

August 2, 2006

Honourable Denis Ducharme  
Minister of Community Development  
323 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB  
T5K 2B6



*Recreation for Life*

Dear Minister,

**Subject: ARPA POSITION PAPER: Investing in Healthy People and Communities Through Recreation and Parks Infrastructure**

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The ARPA Board of Directors has endorsed the above-referenced position paper (see attached materials) and has requested that it be formally transmitted to the provincial government for review, comment and prospective follow-up action.

The development of an "Alberta Recreation and Parks Infrastructure Program" as proposed in the position paper would be extremely beneficial and timely given:

- i) the current assessed state of major community recreation facilities in the province;
- ii) the population growth being experienced by many Alberta communities;
- iii) the escalating healthcare costs associated with chronic illnesses brought about by a variety of factors including physically inactive lifestyle choices by many Albertans;
- iv) the current fiscal condition of municipalities and their difficulties and limitations in responding to social infrastructure needs in any significant, priority way; and,
- v) the growing recognition and support for investments in quality of life enhancement endeavors.

As the Minister responsible for sport, recreation and parks we would, respectfully, encourage you to take a prominent and lead role in advancing the vital needs of Alberta communities with respect to recreation and parks infrastructure programs and services to foster appropriate provincial financial support.

In closing, we appreciated very much the opportunity to meet with you in June, and are aware that you and other provincial/territorial Ministers are coalescing to proactively pursue federal government involvement in upgrading and developing sport, recreation and parks infrastructure. We wish you well in that important endeavor.

Thank you again for your ongoing efforts. We look forward to other opportunities in the near future to meet with you and continue our discussions and dialogue towards enhancing and advancing the development of sport, recreation and parks in this great province.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kay Kenny".

Kay Kenny  
President

Cc: Honourable Shirley McClellan  
Honourable Iris Evans  
Honourable Ty Lund  
Honourable Gary Mar  
Honourable Gordon Graydon  
Honourable Rob Renner  
Mr. Bob Hawkesworth, President, AUMA  
Mr. Donald Johnson, President, AAMD&Cs