

News Release



Monday, March 14, 2005

ARPA Executive Director Contract Extension

Edmonton, AB - Rick Curtis, ARPA's Executive Director since March 2000, has agreed to a contract extension for his full-time position with the Association until March 31, 2007 and opened the door to discussions as a part-time senior advisor beyond that timeframe. This decision met with unanimous approval of the Board of Directors at its recent meeting in Calgary.

ARPA has shown tremendous growth under Rick's leadership, guidance and energy as Executive Director over the last 5 years. He has taken the organization from a \$350,000 operating budget to over \$1.2 million with the large number of projects and initiatives undertaken to improve the quality of life of all Albertans. ARPA supports recreation and parks professionals, practitioners, political leaders and educators throughout the province through its visionary leadership, cutting edge research, professional development opportunities, and close liaison with government and allied stakeholders.

Projects that the Association has successfully undertaken are too numerous to list but the most recent and significant have been: assessment of over 100 aging recreation facilities, a proposal for development of urban and countryside parks, a recreation industry labour market analysis, positioning for an active communities initiative, a leisure and allied sector symposium and leaders forum toward VISION 2015, and upcoming hosting of the 2005 National Parks and Recreation Conference in Edmonton in conjunction with four concurrent symposiums on youth development, sport in the community, trails and pathways and leisure for persons with disabilities.

In addition, Rick also initiated the Recreation for Life Foundation which became fully incorporated in 2003. The Recreation For Life Foundation was established to receive, manage, distribute, invest and administer bequests, endowments, trusts and other financial programs and investments, the purpose of which is to primarily support the activities of ARPA.

Rick's skillful leadership, connections within the recreation and parks industry, and tireless commitment to improve the quality of life of Albertans through its recreation and parks professionals are an amazing combination to move forward the work of ARPA. The Board of Directors is joined by many members across the Association in its salute to a great, visionary leader.

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