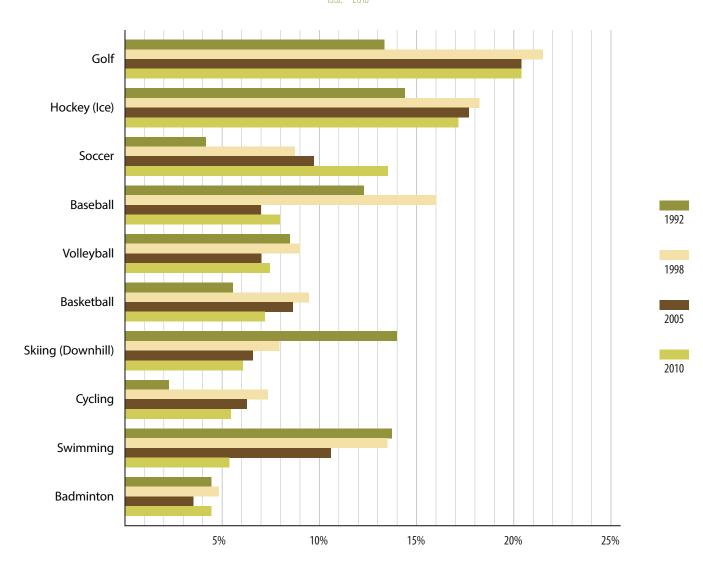
- 1 Statistics Canada, http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/140612/dq140612b-eng.htm
- 2 Canadian Fitness & Lifestyle Research Institutes 2011 2012 Sport Monitor, http://www.cflri.ca/node/78

A research paper entitled "Sport Participation 2010" published by Canadian Heritage also identified a number of trends pertaining to participation in specific sports. The following graph illustrates national trends in active sport participation from 1992 – 2010. As reflected in the graph, swimming (as a sport) has experienced the most significant decrease while soccer has had the highest rate of growth while golf and hockey remain the two most played sports in Canada.

Note: Data includes both youth, amateur and adult sport participants. 1



#### ACTIVE PARTICIPATION RATES 1992 - 2010



<sup>1</sup> Government of Canada, http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\_2013/ pc-ch/CH24-1-2012-eng.pdf

The Alberta Recreation Survey, commissioned every 4 – 5 years by Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation, additionally provides data into the activity preferences of Albertans. The recent (2013) Survey found that Albertans continue to enjoy an array of physical activity, recreation and leisure pursuits. The following graphic depicts the top 5 activities for a variety of activity types.





### PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES BY RESPONDENTS (PAST 12 MONTHS)

2013 Alberta Recreation Survey



97.6% of <u>respondents</u> have participated in a leisure or recreation activity (past 12 months)

Physical Activities

HIGHEST

**PARTICIPATION** 

Outdoor Activities

Creative/Cultural

Snow Activities

Water Activities

Group Activities

LOWEST

PARTICIPATION

### TOP 5 ACTIVITIES (BY % OF RESPONDENTS PARTICIPATING)

		_	-					78.0		T	
Walking for pleasure	80.5%	Gardening	61.0%	Attending fair/ festival/ cultural event	65.1%	Downhill skiing	17.5%	Motor boating	18.2%	Bowling/ lawn bowling	12.1 %
Bicycling	42.3%	Day hiking	37.8%	Visiting a museum/ art gallery	48.2%	Tobogganing/ sledding	16.0%	Canoeing	10.9%	Curling	7.7%
Aerobics/ fitness	38.1%	Golf (other than driving range or mini golf)	32.8%	Doing a craft or creative hobby	47.3%	Cross-country skiing	12.4%	Kayaking	8.1%	Ice hockey	5.9%
Swimming/ aquafitness (in pools)	31.9%	Overnight camping	30.8%	Attending live theatre (not movies)	46.5%	Snowshoeing	8.8%	Water skiing	5.4%	Soccer	5.1%
Swimming (in lakes, rivers, ponds)	31.3%	Fishing	20.0%	Taking part in the arts	21.0%	Snowmobiling	3.9%	River rafting	4.7%	Softball/ baseball	4.4%

### BALANCING STRUCTURED AND SPONTANEOUS USES

While many structured or organized activities remain important, there is an increasing demand for more flexibility in timing and activity choice. People are seeking individualized, informal pursuits that can be done alone or in small groups, at flexible times, often near or at home. This does not however eliminate the need for structured activities and the stakeholder groups that provide them. Instead, this trend suggests that planning for the general population is as important as planning for traditional structured use environments. Analyzing the issue further, if recreation and culture budgets do not increase to accommodate this expanded scope of spontaneous use planning, it may be necessary for municipalities to further partner with dedicated use organizations (e.g. sport teams) in the provision of programs and facilities to ensure the optimal use of public funds.

#### FLEXIBILITY AND ADAPTABILITY

Recreation and cultural consumers have a greater choice of activity options than at any time in history. As a result, service providers are increasingly being required to ensure that their approach to delivery is fluid and able to quickly adapt to meet community demand. Many municipalities have also had to make hard decisions on which activities they are able to directly offer or support, and those which are more appropriate to leave to the private sector to provide.

Ensuring that programming staff and management are current on trends is important in the identification and planning of programming. Regular interaction and data collection (e.g. customer surveys) from members are other methods which many service providers use to help identify programs that are popular and in-demand. The development of multi-use spaces can also help ensure that municipalities have the flexibility to adapt to changing interests and activity preferences.

### SERVICE DELIVERY TRENDS

#### **PARTNERSHIPS**

Partnerships in the provision of recreation, leisure and cultural opportunities are becoming more prevalent. These partnerships can take a number of forms, and include government, not-for-profit organizations, schools and the private sector. While the provision of recreation and cultural services has historically relied on municipal levels of the government, many municipalities are increasingly looking to form partnerships that can enhance service levels and more efficiently lever public funds.

Partnerships can be as simple as facility naming and sponsorship arrangements and as complex as lease and contract agreements to operate spaces, entire facilities or deliver programs. According to one study<sup>1</sup> over threequarters (76%) of Canadian municipalities work with schools in their communities to encourage the participation of municipal residents in physical activities. Just under half of municipalities work with local not-for profits (46%), health settings (40%), or workplaces (25%) to encourage participation in physical activities amongst their residents. Seventy-six percent (76%) of municipalities with a population of 1,000 to 9,999 to 80% of municipalities over 100,000 in population have formed agreements with school boards for shared use of facilities. In fact since 2000, the proportion of municipalities that have reported working with schools, health settings, and local not-for-profit organizations has increased by 10% to 20%.



<sup>&</sup>quot;Municipal Opportunities for Physical Activity" Bulletin 6: Strategic partnerships. 2010, Canadian Fitness & Lifestyle Research Institute.

#### **VOLUNTEERISM**

Volunteers continue to be vitally important to the planning and delivery of numerous events and programs. Identified as follows are a number of pertinent trends in volunteerism that may impact or have relevancy to the delivery of seniors programming or facility operations.

Findings from the 2010 Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating- Alberta data tables:

- Albertans volunteer at a higher rate (54.7%) than the national average (47.0%)
- The highest volunteer rate in Alberta is among adults aged 35 to 44 (63.4%) followed by youth and young adults aged 15 to 24 (56.7%) and adults aged 55 to 64 (51.3%).
- Although seniors had the lowest volunteer rate (49.6%), they had the highest average of annual volunteer hours (206 hours on average per year).

Current trends in volunteerism as identified by Volunteer Canada:<sup>2</sup>

- Much comes from the few. 47% of Canadians volunteer.
   Over one-third (34%) of all volunteer hours were contributed by 5% of total volunteers.
- The new volunteer. Young people volunteer to gain work related skills (Canadians aged 15 24 volunteer more than any other age group). New Canadians also volunteer to develop work experience and to practice language skills. Persons with disabilities may volunteer as a way to more fully participate in community life.
- **Volunteer job design.** Volunteer job design can be the best defense for changing demographics and fluctuations in funding.
- Mandatory volunteering. There are mandatory volunteer programs through Workfare, Community Service Order and school mandated community work.
- Volunteering by contract. The changing volunteer environment is redefining volunteer commitment as a negotiated and mutually beneficial arrangement rather than a one-way sacrifice of time by the volunteer.
- Risk management. Considered part of the process of job design for volunteers, risk management ensures the organization can place the right volunteer in the appropriate activity.

- Borrowing best practices. The voluntary sector has
  responded to the changing environment by adopting
  corporate and public sector management practices
  including: standards; codes of conduct; accountability
  and transparency measures around program
  administration; demand for evaluation; and outcome
  and import measurement.
- Professional volunteer management. Managers of volunteer resources are working toward establishing an equal footing with other professionals in the voluntary sector.
- Board governance. Volunteer boards must respond to the challenge of acting as both supervisors and strategic planners.

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The combined factors of decreasing support from other levels of government, increasing demand for new and exciting recreation infrastructure and programs and the changing nature of the volunteer has led many municipalities to adopt a community development role in service delivery. This, in addition to the direct delivery of recreation and culture facilities and programs, includes the facilitation of empowering local non-profit groups to operate facilities and/or offer programs to residents thereby levering public resources and providing more value for public investment.

Community development is the process of creating change through a model of greater public participation—the engagement of the entire community from the individual up. The concept of community development has a broader reach than just the delivery of recreation and cultural programs and facilities; it is commonly understood to be the broader involvement of the general public in decision making and delivery. Community development in recreation delivery encompasses supporting and guiding volunteer groups to ultimately become self-sufficient while providing facilities and programs that further the recreation and cultural agenda in a community.

Data compiled by Statistics Canada. http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-649-x/2011001/tbl/tbl210-eng.htm

<sup>2</sup> Alberta Heritage Community Foundation. http://www.abheritage.ca/volunteer/index.html

### ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF RECREATION, SPORT. AND CULTURAL TOURISM

Sport, recreation, and cultural tourism are major contributors to local economies throughout the province, especially in the case of communities that have the infrastructure necessary to host major sporting events with non-local teams and competitors or performers that draw spectators from outside the community.

"Sport tourists" have been defined as participants and their families who travel more than 80km to attend, participate in, or are somehow involved in a sporting event. According to the Canadian Sport Tourism Alliance, spending associated with the Canadian sport tourism industry reached \$3.6 billion in 2010, an increase of 8.8% from 2008. Sport tourism related to major provincial, national or international events can have longer lasting impacts in communities than just local spending during an event. In some cases, legacies are left including infrastructure, endowments and community brand recognition.

**Cultural tourism** is another important and growing segment of the tourism industry. Its participants are young, well-educated, spend more money on their trips, and seek unique personal experiences. Although not a new phenomenon, cultural tourism has consistently been characterized by the following points:

- 1. Frequent short trips: The cultural tourist, while small as a percentage of all tourists, makes numerous short trips to participate in cultural activities year-round.
- A Personal Experience: Cultural tourists seek
  experiences that are meaningful to them and that
  will result in individual reminiscences and memories
  which refer more to the tourist's personal history
  than to that of the site.

Many Alberta municipalities are concentrating more on event hosting to generate broader economic impact, build community image and create sustainability in volunteer groups. In some cases municipalities are spearheading these efforts by taking on a direct role in the recruitment and planning of events. In other cases municipalities are supporting community groups by providing facilities, staff resources and/or financial support.

### PROVIDING QUALITY PARKS AND OUTDOOR SPACES

Research supports that individuals continue to place a high value on the availability and quality of parks, trails and outdoor spaces. A 2013 Canadian study commissioned by the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation found that nearly two-thirds of respondents (64%) indicated that local parks were "very important" to them and their family. Additionally, 68% of Canadians are concerned about the loss of green space in their community.<sup>2</sup> Another 2011 study of over 1,100 parents of 2 to 12 year olds in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom found that the more time a family spends together at a playground, the greater their overall sense of family well-being. Three-quarters also wished that their family had time to visit a playground more often.<sup>3</sup>

Parks and outdoor spaces also play a key role in helping to combat "nature deficit disorder" amongst children and youth. This phrase, first coined by Richard Louv in his bestselling book "Last Child in the Woods", suggests that children are becoming estranged from nature and natural play resulting in a number of cognitive, physical and developmental issues.



<sup>2</sup> TD Friends of the Environment Foundation survey, conducted by Ipsos Reid (2013).

<sup>3</sup> Harris Interactive (2011). Playgrounds Increase Sense Of Family Well-Being. Washington, District of Columbia. Foresters.

While all residents benefit from the availability of quality park spaces, a significant amount of research and attention has been given to the myriad of benefits that result from children and youth being able to play and interact in outdoor settings. Findings include:

- Children who play regularly in natural environments show more advanced motor fitness, including coordination, balance and agility, and they are sick less often.
- Exposure to natural environments improves children's cognitive development by improving their awareness, reasoning and observational skills.<sup>2</sup>
- Children who play in nature have more positive feelings about each other.<sup>3</sup>
- Outdoor environments are important to children's development of independence and autonomy.<sup>4</sup>
- Children with views of and contact with nature score higher on tests of concentration and self-discipline.
   The greener, the better the scores (Wells 2000, Taylor et al. 2002).<sup>5</sup>



#### SOCIAL INCLUSION

The concept of social inclusion is increasingly becoming an issue communities are addressing. While always an important issue, its significance has risen as communities have become more diversified through immigration.

Social inclusion is about making sure that all children and adults are able to participate as valued, respected and contributing members of society. It involves the basic notions of belonging, acceptance and recognition. For immigrants, social inclusion would be manifested in full and equal participation in all facets of a community including economic, social, cultural, and political realms. It goes beyond including "outsiders" or "newcomers". In fact social inclusion is about the elimination of the boundaries or barriers between "us" and "them". There is a recognition that diversity has worth unto itself and is not something that must be overcome.

While issues of social inclusion are pertinent for all members of a community, they can be particularly relevant for adolescents of immigrant families. Immigrant youth can feel pulled in opposite directions between their own cultural values and a desire to "fit in" to their new home. This tension can be exacerbated in those situations in which parents are experiencing stress due to settlement. Children living in families which are struggling are more likely to be excluded from some of the aspects of life essential to their healthy development. Children are less likely to have positive experiences at school, less likely to participate in recreation, and less likely to get along well with friends, if they live in families struggling with parental depression, family dysfunction or violence.<sup>8</sup>

Financial barriers to participation in recreation, sport, and cultural activities continue to exist for many Albertans. Understanding the potential benefits that can result from engaging citizens in a broad range of activities and programs, municipalities have undertaken a number of initiatives aimed at removing financial barriers. Current initiatives being led or supported by many municipalities include the Canadian Parks and Recreation Associations 'Everybody Gets to Play' program, KidSport, and JumpStart.

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### INFRASTRUCTURE TRENDS

### MULTI-USE SPACES

Increasingly, recreation and cultural facilities are being designed to accommodate multiple activities and to encompass a host of different components. The benefits of designing multi-use spaces include the opportunity to create operational efficiencies, attract a wide spectrum of users, and procure multiple sources of revenue. Providing the opportunity for all family members to take part in different opportunities simultaneously at the same location additionally increases convenience and satisfaction for residences.

Creating spaces within a facility that are easily adaptable and re-configured is another growing trend observed in many newer and retrofitted facilities. Many performing arts venues are being designed in such a manner that staging, seating, and wall configurations can be easily changed and configured as required. Similarly, visual arts spaces such as studios and galleries are being designed in a manner that allows them to be used for a multitude of different art creation and display purposes. Similarly, gymnasium spaces and field house facilities are being designed with temporary barriers, walls, bleachers and other amenities that can be easily adjusted or removed depending on the type of activity or event.







### INTEGRATING INDOOR AND OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTS

A new concept in recreation and culture infrastructure planning is to ensure that the indoor environment interacts seamlessly with the outdoor recreation environment. This can include such ideas as indoor/outdoor walking trails, indoor/outdoor child play areas and indoor/outdoor aquatics facilities. Although there are a number of operational issues that need to be considered when planning indoor/outdoor environments (e.g. cleaning, controlled access, etc.) the concept of planning an indoor facility to compliment the site it is located on (and associated outdoor amenities included) as well as the broader community parks and trail system is prudent and will ensure the optimization of public spending on both indoor and outdoor recreation infrastructure. Integrating indoor and outdoor environments can be as "simple" as ensuring interiors have good opportunities to view the outdoors. As such, some of the public art installations in the city have already bridged the gap between indoor and outdoor environment.

### **ENSURING ACCESSIBILITY**

Many current recreation and cultural facilities are putting a significant focus on ensuring that user experiences are comfortable; including meeting accessibility requirements and incorporating designs that can accommodate various body types. Programming is made as accessible as possible via "layering" to provide the broadest appeal possible to intellectual preferences.

Meeting the needs of various user groups is also an important aspect of accessibility. Incorporating mobile technologies, rest spaces, child-friendly spaces, crafts areas, and educational multi-purpose rooms for classes and performances is an emerging trend. Accessibility guidelines set by governments, as well as an increased understanding of the needs of different types of visitors is fueling this trend. Technology is also being embraced as a modern communication tool useful for effectively sharing messages with younger, more technologically savvy audiences.



#### REVENUE GENERATING SPACES

Increasingly, facility operators of community facilities are being required to find creative and innovative ways to generate the revenues needed to both sustain current operations and fund future expansion or renovation projects. By generating sustainable revenues outside of regular government contributions, many facilities are able to demonstrate increased financial sustainability and expand service levels.

Lease spaces provide one such opportunity. Many facilities are creating new spaces or redeveloping existing areas of their facility that can be leased to food and beverage providers and other retail businesses. Short term rental spaces are another major source of revenue for many facilities. Lobby areas, programs rooms, and event hosting spaces have the potential to be rented to the corporate sector for meetings, team building activities, Christmas parties and a host of other functions.

#### SOCIAL AMENITIES

The inclusion of social amenities provides the opportunity for multi-purpose community recreation and cultural facilities to maximize the overall experience for users as well as to potentially attract non-traditional patrons to their facility. Examples of social amenities include attractive lobby areas, common spaces, restaurants and cafeterias, spectator viewing areas, meeting facilities and adjacent outdoor parks or green space. It is also becoming increasingly uncommon for new public facilities, especially in urban areas, to not be equipped with public wireless internet.

Another significant benefit of equipping facilities with social amenities is the opportunity to increase usage and visitation to the facility during non-peak hours. Including spaces such as public cafeterias and open lobby spaces can result in local residents visiting the facility during non-event or non-program hours to meet friends or simply as part of their daily routine. Many municipalities and not-for-profit organizations have encouraged this non-peak hours use in order to ensure that the broader populace perceives that the facility is accessible and available to all members of the community.







### BENCHMARKING ANALYSIS

Presented in the following section is benchmarking research and analysis relating to spending on recreation and related services and infrastructure provision.

### SPENDING ON RECREATION AND RELATED SERVICES

Available data from Alberta Municipal Affairs can be used to help analyze and contrast expenditures on recreation and cultural services by municipalities in the province. For comparison purposes, a number of municipalities were identified and compared to the municipalities in the region. It is important to note that the available data can be influenced by a number of factors which include capital expenditures (new development or major enhancement projects) or reporting discrepancies. The data provided is simply intended to provide a baseline comparison and reflect trends and differences in spending between municipalities of different types (urban vs rural) and population thresholds.

Provided as follows are a number of charts with contrast spending on recreation and related services (such as culture) in the seven partner municipalities and selected "comparable" communities. A number of overarching conclusions and trends are suggested by the data, which include:

- Investment in recreation and cultural services by the seven North Peace Region municipalities is generally consistent when compared to similar municipalities.
- Smaller rural municipalities (under 3,200 residents) and villages generally invest the least per capita in recreation and cultural services.
- Many mid-sized, resource rich rural municipalities are making large investments in recreation and cultural services (e.g. Lac La Biche County, M.D. of Bonnyville No.87, M.D. Greenview No.16).
- Many smaller towns (less than 2,700 residents) spend a high percentage of overall expenditures on recreation and cultural services.







### PROJECT PARTNER MUNICIPALITIES

Location	Population	Spending on Recreation and Culture	Total Expenditures	% on Recreation and Culture	Per Capita on Recreation and Culture
Town of Peace River	6,744	\$3,073,405	\$21,564,113	14.3%	\$455.72
Town of Grimshaw	2,515	\$1,758,237	\$4,930,824	35.7%	\$699.10
Village of Nampa	362	\$51,911	\$1,827,413	2.8%	\$143.40
Village of Berwyn	526	\$78,998	\$1,152,784	6.9%	\$150.19
Northern Sunrise County	1,791	\$724,479	\$21,715,177	14.9%	\$362.10
County of Northern Lights	4,117*	\$687,106	\$20,152,228	3.4%	\$166.89
M.D. of Peace #135	1,344	\$183,515	\$3,250,031	5.6%	\$136.54
Average	2,486	\$936,807	\$10,656,081	11.9%	\$301.99

<sup>\*</sup> Includes the Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement (562 residents).

### SELECTED URBAN MUNICIPALITIES (POPULATION 6,000 - 7,000)

Location	Population	Spending on Recreation and Culture	Total Expenditures	% on Recreation and Culture	Per Capita on Recreation and Culture
Bonnyville	6,216	\$3,300,081	\$16,221,174	20.3%	\$530.90
Rocky Mountain House	6,933	\$3,598,101	\$15,849,476	22.7%	\$518.98
Slave Lake	6,782	\$3,140,791	\$20,551,885	15.3%	\$463.11
Average	6,644	\$3,346,324	\$17,540,845	19.4%	\$504.33
Peace River	6,744	\$3,073,405	\$21,564,113	14.3%	\$455.72

### SELECTED URBAN MUNICIPALITIES (POPULATION 1,700 - 2,700)

Location	Population	Spending on Recreation & Culture	Total Expenditures	% on Recreation & Culture	Per Capita on Recreation & Culture
Valleyview	1,761	\$1,464,541	\$8,863,129	16.5%	\$831.65
Provost	2,041	\$1,439,545	\$5,392,910	26.7%	\$705.31
Sundre	2,610	\$1,464,541	\$8,572,459	17.1%	\$561.13
Average	2,137	\$1,456,209	\$7,609,499	20.1%	\$699.36
Grimshaw	2,515	\$1,758,237	\$4,930,824	35.7%	\$699.10

### RURAL MUNICIPALITIES (POPULATION 2,000 - 3,200)

Location	Population	Spending on Recreation and Culture	Total Expenditures	% on Recreation and Culture	Per Capita on Recreation and Culture
Smoky River #130	2,126	\$589,713	\$10,204,978	5.8%	\$277.38
Two Hills County #21	3,160	\$225,954	\$14,355,064	1.6%	\$71.50
M.D Lesser Slave River #124	2,929	\$368,187	\$18,377,617	2.0%	\$125.70
Average	2,738	\$394,618	\$14,312,553	3.1%	\$158.20
Northern Sunrise County	1,791	\$724,479	\$21,715,177	14.9%	\$362.10
County of Northern Lights	4,117	\$687,106	\$20,152,228	3.4%	\$166.89
M.D. of Peace #135	1,344	\$183,515	\$3,250,031	5.6%	\$136.54

### RURAL MUNICIPALITIES (POPULATION 5,000 - 9,000)

Location	Population	Spending on Recreation and Culture	Total Expenditures	% on Recreation and Culture	Per Capita on Recreation and Culture
Lac La Biche County	8,402	\$11,605,968	\$48,454,594	24.0%	\$1,381.33
M.D. of Bonnyville #87	6,216	\$5,060,924	\$42,638,421	11.9%	\$814.18
M.D Greenview #16	5,299	\$9,552,836	\$50,741,647	18.8%	\$1,802.76
Average	6,639	\$8,739,909	\$47,278,221	18.2%	\$1,332.76

### VILLAGES (POPULATION 300 - 900)

Location	Population	Spending on Recreation & Culture	Total Expenditures	% on Recreation & Culture	Per Capita on Recreation & Culture
Rycroft	628	\$179,761	\$2,120,061	8.5%	\$286.24
Bawlf	403	\$75,352	\$626,156	12.0%	\$186.98
Donnelly	305	\$56,544	\$1,542,507	3.7%	\$185.39
Hythe	820	\$88,284	\$1,302,454	6.8%	\$107.66
Holden	381	\$89,048	\$728,659	12.2%	\$233.72
Average	507	\$97,798	\$1,263,967	8.6%	\$200.00
Village of Nampa	362	\$51,911	\$1,827,413	2.8%	\$143.40
Village of Berwyn	526	\$78,998	\$1,152,784	6.9%	\$150.19

### INFRASTRUCTURE PROVISION

A review was undertaken of infrastructure provision in three other selected Alberta regions (Bonnyville/St. Paul Region; Lac La Biche County; and the Beaver Region). These regions were identified based on similar population distributions, economic characteristics, and the availability of data. Identified in the following chart is an overview and comparison of major recreation infrastructure provision in each region. It is important to note that the data does not take into account quality of provision (e.g. age, functionality and condition of facilities). As reflected in the chart, the North Peace Region generally provides recreation facilities at a similar provision ratio to the comparable regions.



To identify the provision ratio, the region's population is divided by the number of a specific facility in order to calculate the amount of people per facility. For example, with a population of 17,501 and 20 community halls, the North Peace Region has a ratio of 875 people for every one community hall.

Region	Municipalities in the Region	Regional Population (2011 Census)	Major Recreation Complexes	Ice Arenas (Indoor)	Aquatics Facilities (Indoor)	Field Houses	Fitness Centres	Community Halls	Curling Facilities	Performing Arts Theatres (Spaces)	Ski Hills
Bonnyville/St. Paul Region	M.D. of Bonnyville, Town of Bonnyville, Town of St. Paul, Village of Glendon, County of St. Paul, Town of Elk Point	30,536	1	6	2	1	2	27	4	2	0
Lac La Biche County		8,402	1	2	1	1	1	7	1	0	0
Beaver Region	Town of Viking, Town of Tofield, Village of Ryley, Village of Holdeb, Beaver County	9,790	0	3	1	0	2	21	3	0	0
Average (# of facility/amenity)	_	16,243	1	4	1	1	2	18	3	1	0
Average (Provision Ratio) (# of residents per unit of provision)	_	_	19,469	4,185	11,153	19,469	9,522	932	6,433	15,268	N/A
North Peace Region	Village of Nampa, Village of Berwyn, Town of Peace River, M.D of Peace #135, Northern Sunrise County, County of Northern Lights	17,501	1	3	1	1	2	20	4	1	1
North Peace Region (provision ratio)		17,501	17,501	5,834	17,501	17,501	8,751	875	4,375	17,501	17,501

To provide another perspective, a comparison is also provided between the North Peace Region and a single urban centre with a similar population (Stony Plain). When the entirety of the Region's recreation infrastructure is compared to an urban municipality of a similar population size, there are generally more facilities available in the Region, providing the Region with a better provision ratio.

	Region	Regional Population (2011 Census)	Major Recreation Complexes	Ice Arenas (Indoor)	Aquatics Facilities (Indoor)	Field Houses	Fitness Centres	Community Halls	Curling Facilities	Performing Arts Theatres (Spaces)	Ski Hills
NUMBER OF	North Peace Region	17,501	1	3	1	1	2	20	4	1	1
FACILITIES	Stony Plain	15,051	1	3	1	1	1	2	1	0	0
PROVISION RATIO	North Peace Region	17,501	17,501	5,834	17,501	17,501	8,751	875	4,375	17,501	17,501
	Stony Plain	15,051	15,051	5,017	15,051	15,051	15,051	7,526	15,051	N/A	N/A

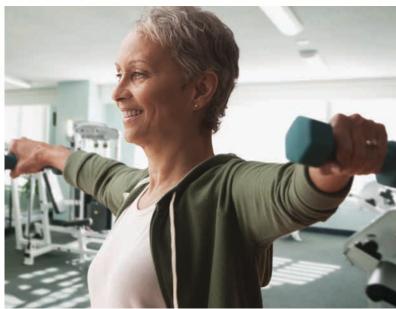


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### PRELIMINARY INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES

Preliminary lists of indoor and outdoor facility priorities have been developed based on the public and stakeholder consultation. It is important to note that these lists do not take into account a number of other factors (current provision in the region, capital and operating costs, current Council priorities, partnerships, etc.) that would need to be considered when making decisions regarding future projects and overall priorities. Provided in the Recommendations (Section 8) are a number of suggested tools for conducting further analysis on these preliminary priorities.





### INDOOR FACILITY PRIORITIES

Facility	Household Survey (mailout)	Household Survey (web)	Student Survey	Community Group Questionnaire	Stakeholder Consultation	Rank
Fitness/wellness facilities	~ ~	~	~		~	1
Ice arena facilities	~ ~	~	~		~	1
Walking/running track	~ ~	~	~		~	1
Indoor child playgrounds	~	~	~	~	~	1
Indoor field facilities	~	~	~	~	~	1
Aquatics facilities	~ ~	~	~			2
Indoor climbing wall	~ ~	~	~			2
Performing arts/show spaces	~	~		~	~	2
Gymnasium type spaces		~	~			3
Library				~	~	3
Youth Centre	~	~				3
Art display spaces			~			4
Classroom/ training space					~	4
Community hall/banquet facilities					~	4
Community meeting rooms				~		4
Curling rinks					~	4
Dance/program/martial arts rooms			~			4
Leisure ice surfaces (non-hockey)	~					4
Museum/interpretive facilities				~		4
Court sports (e.g. racquetball, squash, etc)						

### **OUTDOOR FACILITY PRIORITIES**

Facility	Household Survey (mailout)	Household Survey (web)	Student Survey	Community Group Questionnaire	Stakeholder Consultation	Rank
Water spray parks	<b>&gt;</b> >	~	<b>~</b>	~	~	1
Access to the river	<b>y y</b>	>	~		~	2
Campgrounds	<b>y y</b>	<b>&gt;</b>	~		~	2
Motorized trails (ATV, dirt bike, snowmobile)	<b>&gt; &gt;</b>	>	~		~	2
Walking trail system	<b>&gt; &gt;</b>	>		~	~	2
Picnic areas	~	<b>&gt;</b>		~	~	3
Amphitheatres/event spaces/band shelters	~			~	~	4
Community gardens	<b>&gt;</b>	<b>&gt;</b>		~		4
Dog off leash areas		<b>&gt;</b>	~		~	4
Open Spaces (e.g. parks, greenfields)			~	~	~	4
Interpretive trails	<b>&gt;</b>				~	5
Mountain bike park	>	<b>&gt;</b>				5
Ball diamonds					~	6
Basketball courts			~			6
BMX bicycle parks			~			6
Playgrounds		<b>\</b>				6
Skateboard parks					<b>&gt;</b>	6
Sports fields (soccer, football)			<b>~</b>			6
Tennis courts					~	6
Track and field spaces			~			6
Outdoor aquatics facilities						
Outdoor boarded skating rinks						
Outdoor fitness equipment						
Outdoor swimming areas (non-pool)						

**Household Survey (web):** two check marks if identified as a top 5 priority, one check mark if a top ten priority **Household Survey (web):** one check mark if identified as a top 10 priority **Student Survey:** one check mark if identified as a top 10 priority

 $\label{lem:community Group Questionnaire:} One check mark if identified by $>\!20\% of responding groups \\ \textbf{Stakeholder Consultation:} One check mark if commonly cited as a regional need \\$ 

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the research and analysis conducted, five (5) recommendations have been provided. As previously noted, these recommendations are intended to drive future discussions and planning decisions and are not intended to be binding or specific to any one initiative or potential project. Provided throughout the recommendations are references to a number of planning tools and frameworks that can help with future analysis and decision making.

### RECOMMENDATION #1: EXPLORE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The composition of this Committee could include one staff and one elected official from each municipality. Establishment of the Committee could provide a number of benefits, which include:

- Ensure ongoing communication and collaboration between municipalities as it relates to recreation.
- Establish a conduit between Councils and senior administration on matters relating to recreation.
- Leverage the knowledge and expertise of municipal staff and elected officials on a regional basis.

Potential roles and responsibilities of the Committee could include:

- Guide the further exploration and/or implementation of the recommendations outlined in the Situational Analysis.
- Inform, and advise on, future decisions related to infrastructure, collaborations, partnerships, etc.
- Lead future regional recreation projects (e.g. Master Plan, infrastructure development).



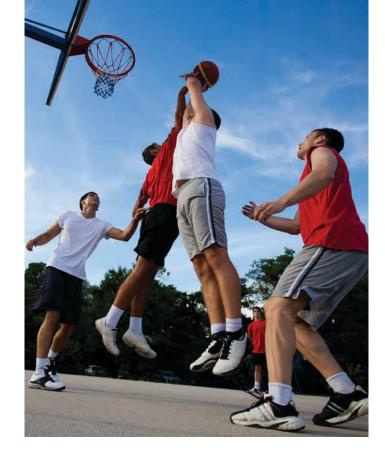


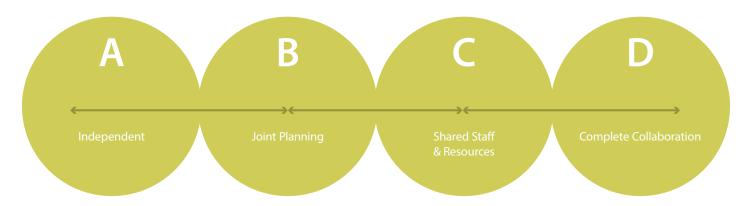


RECOMMENDATION #2: FURTHER ENGAGE SENIOR ADMINISTRATION AND COUNCIL TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE LEVEL OF COLLABORATION REQUIRED FOR RECREATION SERVICES IN THE REGION.

It is suggested that further conversations occur at a senior administration and Council level regarding the future levels of collaboration. The previously recommended Regional Recreation Advisory Committee or a similar body could help guide, facilitate, and provide administrative support to these discussions. It is suggested that the research and consultation findings outlined in the Situational Analysis be used as a resource to inform these discussions should they occur.

For discussion purposes, the following spectrum of collaboration model illustrates the possible levels of collaborations/partnership that could be considered.





#### A: Independent Municipalities provide recreation (and related services) completely independent with minimal interactions

and partnerships.

### B: Joint Planning

Municipalities conduct joint planning for selected recreation service areas. Collaboration occurs but municipalities continue to deliver the majority of services independently.

#### C: Shared Staff & Resources

Municipalities in the region formally agree to share staff and resources for selected areas of service provision. Collaboration becomes more systematic in the delivery of recreation services but is not fully inclusive.

#### D: Complete Collaboration

The majority of recreation services are delivered regionally, although some level of independence may still occur for selected services (e.g. parks and open spaces).

RECOMMENDATION #3: CONSIDER IMPLEMENTING A PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (AT A REGIONAL AND LOCAL LEVEL) FOR PROPOSED MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVES.

It is suggested that the project development framework illustrated below be used by both the independent municipalities and regional partners when contemplating future major infrastructure projects. Implementing this model will ensure that:

- · Transparency exists
- Major decisions are informed and based on adequate research, analysis and consultation
- Community organizations and partners have a clear understanding of the process required before development can occur

#### **Preliminary Need Identified Needs Assessment Feasibility Analysis Resource Development** • Does the recreation project Conduct needs • Explore impacts/resource · Resource detailed design. comply with the goals & assessment including: development including • Detailed buisness planning. objectives set out by the Region options for: - Resource provision in the • Fundraising. \* If required and the planning objectives set - Primary & secondary market area out by the partner municipalities? · Construction. components. - Demographics & growth • Does the resource service - Potential sites. - Trends regional residents? - Expansion (if existing)/ - Public consultation building new. • Impacts on existing resources. • Capital & operating financial implication/resource provision. · Recommended course of action. 3 MONTHS 12 – 24 MONTHS



# RECOMMENDATION #4: AS A REGION, FURTHER EXPLORE AND PRIORITIZE THE PRELIMINARY LIST OF INDOOR AND OUTDOOR FACILITY PRIORITIES.

Identified in Section 7 are preliminary lists of indoor and outdoor facility priorities, based on public and stakeholder consultation. While public and stakeholder consultation is important, further analysis and prioritization is required that considers other realities which include the current provision in the region, capital and operating costs, existing priorities of the regional municipalities, and partnership opportunities.

A number of potential models and frameworks could be developed and used to conduct this next level of prioritization. It may also be necessary for the regional discussion outlined in Recommendation #2 to occur prior to the future prioritization of infrastructure projects. Provided below is an example of a criteria based model that could be utilized to prioritize future infrastructure projects. If this type of model is adopted, it would be important to further refine the criteria, scoring system and weighting identified. The proposed Regional Recreation Advisory Committee or a similar entity could play a key role in this exercise.

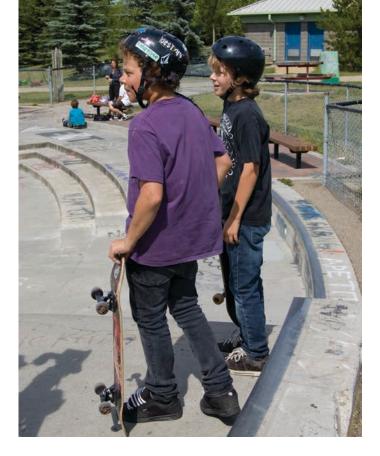
#### PRIORITIZATION MODEL EXAMPLE

Criteria	Meterics					
Regional Demand	<b>3 points:</b> For identified priority "1" projects.	<b>2 points:</b> For identified priority "2 – 5" projects.	<b>1 point:</b> For identified priority "5 – 10" projects.	<b>O points:</b> For identified priority "11" or higher projects.	5	
Public Accessibility	3 points: Provides unlimited access to the general public	2 points: Provides limited access to the general public	N/A	<b>0 points:</b> Not accessible to the general public	4	
Current Provision in the Region	3 points: Project would add completely new activity to recreation and/or culture in the Region.	2 points: Project would significantly improve provision of existing recreation and/or culture activity in the Region.	N/A	<b>O points:</b> Activity is already adequately provided in the Region.	4	
Life Span of Existing Facilities	3 points: The existing facility will be decommissioned within 2 years or is not currently offered in the Region.	2 points: The existing facility will be decommissioned within 3 – 5 years.	1 point: The existing facility will be decommissioned within 5 – 10 years and/or requires life cycle replacement budgeting.	<b>O points:</b> The existing facility is not nearing the end of its useful life.	4	
Cost Savings Through Partnerships or Grants	3 points: Partnership and/ or grant opportunities exist in development and/ or operating that equate to 50% or more of the overall project cost.	2 points: Partnership and/ or grant opportunities exist in development and/ or operating that equate to 25% — 49% or more of the overall project cost.	1 point: Partnership and/ or grant opportunities exist in development and/ or operating that equate to 10% – 24% or more of the overall project cost.	<b>O points:</b> No potential partnership or grant opportunities exist at this point in time.	4	
Overall Operating Cost			<b>O points:</b> The project operating costs are greater than (\$100,000) annually.	4		
Overall Capital Cost	<b>3 points:</b> The anticipated project capital cost is less than \$0.5M.	<b>2 points:</b> The anticipated project capital cost is \$0.5M and up to \$1M.	1 point: The anticipated project capital cost is over \$1M and up to \$5M.	<b>O points:</b> The anticipated project capital cost is more than \$5M.	3	
Economic Impact	3 points: The activity or space will draw significant non-local investment into the Region	<b>2 points:</b> The activity or space will draw significant non-local investment into the Region.	1 point: The activity or space will draw moderate non-local investment into the Region.	<b>O points:</b> The activity or space will not draw non-local investment into the Region.	3	

RECOMMENDATION #5: ENHANCE COLLABORATIONS IN THE AREAS OF MARKETING, VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT, AND ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING.

Consistently identified throughout the public and stakeholder engagement was the crucial role that community organizations and volunteers play in providing recreational opportunities to residents. The need for improved marketing was also a common theme identified during this consultation. It is recommended that the regional municipalities collaborate to specifically enhance the following three areas:

- · Marketing of recreational opportunities
  - Align promotions and marketing where possible (e.g. joint leisure guides, regional website with database of recreational opportunities)
- · Volunteers development
  - Develop regional initiatives to improve recruitment and skill development
- · Building organizational capacity
  - Enhance training opportunities and administrative resources available to groups
  - Ensure key groups (e.g. those that operate facilities and/or are major program and event providers) are sustained









# HOUSEHOLD SURVEY TOOL

# SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF RECREATION ACTIVITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICE DELIVERY

HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONNAIRE















#### **DEAR RESIDENT:**

The County of Northern Lights, the Municipal District of Peace #135, Northern Sunrise County, the Towns of Peace River and Grimshaw, and the Villages of Nampa and Berwyn are working together to plan for the future of recreation in the North Peace Region. A Situational Analysis of Recreation Activities, Infrastructure and Service Delivery is being conducted which will help assess the current state of recreation in the region and provide recommendations that will enhance services and help inform future decisions on programming, facilities and regional collaboration.

Gathering feedback from regional residents is an important component to the project. Please have an adult in the household answer this questionnaire by **considering the needs of all members of your household**.

Please seal your completed questionnaire in the enclosed self-addressed envelope (no postage necessary) and **mail it by February 27**th, **2015.** Alternatively you can drop it off at the administration offices of any of the partner municipalities.

As a token of thanks for completing this questionnaire, one draw will be made for a \$100 grocery gift certificate. To be included in the draw, complete the entry form below. This information will be utilized solely for the purposes of the draw and will not be reported in connection with the responses you have provided. To be included in the draw your entry must be received by February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

For additional information about the project please contact Steve Slawuta (RC Strategies) at (780) 441 – 4267.

DRAW ENTRY FORM		
Name (first name only):		
Phone number:		

The personal information requested on this form will be used for the sole purpose of contacting you should you be the draw winner. Your personal information will not be shared with anyone for any other purposes.



### SECTION I: ACTIVITIES

1

	AUTIVITIES		
In wh		our hou	usehold participate? Check ( 🗸 ) all responses that apply
	Hiking/walking/jogging		Cross country skiing
	Fishing/hunting		Camping
	Snowmobile/ATV riding		Cycling/mountain biking
	Boating		Wildlife watching/nature appreciation
	BBQ/picnics/social gatherings		Tennis
	Outdoor field sports (soccer/football)		Pickleball
	Soccer (indoor)		Gymnastics
	Dog walking		Rock/mountain climbing
	BMX activities		Agricultural (equestrian riding/rodeo)
	Hockey (structured/league)		Fitness/yoga/aerobics
	Golf		Ice skating program (figure skating/learn to skate)
	Swimming (in a lake or river)		Skating (outdoor)
	Swimming (outdoor at a pool)		Inline skating/skateboarding (outdoor)
	Swimming (indoor)		Softball/baseball/slo pitch
	Dance		Curling
	Snowshoeing		
	Other (please specify):		
TION II	: MOTIVATIONS		
	are the <b>main reasons</b> you and/or members of your may check ( • ) more than one response.	house	ehold participate in recreational activities?
П	Physical health/exercise		Experience a challenge
П	To be with family/friends		Meet new people
$\Box$	Relaxation	$\Box$	Pleasure/entertainment
$\Box$	To be creative		Improve skills and/or knowledge
	Help the community		To "get away"
	To enjoy nature		Something different than work
	Satisfy curiosity	Ш	
	Other (please specify):		
CTION II	BENEFITS OF RECREATION		

#### SEC

3. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

STATEMENT	STRONGLY AGREE	SOMEWHAT AGREE	UNSURE	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
Recreation is important to my quality of life.					
My local community as a whole benefits from recreation programs and services.					
The region as a whole benefits from recreation programs and services.					



STATEMENT	STRONGLY AGREE	SOMEWHAT AGREE	UNSURE	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE	STRONGLY Disagree
Residents can benefit even if they do not use recreation services directly.					
Recreation brings the community together.					
Quality recreation programs and facilities can help attract and retain residents.					

#### SECTION IV: CURRENT FACILITY USAGE

4a. For each of the following community facilities, parks and open spaces in your region, please indicate how frequently in the previous twelve (12) months someone in your household used/visited it. Please check ( v ) the appropriate box.

STATEMENT	1 - 9 USES	10 - 20 USES	21+ USES	DID NOT USE
TOWN OF PEACE RIVER				
Al Adair Rec Centre				
Athabasca Hall				
Ball Diamonds				
Baytex Energy Centre (Arena)				
Misery Mountain Ski Hill				
N.A.R. Station (Tourist Information Centre)				
Northend Boat Launch				
Northend Dog Park				
Outdoor Rinks				
Parks and Open Spaces				
Peace Regional Pool				
Peace River Curling Club				
Peace River Lions Campground				
Peace River Municipal Library				
Peace River Museum, Archives & Mackenzie Centre				
Peace River Senior's Drop-In Centre				
Playgrounds				
School Gymnasiums				
Skateboard Park				
Sports Fields				
Tennis Courts (Downtown)				
Tennis Courts (Lower West Peace)				
Tennis Courts (TA/Glenmary)				
Trails and Pathways				
Water Play Park				
West Peace Boat Launch				
12 Foot Davis Events Park				
TOWN OF GRIMSHAW				
Ball Diamonds				
Grimshaw Curling Club				

















Grimshaw Library	STATEMENT	1 - 9 USES	10 - 20 USES	21+ USES	DID NOT USE
Historical MacKenzie Highway Park/Visitor Information Centre Legion Hall Mile Zero Regional Multiplex (Fitnes Centre) Mile Zero Regional Multiplex (Fitnes Centre) Mile Zero Regional Multiplex (Fitnes Centre) Mile Zero Regional Multiplex (Heeting Room) Mile Zero Regional Multiplex (Meeting Room) Mile Zero Regional Multiplex (Meti	Grimshaw Library				
Legion Hall	Hidden Lake Mile Zero RV Park				
Mile Zero Regional Multiplex (Fitness Centre)	Historical MacKenzie Highway Park/Visitor Information Centre				
Mile Zero Regional Multiplex (Fitehs Centre)	Legion Hall				
Mile Zero Regional Multiplex (Field House)	Mile Zero Regional Multiplex (Arena)				
Mile Zero Regional Multiplex (Meeting Room)	Mile Zero Regional Multiplex (Fitness Centre)				
Mile Zero Regional Multiplex (Walking Track)	Mile Zero Regional Multiplex (Field House)				
New Horizon Drop-In Centre	Mile Zero Regional Multiplex (Meeting Room)				
Outdoor Rink	Mile Zero Regional Multiplex (Walking Track)				
Parks & Open Spaces	New Horizon Drop-In Centre				
School Gymnasiums	Outdoor Rink				
Sk8 "N" Bike Park	Parks & Open Spaces				
Kinsmen Park Soccer Field	School Gymnasiums				
Swimming Pool	Sk8 "N" Bike Park				
Trails & Pathways	Kinsmen Park Soccer Field				
VILLAGE OF NAMPA  Legacy Park  Mill Brown Memorial Park (Ball Diamonds)  Mill Brown Memorial Park (Tennis Courts)  Mill Brown Memorial Park (Playground and Picnic Facilities)  Nampa Centennial Playground  Nampa Golden Pioneers Drop in Centre  Nampa Recreation Centre (Arena)  Nampa Recreation Centre (Curling Rink)  Nampa Recreation Centre (Dance Hall)  School Gymnasium  Subdivision Park (playground area)  Trails & Pathways  VILLAGE OF BERWYN  Berwyn Arena  Berwyn Arena  Berwyn Seniors Centre  Golden Age Club  Legion Hall  Parks & Open Spaces  School Gymnasium  Tower Park Recreational Area (Ball Diamonds)	Swimming Pool				
Legacy Park	Trails & Pathways				
Mill Brown Memorial Park (Ball Diamonds)	VILLAGE OF NAMPA				
Mill Brown Memorial Park (Ball Diamonds)	Legacy Park				
Mill Brown Memorial Park (Playground and Picnic Facilities)  Nampa Centennial Playground  Nampa Golden Pioneers Drop in Centre  Nampa Recreation Centre (Arena)  Nampa Recreation Centre (Curling Rink)  Nampa Recreation Centre (Dance Hall)  School Gymnasium  Subdivision Park (playground area)  Trails & Pathways  VILLAGE OF BERWYN  Berwyn Arena  Berwyn Elks Hall  Berwyn Seniors Centre  Golden Age Club  Legion Hall  Parks & Open Spaces  School Gymnasium  Tower Park Recreational Area (Ball Diamonds)					
Nampa Centennial Playground  Nampa Golden Pioneers Drop in Centre  Nampa Recreation Centre (Arena)  Nampa Recreation Centre (Curling Rink)  Nampa Recreation Centre (Dance Hall)  School Gymnasium  Subdivision Park (playground area)  Trails & Pathways  VILLAGE OF BERWYN  Berwyn Arena  Berwyn Elks Hall  Berwyn Seniors Centre  Golden Age Club  Legion Hall  Parks & Open Spaces  School Gymnasium  Tower Park Recreational Area (Ball Diamonds)	Mill Brown Memorial Park (Tennis Courts)				
Nampa Golden Pioneers Drop in Centre  Nampa Recreation Centre (Arena)  Nampa Recreation Centre (Curling Rink)  Nampa Recreation Centre (Dance Hall)  School Gymnasium  Subdivision Park (playground area)  Trails & Pathways  VILLAGE OF BERWYN  Berwyn Arena Berwyn Elks Hall Berwyn Seniors Centre Golden Age Club Legion Hall Parks & Open Spaces  School Gymnasium  Tower Park Recreational Area (Ball Diamonds)	Mill Brown Memorial Park (Playground and Picnic Facilities)				
Nampa Recreation Centre (Arena)	Nampa Centennial Playground				
Nampa Recreation Centre (Curling Rink)  Nampa Recreation Centre (Dance Hall)  School Gymnasium  Subdivision Park (playground area)  Trails & Pathways  VLLAGE OF BERWYN  Berwyn Arena  Berwyn Elks Hall  Berwyn Seniors Centre  Golden Age Club  Legion Hall  Parks & Open Spaces  School Gymnasium  Tower Park Recreational Area (Ball Diamonds)	Nampa Golden Pioneers Drop in Centre				
Nampa Recreation Centre (Dance Hall)  School Gymnasium  Subdivision Park (playground area)  Trails & Pathways  VILLAGE OF BERWYN  Berwyn Arena Berwyn Elks Hall Berwyn Seniors Centre  Golden Age Club Legion Hall  Parks & Open Spaces School Gymnasium  Tower Park Recreational Area (Ball Diamonds)	Nampa Recreation Centre (Arena)				
School Gymnasium  Subdivision Park (playground area)  Trails & Pathways  VILLAGE OF BERWYN  Berwyn Arena  Berwyn Elks Hall  Berwyn Seniors Centre  Golden Age Club  Legion Hall  Parks & Open Spaces  School Gymnasium  Tower Park Recreational Area (Ball Diamonds)	Nampa Recreation Centre (Curling Rink)				
Subdivision Park (playground area)  Trails & Pathways  ULLAGE OF BERWYN  Berwyn Arena  Berwyn Elks Hall  Berwyn Seniors Centre  Golden Age Club  Legion Hall  Parks & Open Spaces  School Gymnasium  Tower Park Recreational Area (Ball Diamonds)	Nampa Recreation Centre (Dance Hall)				
Trails & Pathways	School Gymnasium				
VILLAGE OF BERWYN  Berwyn Arena  Berwyn Elks Hall  Berwyn Seniors Centre  Golden Age Club  Legion Hall  Parks & Open Spaces  School Gymnasium  Tower Park Recreational Area (Ball Diamonds)	Subdivision Park (playground area)				
Berwyn Arena	Trails & Pathways				
Berwyn Elks Hall  Berwyn Seniors Centre  Golden Age Club  Legion Hall  Parks & Open Spaces  School Gymnasium  Tower Park Recreational Area (Ball Diamonds)	VILLAGE OF BERWYN			<u>'</u>	
Berwyn Elks Hall  Berwyn Seniors Centre  Golden Age Club  Legion Hall  Parks & Open Spaces  School Gymnasium  Tower Park Recreational Area (Ball Diamonds)	Berwyn Arena	П	П	П	
Golden Age Club  Legion Hall  Parks & Open Spaces  School Gymnasium  Tower Park Recreational Area (Ball Diamonds)					
Legion Hall  Parks & Open Spaces  School Gymnasium  Tower Park Recreational Area (Ball Diamonds)	Berwyn Seniors Centre				
Parks & Open Spaces	Golden Age Club				
Parks & Open Spaces	Legion Hall			П	
School Gymnasium  Tower Park Recreational Area (Ball Diamonds)  Description:					
Tower Park Recreational Area (Ball Diamonds)					
Tower Park Recreational Area (Tennis Courts)	·				
Trails & Pathways					



STATEMENT	1 - 9 USES	10 - 20 USES	21+ USES	DID NOT USE
COUNTY OF NORTHERN LIGHTS				
Ball Diamonds				
Battle River Ag Society Hall				
Bear Creek Golf Course				
Condy Meadows Campground & Golf Course				
Deadwood Community Hall				
Dixonville Curling Rink				
Dixonville LIFE AG Hall				
Dixonville Museum				
Figure Eight Lake Provincial Park				
Hawk Hills Community Centre				
Hotchkiss Community Hall				
Keg River Hall				
Lac Cardinal Hall				
Leddy Lake Campground				
Lions Campground				
Manning Battle River Pioneer Museum				
Manning Old Hospital Museum				
Manning Outdoor Pool				
Manning Sports Centre (Arena)				
Manning Sports Centre (Curling Rink)				
Manning Ski Hill				
Notikewin Provincial Park				
Outdoor Rinks				
School Gymnasiums				
Shady Lanes Campground				
Sports Fields				
The Creek Golf Course				
Trails & Pathways				
Twin Lakes Provincial Park				
Warrensville Hall				
Weberville Hall				
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PEACE #135				
Brownvale Agricultural Museum				
Brownvale Ball Diamonds				
Brownvale Curling Rink				
Brownvale Library				
Brownvale Recreation Centre				
Elk Island Campsite				
Lac Cardinal Hall				
Lac Cardinal Recreation Area				
Lac Cardinal Regional Pioneer Village Museum				
Mighty Peace Golf Course				

















STATEMENT	1 - 9 USES	10 - 20 USES	21+ USES	DID NOT USE				
Queen Elizabeth Provincial Park								
Strong Creek Park								
Wilderness Park								
NORTHERN SUNRISE COUNTY								
Bibliothèque de St. Isidore								
Cecil Thompson Park								
Harmon Valley Agricultural Grounds								
Harmon Valley Park								
Heart River Golf Course								
Mamowintowin Hall (Cadotte Lake)								
Marie Reine Cultural Centre								
McKinney Hall								
Peace River Agricultural Society (Hall)								
Peace River Agricultural Society (Outdoor Grounds)								
Rendez-Vous RV Park & Storage (sports courts, outdoor rinks, ball diamonds, walking trails)								
School Gymnasiums								
St. Isidore Cultural Centre								
Three Creeks Fishing Pond								
Trails & Pathways								
Twelve Foot Davis Gravesite (including pathways)								
<ul> <li>4b. Using the space below, please identify any other facilities that you or your family member use that are not listed in the chart above?</li> <li>5a. What is the approximate amount of time you are willing to travel to recreation facilities before travel becomes a barrier? Please select one of the following.</li> <li>Up to 15 min (one way)</li> <li>15 - 30 min (one way)</li> <li>31 - 45 min (one way)</li> <li>46 - 60 min (one way)</li> <li>I do not think travel time is a barrier to using recreation facilities</li> <li>I am not willing to travel to use recreation facilities.</li> </ul>								
5b. Does the amount of time you are willing to travel differ for specifi	c types of recr	eation facilities	? Please Expl	ain.				

#### SECTION V: RECREATION & PARKS SERVICES ASSESSMENT

SEU	I IUIN V	· NEUNEATION O	PANK	S SERVICES ASS	DESOME	<b>V</b> I				
6a.		all, <b>how satisfie</b> h Peace Region?		ou with the ava	ilability	of leisure op	portunities	and services c	urrently	offered in the
		Very Satisfied		Somewhat Satisfied		Unsure		Somewhat Dissatisfied		Very Dissatisfied
6b.	Pleas	e explain.								
7.	What	t, if anything, pro	events	vou or someon	e in vou	r household	from parti	cinating in recre	eation a	and related
,,		leisure, culture)							24110111	ina relateu
		Admission fee Transportation		tions (cost/availab	ility)		Equipmer Overcrow	nt costs ded facilities		
		Poor/inadequa	ate faci	lities			Unaware	of some opport	unities	
		Too busy/no ti	me				Don't hav	e the ability		
		Better opport						ent hours (schedul	e of progra	ams/facility)
		Not interested	in wha	at is available			Health iss	ues		
		Other (please	specify	):						
	Answ		of your	r entire househo	old, do y					graded recreation check ( 🗸 ) your response.
		Yes		Not Sure		No ( <b>If "No</b> "	', please pr	oceed to Quest	tion #1	1)
9.		vering on behalf aces that should						ve (5) INDOOR	recreati	on and leisure facilities
		Fitness/wellne	ss facil	ities (exercise/weig	ht room)		Gymnasiu	m type spaces (	e.g. baske	tball, volleyball, badminton, etc)
		Aquatics facilit	ties				Ice arena	facilities (e.g. hock	cey, figure	skating, etc)
		Walking/runni	ng trac	k			Art displa	y spaces		
		Indoor field fa	cilities (	e.g. soccer, tennis, e	tc)			ogram/martial a	arts roo	ms
		Indoor child p						mbing wall		
		Leisure ice sur	faces (n	on-hockey)				ty meeting roo		
		Curling rinks						g arts/show sp		
		Library						rts (e.g. racquetbal	•	etc)
		Youth centre		6 11				n/training space		
	Ш	Museum/inter	pretive	tacilities			Communi	ty hall/banque	t faciliti	es
		Other (please	specify	):						

RC















<ol><li>Answering on behalf of your or spaces that should be mor</li></ol>				e (5) OUTDOOR re	ecreation and lei	sure facilit
Track & field spaces	ŕ	ı	BMX bicycl	e narks		
Water spray parks			_	oarded skating rir	nks	
Campgrounds			Dog off lea	_		
Outdoor aquatics facili	ities		☐ Access to t			
Outdoor swimming are			□ Interpretiv	e trails		
☐ Mountain bike park		İ	Tennis cou			
Picnic areas			 Amphithea	atres/event spaces	s/band shelters	
Outdoor fitness equipr	ment		Skateboard	d parks		
☐ Basketball courts		1	☐ Walking tra	ail system		
Open spaces (e.g. parks, g	greenfields)		Ball diamo	nds		
Community gardens			Pickleball o	courts		
Sports fields (soccer, footb	oall)	[	Playground	ds		
Motorized trails (ATV, dir	t bike, snowmobile)					
Other (please specify):						
ECTION VII: RECREATION PROGRAM  11. The local municipalities, part of recreation programs. Thinl	MMING  ner organization king about existi	ing and new p	other community programs, childre	y organizations in		
ECTION VII: RECREATION PROGRAM  11. The local municipalities, part	MMING  ner organizatior king about existi may check ( • )	ing and new p more than on	other community programs, childre	y organizations in en's and seniors' p		mproveme
ECTION VII: RECREATION PROGRAM  11. The local municipalities, part of recreation programs. Thinl or changes are needed? You	MMING  ner organizatior king about existi may check ( • ) f programs	ing and new p more than on More cor	other community orograms, childre ne response. nvenient schedu	y organizations in en's and seniors' p	programs, what in	mproveme st
The local municipalities, part of recreation programs. Thinl or changes are needed? You	MMING  ner organization king about existi may check ( • )  f programs [ :tly [	ing and new p more than on More cor	other community programs, childre pe response. Invenient schedu accommodate m	y organizations in en's and seniors' p le	programs, what in	mproveme st nstruction
ECTION VII: RECREATION PROGRAM  11. The local municipalities, part of recreation programs. Thinl or changes are needed? You    Improved marketing o   Offered more frequent	MMING  ner organization king about existi may check ( ✓ )  f programs [ tly [ tter quality [	ing and new p more than on More cor Need to d Greater v	other community programs, childre ne response. Invenient schedu accommodate m variety	y organizations in en's and seniors' p le nore participants	orograms, what in Less cos	mproveme st nstruction
11. The local municipalities, part of recreation programs. Thinl or changes are needed? You    Improved marketing o   Offered more frequent   Enhanced content/bet	MMING  ner organization king about existimay check ( ✓ )  f programs [ tly [ tter quality [ e identify the type	ing and new p more than on  More cor  Need to a Greater v  Des of progran	other community programs, childre he response. Invenient schedu accommodate m variety	y organizations in en's and seniors' p le nore participants chink need to be r	Less cos Better ii Nothing	nprovements  st  nstruction  lable in th
ECTION VII: RECREATION PROGRAM  11. The local municipalities, part of recreation programs. Thinl or changes are needed? You    Improved marketing o     Offered more frequent     Enhanced content/bet     Other (please specify):  12. Using the chart below, please North Peace Region for each	MMING  ner organization king about existimay check ( ✓ )  f programs [ tly [ tter quality [ e identify the type	ing and new p more than on  More cor  Need to a Greater v  Des of progran	other community programs, childre he response. Invenient schedu accommodate m variety	y organizations in en's and seniors' p le nore participants chink need to be r	Less cos Better ii Nothing	nprovements  st  nstruction  lable in th
In the local municipalities, part of recreation programs. Thind or changes are needed? You  Improved marketing o  Offered more frequent Enhanced content/bet Other (please specify):  Using the chart below, please North Peace Region for each	ner organization king about existi may check ( 🗸 ) f programs [tly [ter quality ]]	more than on  More cor  Need to a  Greater v  Dees of progran se check the a	other community programs, children he response. Invenient schedu accommodate marariety mariety	y organizations in en's and seniors' pule nore participants which need to be resthat indicate pro	Less cos Better in Nothing	nprovements  st  nstruction  lable in the age group
ECTION VII: RECREATION PROGRAM  11. The local municipalities, part of recreation programs. Thinl or changes are needed? You    Improved marketing o   Offered more frequent   Enhanced content/bet   Other (please specify):  12. Using the chart below, please North Peace Region for each  PROGRAM TYPE  Nature/outdoor education	ner organization king about existi may check ( 🗸 ) f programs [tly [ter quality ]]	more than on  More cor  Need to a  Greater v  Dees of progran se check the a	other community programs, children he response. Invenient schedu accommodate marariety mariety	y organizations in en's and seniors' pule nore participants which need to be resthat indicate pro	Less cos Better in Nothing	nprovements  st  nstruction  lable in the age group
ECTION VII: RECREATION PROGRAM  11. The local municipalities, part of recreation programs. Thinl or changes are needed? You    Improved marketing o     Offered more frequent     Enhanced content/bet     Other (please specify):  12. Using the chart below, please North Peace Region for each PROGRAM TYPE  Nature/outdoor education  Fitness & wellness	ner organization king about existi may check ( 🗸 ) f programs [tly [ter quality ]]	more than on  More cor  Need to a  Greater v  Des of program se check the a  YOUTH  (6 - 12 YEARS)	other community programs, children he response. Invenient schedu accommodate marariety mariety	y organizations in en's and seniors' pule nore participants which need to be resthat indicate pro	Less cos Better in Nothing	st instruction deliberation del
In the local municipalities, part of recreation programs. Thinl or changes are needed? You    Improved marketing o     Offered more frequent     Enhanced content/bet     Other (please specify):  12. Using the chart below, please North Peace Region for each    PROGRAM TYPE  Nature/outdoor education    Fitness & wellness    Performing arts	ner organization king about existi may check ( 🗸 ) f programs [tly [ter quality ]]	more than on  More cor  Need to a  Greater v  Description of the a  YOUTH  (6 - 12 YEARS)	other community programs, childre ne response.  Invenient schedu accommodate m variety  Inming that you to ppropriate boxe  TEENS (13 - 18 YEARS)	y organizations in en's and seniors' pule hore participants which has that indicate process that indicate proc	Less cos Better in Nothing  MOULT (40 - 64 YEARS)	lable in thage group  SENIORS (65+ YEAF
In the local municipalities, part of recreation programs. Thinl or changes are needed? You  Improved marketing o  Offered more frequent Enhanced content/bet  Other (please specify):	ner organization king about existi may check ( 🗸 ) f programs [tly [ter quality ]	more than on  More cor  Need to a  Greater v  Des of program se check the a  YOUTH (6 - 12 YEARS)	other community programs, childre are response.  Invenient schedu accommodate m variety  Inming that you to ppropriate boxe  TEENS (13 - 18 YEARS)	y organizations in en's and seniors' pule hore participants which has that indicate process that indicate proc	Less cos Better in Nothing  MOULT (40 - 64 YEARS)	lable in the age group

•	Please use the space below to identify specific types of programs you would like to see. Please also provide any other comments you have regarding recreation programs.



#### SECTION VIII: PLANNING PRIORITIES

14. The regional municipalities and partner organizations cannot afford to undertake a large number of facility or park projects at one time. Priorities must be set. For each please indicate how important that criteria should be when setting priorities.

CRITERIA	VERY Important	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	UNSURE	SOMEWHAT UNIMPORTANT	VERY Unimportant
Demand from residents					
Aligns with the priorities of the municipality					
Overall cost of operating the facility					
Overall cost of building the facility					
The existing supply/availability in the region					
Potential cost savings through partnerships or grants					
Expected economic impact					
Geographic balance throughout the North Peace Region (making sure facilities are available in multiple communities)					

#### SECTION IX: COMMUNICATIONS

15.	What	t are the <b>best three (3) methods</b> to get information to y	you	about recreation programs and events?
		Local newspapers		Leisure guide
		Municipal websites		Online newsletter
		Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Blog)		Posters in community facilities/spaces
		Electronic LED signboard		School newsletters
		Radio stations		Community events
		Word of mouth		
		Other (please specify):		
SECT	ION X	WILLINGNESS TO PAY		
		nsure that community needs for recreation facilities in t crease in annual property taxes? Please check ( 🗸 ) you		North Peace Region area are better met, would you support esponse.
		Yes Not Sure No (If "I	No",	please proceed to Question #17)
16b.	How	much of an increase in annual property taxes would yo	ou si	upport? Please check ( ✔ ) the appropriate box.
		Up to a \$100 annual property tax increase.		
		A \$101 to \$200 annual property tax increase.		
		A \$201 to \$300 annual property tax increase.		
		Over a \$300 annual property tax increase.		















)	RC
SEC1	TION XI: RESPONDENT PROFILE
17.	Where do you live?
	County of Municipal District Northern Sunrise County Town of Peace #135
	☐ Town of Grimshaw ☐ Village of Nampa ☐ Village of Berwyn
	Other (please specify):
18.	How long have you lived in the North Peace Region?
	Less than 1 year 1 – 5 years 6 – 10 years 10+ years
19.	Do you expect to be residing in the area for the next five years?
	☐ Yes ☐ Not Sure ☐ No
20.	Do you own or rent your home?
	Own Rent
21.	Please describe your household by recording the number of members in each of the following age groups. (Please do not forget yourself!)
	Age 0 – 9 years 10 – 19 years 20 – 29 years
	30 – 39 years 40 – 49 years 50 – 59 years
	60 – 69 years 70 – 79 years 80+ years
22.	What is your total household income (prior to taxes) in the previous year?
	Less than \$50,000
	\$50,000 - \$75,000
	\$75,001 - \$100,000
	\$100,001 - \$125,000
	\$125,001 - \$150,000
	\$150,001 and over

### THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO COMPLETE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE!

Collection and Use of Personal Information: Personal information is being collected under the authority of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP) and is managed in accordance with the provisions of FOIP. This information will be used to analyze public input. If you have any questions about the collection and use of your personal information, contact RC Strategies at (780) 441 – 4267.

B

STUDENT SURVEY TOOL

# SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF RECREATION ACTIVITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICE DELIVERY

## STUDENT SURVEY















#### HELP PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF RECREATION IN YOUR COMMUNITY & THE REGION!

The County of Northern Lights, the Municipal District of Peace #135, Northern Sunrise County, the Towns of Peace River and Grimshaw, and the Villages of Nampa and Berwyn are working together to assess the current state and future needs for recreation in the North Peace Region.

The project team wants to get feedback from students across the region in order to help with the study. Please complete this survey on your own.

Note: "Recreation" includes sports, physical activity (i.e. exercise & fitness), culture, social activities, community events, etc.

1.	What do you like best about recreation in your community and/or the North Peace Region?
2.	What, if anything, prevents you from participating in recreation and related opportunities?  You may check (
	Admission fees
3.	Do you think there is a need for new or upgraded recreation facilities and spaces to be developed in your community and/or the region? Please check ( 🗸 ) your response.
4.	<ul> <li>Yes</li> <li>Not Sure</li> <li>No</li> <li>Using the list below, please check ( ✓ ) up to five (5) INDOOR recreation facilities or spaces that should be more readily available in the North Peace Region.</li> <li>Fitness/wellness facilities (exercise/weight room)</li> <li>Gymnasium type spaces (e.g. basketball, volleyball, badminton, etc)</li> <li>Aquatics facilities (pools)</li> <li>Ice arena facilities (e.g. hockey, figure skating, etc)</li> <li>Walking/running track</li> <li>Art display spaces (galleries)</li> <li>Indoor field facilities (e.g. soccer, tennis, etc)</li> <li>Dance/program/martial arts rooms</li> </ul>
	Indoor child playgrounds  Indoor child playgrounds  Indoor climbing wall



		Leisure ice surfaces (no Curling rinks		•		Community meeting rooms Performing arts/show spaces	_
		Library Youth centre				Court sports (e.g. racquetball, squa Classroom/training space	asn, etc)
		Museum/interpretive	facilit	ies		Community hall/banquet fac	ilities
		·			Ш		
	Ш	Other (please specify)					
		g the list below, please able in the North Peac			UTDO	OOR recreation facilities or space	ces that should be more readily
		Track & field spaces				BMX bicycle parks	
		Water spray parks				Outdoor boarded skating rinl	ks
		Campgrounds				Dog off leash areas	
	_	Outdoor aquatics facil				Access to the river	
		Outdoor swimming ar	eas (n	on-pool)		Interpretive trails	
	_	Mountain bike park				Tennis courts	
		Picnic areas				Amphitheatres/event spaces/	/band shelters
		Outdoor fitness equip	ment			Skateboard parks	
		Basketball courts				Walking trail system	
	_	Open spaces (e.g. parks,	greenfi	elds)		Ball diamonds	
	_	Community gardens	L = 11\			Pickleball courts	
	_	Sports fields (soccer, foot Motorized trails (ATV, di			Ш	Playgrounds	
	ш	WIOTOTIZCA CIAIIS (AIV, ai	i t bike,	silowilloblic)			
•	Are t	here any types of new	prog	rams that you would li		see made available before or a	
	Are t		prog	rams that you would li			
	Are t	there any types of new s, please provide some re do you live?	prog	rams that you would liples.  Municipal District			fter school?
	Are t	there any types of new s, please provide some re do you live?	prog	rams that you would li		see made available before or a	fter school?
	Are t	there any types of new s, please provide some re do you live?	prog	rams that you would liples.  Municipal District		see made available before or a	fter school?
	Are t	there any types of new s, please provide some ore do you live? County of Northern Lights Town of Grimshaw	progrexam	Municipal District of Peace #135 Village of Nampa	ike to s	see made available before or a	fter school?  Town of Peace River
	Are t If yes Whee	there any types of new s, please provide some or do you live?  County of Northern Lights  Town of Grimshaw  Other (please specify	progressment	Municipal District of Peace #135 Village of Nampa	ike to s	Northern Sunrise County Village of Berwyn	fter school?  Town of Peace River
	Are t If yes Whee	there any types of new s, please provide some re do you live?  County of Northern Lights  Town of Grimshaw  Other (please specify thich community do you	progressment	Municipal District of Peace #135 Village of Nampa	ike to s	Northern Sunrise County Village of Berwyn	fter school?  Town of Peace River
	Are t If yes Whee	there any types of new s, please provide some s, please provide some are do you live?  County of Northern Lights  Town of Grimshaw  Other (please specify thich community do you tices, games, program.)  Town of Peace River	progression progre	Municipal District of Peace #135 Village of Nampa icipate in the majority nts, etc. Town of Grimshaw	of you	Northern Sunrise County Village of Berwyn ur recreation (or related) activi	ties? <i>This could include</i> Village of Berwyn
	Are t If yes Whee	there any types of new s, please provide some s, please provide some are do you live?  County of Northern Lights  Town of Grimshaw  Other (please specify thich community do you tices, games, program.)  Town of Peace River	progression progre	Municipal District of Peace #135 Village of Nampa icipate in the majority nts, etc. Town of Grimshaw	of you	Northern Sunrise County Village of Berwyn ur recreation (or related) activi	ties? <i>This could include</i> Village of Berwyn



# COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONNAIRE TOOL

## SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF RECREATION ACTIVITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICE DELIVERY

#### COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONNAIRE















#### DEAR COMMUNITY GROUP REPRESENTATIVE:

The County of Northern Lights, the Municipal District of Peace #135, Northern Sunrise County, the Towns of Peace River and Grimshaw, and the Villages of Nampa and Berwyn are working together to plan for the future of recreation in the North Peace Region. A Situational Analysis of Recreation Activities, Infrastructure and Service Delivery is being conducted which will help assess the current state of recreation in the region and provide recommendations that will enhance services and help inform future decisions on programming, facilities and regional collaboration. Feedback from residents, stakeholders and community organizations is important to the project.

Your organization is invited to provide feedback by completing this community group questionnaire. Please complete this questionnaire on behalf of your group/organization and return it via email (slawuta@rcstrategies.ca) or fax ([780] 426 - 2734) by March 15th. Alternatively you can drop it off at any the project partner's municipal administration office. Only one response per group is requested.

For additional information about the project please contact Steve Slawuta (RC Strategies) at (780) 441 – 4267.

#### SE

EC	TION I: ORGANIZATION PROFILE
1.	Please provide us with some contact information for your group.
	Organization Name:
	Contact Name & Position:
	Contact Phone Number & Email :
2.	Briefly explain the purpose of your organization and its major activities.
3.	What age group(s) best describe(s) your organization's members /participants or clients? Please check ( 🗸 ) all that apply.
	Preschool (ages 0 – 5) Youth (ages 6 – 12) Teen (ages 13 – 17) Adult (ages 18 – 59) Senior (ages 60+)
4.	How many participants/members or clients belong to your organization? If available, please provide historical data.
	2012/2013 2013/2014 2014/2015
	Participants/Members/Clients:



	Please check (	) one	e of the following.					
	Grow		Remain Stable	Decline				
5.	Please provide	an esti	mate of the residency for your or	rganization's	members/pai	ticipants or cl	ients.	
		_ %	Town of Peace River					
		_ %	Town of Grimshaw					
		_ %	Village of Berwyn					
		_ %	Village of Nampa					
		_ %	County of Northern Lights					
		_ %	Municipal District of Peace #135	5				
		_ %	Northern Sunrise County	_				
	100	%	TOTAL					
7.	community org	anizat s (indo	mmunity organizations in the No ions and residents for programs, oor and outdoor) that your group	events, mee has used th	etings and soci e most freque	al functions. P	lease identify	up to
	community org FIVE (5) facilitie For each facility	anizat s (indo	ions and residents for programs,	events, mee has used th	etings and soci e most freque r group has us	al functions. P ntly in the pas ed each.	Please identify to twelve mont	up to
	community org	anizat s (indo	ions and residents for programs, oor and outdoor) that your group	events, mee has used th	etings and soci e most freque	al functions. P	lease identify	up to
ACIL	community org FIVE (5) facilitie For each facility	anizat s (indo	ions and residents for programs, oor and outdoor) that your group	events, mee has used th	etings and soci e most freque r group has us	al functions. P ntly in the pas ed each.	Please identify to twelve mont	<b>up to</b> hs.
ACIL	community org FIVE (5) facilitie For each facility	anizat s (indo	ions and residents for programs, oor and outdoor) that your group	events, mee has used th	etings and soci e most freque r group has us	al functions. F ntly in the pas ed each.	Please identify to twelve mont	up to hs. 21+ USES
ACIL	community org FIVE (5) facilitie For each facility	anizat s (indo	ions and residents for programs, oor and outdoor) that your group	events, mee has used th	etings and soci	al functions. Fintly in the passed each.	Please identify of the twelve mont	up to hs.
ACIL	community org FIVE (5) facilitie For each facility	anizat s (indo	ions and residents for programs, oor and outdoor) that your group	events, mee has used th	etings and soci	al functions. Fintly in the passed each.	Please identify of the twelve mont	up to hs.  21+ USES
	community org FIVE (5) facilitie For each facility	anizat s (indo	ions and residents for programs, oor and outdoor) that your group	events, mee has used th	etings and soci	al functions. Fintly in the passed each.  6 - 10 USES	Please identify of the twelve mont	up to hs.  21+ USES
ACIL	community org FIVE (5) facilitie For each facility LITY  Please identify	anizat s (indo r or spa	ions and residents for programs, oor and outdoor) that your group	t could be do	etings and soci e most freque r group has us  1 - 6 USES	al functions. Pntly in the pased each.  6 - 10 USES	11 - 20 USES	up to hs.
ACII	community org FIVE (5) facilitie For each facility  LITY  Please identify existing facilitie  To what degree	anizati anizati s (indo s (indo or spa or sp	hancements/improvements that l. (If appropriate, please identify text) the needs of our of our of our of our o	t could be do	etings and soci e most freque r group has us  1 - 6 USES	al functions. Parties and functions. Parties	Please identify of twelve mont  11 - 20 USES	up to hs.  21+ USES



#### SECTION III: NEW/UPGRADED FACILITIES

	Yes	☐ Not Sure	□ No (If	"No", please proceed to	Ouestion #13)	
	,			ito , picaso picacca to	24004011 11 10,	
		of your organization, plea be <mark>m</mark> ore readily available			reation and leisure faci	lities
	Fitness/wellness Aquatics facilitie Walking/running Indoor field faci Indoor child plat Leisure ice surfa Curling rinks Library Youth centre Museum/interp	s facilities (exercise/weight roces g track lities (e.g. soccer, tennis, etc) ygrounds ces (non-hockey)		Gymnasium type space Ice arena facilities (e.g. ho Art display spaces Dance/program/martia Indoor climbing wall Community meeting ro Performing arts/show s Court sports (e.g. racqueth Classroom/training spa Community hall/banque	l arts rooms  coms paces all, squash, etc)	lminton, etc)
	Other (please sp	ecify):				
	spaces that should Track & field spa Water spray parl Campgrounds Outdoor aquation Outdoor swimm Mountain bike p Picnic areas Outdoor fitness Basketball court Open spaces (e.g Community gare	es facilities ning areas (non-pool) park equipment s . parks, greenfields) dens cer, football) (ATV, dirt bike, snowmobile)			ng rinks	
	IV. CONTRIBUTIONS	3				
TION	IV: CONTRIBUTIONS		rease in user/re	ntal fees to ensure needs	for recreation can be b	etter met
		d your group be of an inc		nnout 🗆 Comou	vhat Strongl	у
		Somewhat [ Support	Neither Su or Oppose	<b>—</b>	e Oppose	2
. Ho	w supportive would	Somewhat [ Support			e Oppose	9















SECT	TION V: PARTNERSHIPS
14a.	Does your organization partner with other organizations (including other groups, businesses, local municipalities) to provide recreation opportunities in the North Peace Region?
	Yes Not Sure No
14b.	If "Yes", please briefly describe the partnerships.
15.	What opportunities are there for community organizations to work together to enhance the recreation programs and facilities in your local community and/or across the region?
SECT	TION VI: ORGANIZATIONAL NEEDS & ASSISTANCE
	TION VI: ORGANIZATIONAL NEEDS & ASSISTANCE  What are the main challenges your organization is dealing with as it delivers its programs?
16.	
16.	What are the main challenges your organization is dealing with as it delivers its programs?  Considering the program challenges described above, what is the single most important action or resource that the local

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO COMPLETE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE!

## COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONDENTS

#	Organization Name
1.	Peace River Child Care Association
2.	Manning Regional Child Care Association
3.	Peace River Community Choir
4.	Berwyn Tiger Taekwondo
5.	Warrensville sports association
6.	Peace of Art
7.	First Baptist Church
8.	Lloyd Garrison School Council/Lloyd Garrison School Society
9.	Good Shepherd School
10.	ASLS Ltd.
11.	North Peace Gymnastics Club
12.	Mighty Peace Golf Course & Campsite
13.	Lac Cardinal Regional Pioneer Village Museum Society
14.	Nampa & District Agricultural Society
15.	École des Quatre-Vents
16.	Sir Alexander Mackenzie Historical Society
17.	Berwyn Ag. Society







