



PARKS AND RECREATION ONTARIO

Provincial Budget Earmarks Funding to Support Recreation Infrastructure

Toronto, ON – (March 26, 2024) – Today, Ontario Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy announced the newly created **Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund** as part of the [2024 Provincial Budget](#). With an investment of \$200M over the next three years, this Fund will support building new infrastructure and the revitalization of existing sport and recreation facilities across Ontario. Parks and Recreation Ontario (PRO) commends the Government for this critical investment to support growing communities and healthy Ontarians.

In January, PRO appeared before the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs to participate in the 2024 Ontario Pre-Budget Consultation process. As part of [PRO's 2024 Pre-Budget Submission](#), a dedicated investment to support renovation or replacement of existing community recreation facilities was recommended.

“A strong provincial economy can only be supported by vibrant communities where Ontarians can live, work, and play” said PRO’s Chief Executive Officer, Kim Gavine. “The parks and recreation sector is well-positioned to assist the government in strengthening the economy through recreation infrastructure projects and the announcement of this new funding program is an important first step”.

According to the [Financial Accountability Office of Ontario](#), the estimated provincial recreation infrastructure deficit has grown from \$5 billion in 2007 to \$9.5 billion in 2021. Many publicly owned recreation facilities were built between 1956-1980 and are in a state of significant physical decline. One in three Ontario recreation facilities will require investment in the next decade.

“This new funding demonstrates a commitment to addressing the recreation infrastructure deficit, and most importantly will support healthy, livable, and complete communities, complimenting the supply of new housing options for Ontario families” said Jeff Payne, Chair of PRO’s Board of Directors. “Recreation facilities are more than just the programs that take place in them. They serve as critical community infrastructure during times of crisis response, provide safe refuge and offer essential services to support all Ontarians”.

As the Province works towards building 1.5 million new homes, it is vitally important that recreation infrastructure is provided to ensure the health and well-being of all Ontarians. PRO strongly encourages long-term continuance of the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund, beyond the initial investment, and looks forward to ongoing dialogue and collaboration with the Government to ensure all Ontarians have equitable access to recreation opportunities.

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