

Framework for Recreation in Canada

Goal #4 Supportive Environments: Ensure the provision of supportive physical and social environments that encourage participation in recreation and help to build strong, caring communities.

4.1 Provide recreation facilities and outdoor spaces in under-resourced communities (including on-reserve and in remote and rural areas), based on community and/or regional needs and resources.

4.2 Work with partners to increase use of existing structures and spaces for multiple purposes, including recreation (e.g. use of schools, churches, vacant land and lots).

4.3 Enable communities to renew recreational infrastructure as required and to meet the need for green spaces by: a) securing dedicated government funding at all levels, as well as partnerships with the private and not-for-profit sectors for the necessary development, renewal and rehabilitation of facilities and outdoor spaces; b) developing assessment tools and evidence-based guidelines for investing and reinvesting in aging recreation infrastructure; and c) developing and adopting innovative renewal strategies that will endure over time, use less energy and provide affordable access for all.

4.4 Lead and support community efforts and planning processes for active transportation and public transit. Participate in the planning and design of communities to encourage the placement of workplaces, schools, shops libraries, parks, and sport and recreation facilities in close proximity so that active modes of transportation are easier to use. Encourage development and maintenance of active transportation routes that connect people to the places they want to go.

4.5 Enhance mental and social wellbeing by creating supportive social environments in the settings where people live, learn, work and play. This requires strengthened partnerships with schools, social service groups, the arts community, law enforcement, transportation and urban planners, community organizations and the private sector.

4.6 Develop and implement targeted recreation education campaigns that increase knowledge about how recreation contributes to enjoyment and quality of life, and help people acquire the skills and attitudes they need to plan for making recreation a part of their lives.

4.7 Develop a common understanding of community wellbeing through the development and use of standardized assessment tools and indices that will help communities assess and measure their status on community wellbeing.

4.8 Adopt a strategic approach to community building that features alignment and collaboration with other community initiatives (e.g. Age-Friendly Communities, Healthy Cities/Communities, Community Food Centres).