

MEDIA RELEASE

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Launching a Learning Management System for Parks and Recreation Ontario

Toronto, ON: On Tuesday, May 23, 2023 Dr. Adil Shamji, MPP met online with the team at Parks and Recreation Ontario's (PRO) as their Annual General Meeting was getting underway and for the launch of PRO's new learning management system. MPP Shamji also formally congratulated the group on the work it's done since receiving a \$149,800 Resilient Communities Fund grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation in 2022 to update the technology required to offer virtual professional development opportunities that are vital to the recreation and sport sector.

"Getting outside and having fun is vital to the health and wellbeing of each and every one of us," said Shamji. "I am delighted that Parks and Recreation Ontario's Resilient Communities Fund grant has helped them develop a learning management system that will strengthen and sustain their important work for years to come."

In 2022, PRO sought a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation for a learning management system that would provide greater access to training and professional development resources for parks and recreation practitioners. This online system will allow parks and recreation practitioners from across the country gain immediate access to valuable training and resources to support the delivery of high-quality programming for all Ontarians.

"Through PRO's continued focus of supporting the needs of the parks and recreation sector, we recognized the importance of a strong technological infrastructure" said Jan Wilson, Interim CEO of Parks and Recreation Ontario. "We are very grateful for the funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation as we undergo a digital transformation that will support innovation and collaboration across the sector".

PRO's mission is to lead, connect and inspire Ontario's parks and recreation sector. PRO works to advance the health, social, and environmental benefits of quality recreation and parks for all Ontarians. To that end, the organization has a membership base of over 6,500 professionals that serve over 80 per cent of Ontarians. PRO provides training on service delivery and quality standards to community organizations and municipalities across the province to help ensure that every Ontarian has access to high quality parks and recreation services.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada's leading granting foundations celebrates 40 years of grant-making in Ontario and making a lasting impact in communities. Last year, OTF invested over \$110M into 1,022 community projects and partnerships, which included funding for the Government of Ontario's Community Building Fund. Visit otf.ca to learn more.