

## **Resolution 20A**

### **DEVELOPMENT OF A PROVINCIAL RECREATION POLICY (PASSED)**

⇒ Town of Truro

**WHEREAS** recreation has an almost unlimited potential to develop life skills, to enhance communities and to promote and maintain healthy, independent lifestyles which contribute significantly to the quality of life in Nova Scotia; and

**WHEREAS** recreation programs help reduce crime and other anti-social behaviours; and

**WHEREAS** the Central Nova Scotia Civic Center will soon open in Truro as a state-of-the-art community recreation facility; and

**WHEREAS** provincial communities and services have reduced funding to recreation programs and facilities resulting in municipalities taking on a larger burden, and

**WHEREAS** Nova Scotia municipalities are the mass providers of recreation which requires strategic support from the Province in the form of a policy; and

**WHEREAS** Nova Scotia does not have a provincial recreation policy while the majority of provinces and territories do; and

**WHEREAS** recreation has not been able to realize its full potential due to the lack of a provincial recreation policy; and

**WHEREAS** in the absence of a policy, recreation has been susceptible to a great deal of political influence resulting in the needs of special interest groups being served rather than the population as a whole; and

**WHEREAS** in 1987, along with the other provinces, the government of Nova Scotia signed on to the National Recreation Statement which articulates the role of all three levels of government with regards to the provision of recreation services; and

**WHEREAS** in 2003 the Federal-Provincial/Territorial commitment was to increase physical activity levels by 10 percentage points in every jurisdiction by 2010; and

**WHEREAS** the Province recently released "THRIVE!", a Childhood Obesity Prevention Strategy, which focuses on physical inactivity of which recreation is a major component; and

**WHEREAS** Provincial and Territorial Ministers responsible for physical activity sport and recreation recognized the value of recreation to healthy communities and quality of life at their annual meeting held June 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012, in Inuvik; and

**WHEREAS** these Ministers agreed to support a Recreation Roundtable to be hosted in New Brunswick May 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013; and

**WHEREAS** by building on the success of the October 2011 National Recreation Summit Ministers directed officials to plan the next National Recreation Summit in 2014; and

**WHEREAS** recreation stakeholders and provincial staff require a framework to better enhance recreation opportunities in Nova Scotia;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Union of Nova Scotia request that the Province of Nova Scotia develop a Provincial Recreation Policy with the purpose of clearly defining roles and responsibilities of the recreation sector and stakeholders before the National Recreation Roundtable in May 2013.

Forwarded to  
*Minister of the Department of Health and Wellness*

**RESPONSE:**

*Thank you for your letter dated October 4, 2012, regarding Resolution 20A Development of a Provincial Recreation Policy. I was pleased to hear of the interest in recreation expressed by your membership through the vote on the resolution at your annual conference.*

*This is an interesting and opportune time for the recreation sector in Canada. With the recent adoption by my Federal-Provincial/Territorial colleagues of a plan of action to develop a national recreation agenda by 2015, recreation will be the subject of high level discussions about its essential role in helping to achieve active, vibrant communities and healthy citizens.*

*Like my predecessors, I am pleased to endorse the idea of a provincial recreation policy that was originally requested by Recreation Nova Scotia. We have an unprecedented opportunity to be informed by the Federal-Provincial/Territorial work mentioned above, including the National Recreation Roundtable to be held in New Brunswick next May. Participation in that event will ensure that the provincial recreation policy in Nova Scotia is both informed by the latest thinking on recreation in the country and consistent with the policy direction of the national recreation agenda.*

*As I recently expressed in correspondence to Recreation Nova Scotia, I believe that a collaborative approach is the best path to success and am pleased that Recreation Nova Scotia is working with departmental staff to determine a process through which the policy will be developed. I encourage The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities to participate in the consultations that will be part of the planning process.*

*Once again, thank you for your interest in achieving healthier citizens and communities through recreation. I look forward to the day when government and non-government organizations with an interest in the role of recreation in society can celebrate the milestone of launching a provincial recreation policy for Nova Scotia.*

*The Honourable David A. Wilson  
Minister  
November 13, 2012*