

Wednesday, April 25, 2007



ARPA COMMENDS ALBERTA GOVERNMENT

“We are extremely thankful for the commitment the Alberta Government has made to provide \$280 million over the next two years for upgrading and building of community recreation facilities throughout Alberta,” says Shelley Shea, President of ARPA.

Recreation facilities are a vital part of the quality of life Albertans enjoy. They contribute substantially to the healthy well-being of people and the communities in which they reside. “The provincial government led by Premier Stelmach along with Hector Goudreau, Minister of Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture have been quick to respond and provide the necessary funding to the community recreation infrastructure crisis which ARPA has been reporting on and advocating for a number of years,” she added.

“Over 75% of Alberta’s community recreation facilities are over 25 years old,” says Darrell Melvie, Chair of ARPA’s Infrastructure and Utilities Committee. “Some of these community facilities are in critical need of repair. Problems with building envelope, mechanical, heating and ventilation systems top the list. Without this needed injection of capital funds we may have lost a good portion of the facility legacy that had been established.”

It is anticipated that funds will largely be utilized for facility upgrades, however, in population growth centres funds will be required for new facility developments based on increasing public recreation demands.

“ARPA is looking forward to working with Minister Goudreau, municipal governments and recreation administrators to ensure these newly available funds are used to the best benefit of Albertans and their communities. With upgraded and new facilities, the community recreation sector can be more effective in leading efforts to get our citizens more active and more socially engaged.” concludes Shea.

ARPA is a provincial, not-for-profit charitable organization with a membership that includes community and public recreation agencies, along with educators, corporate, elected, public and student members. ARPA, with allied stakeholders, has undertaken community recreation facility assessments over the past five years. ARPA members represent over 3 million Albertans in every part of the province.

Shelley Shea
President, ARPA
Ph: (403) 268-2729
Email: shelley.shea@calgary.ca

Darrell Melvie
Chair
ARPA’s Infrastructure Utilities Committee
Ph: (780) 980-7112
Email: DMelvie@leduc.ca