



PARKS AND RECREATION ONTARIO

PRO Welcomes Provincial Funding Increase to Support Active Living for Seniors

Toronto, ON – (June 13, 2024) - Parks and Recreation Ontario (PRO) applauds the provincial government for their recent funding increase of \$1 million to support Seniors Active Living Centre (SALC) programs across Ontario. This increase raises the total annual investment to \$15 million and allows SALC operators to deliver a variety of programs for older adults such as fitness classes, health and wellness services, social groups, and other special events.

The SALC program is a crucial funding source that enables municipalities across Ontario to provide essential recreation services for older adults. **Over 70% of communities that currently offer SALC programming are served by PRO members.** PRO is grateful for this continued investment, that will support thousands of older adults in accessing enriching, safe, and meaningful recreation programs.

“This funding increase will help SALC operators to enhance the quality and quantity of recreation services and programming for older adults across the province” says Jeff Payne, Chair of PRO’s Board of Directors. “We will continue to advocate for regular and meaningful increases to the SALC program, especially as Ontario’s population continues to age.”

Due to the overwhelming success of Ontario’s more [than 300 Seniors Active Living Centres](#) being delivered by municipalities, new changes to the *Seniors Active Living Centres Act, 2017* came into effect as of June 1, 2024 that enable more types of organizations to deliver Seniors Active Living Centre programs. PRO was pleased to [provide comments on the proposed policy changes](#) as well as meet with the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility in April 2024 to advocate for these changes, including funding increases.

“Senior Active Living Centres act as essential community hubs for older adults across Ontario, connecting them to programs and services that enable active and socially connected living” says PRO’s Chief Executive Officer, Kim Gavine. “We remain dedicated to collaborating with the government and our supporting members to ensure all seniors in Ontario are afforded meaningful and accessible recreation opportunities.”

PRO members who deliver SALC programming express gratitude for this funding increase. PRO member, Jessica Ruddell, Director of Community Services from the City of Welland, knows exactly how impactful SALC programming can be. “We have witnessed the transformative impacts of SALC programming in our community” says Ruddell. “This increase will enable our municipality to reach more older adults, enhancing our community’s collective quality of life.”

PRO knows that investments in recreation programming for older adults, especially those in rural and remote areas, will promote aging in place, while encouraging healthy and active lifestyles.

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