



Saskatchewan Association of

**RECREATION  
PROFESSIONALS**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SASKATCHEWAN ASSOCIATION OF RECREATION PROFESSIONALS' RESPONSE TO  
RECREATION SERVICE CUTS AT SASKATCHEWAN POLYTECHNIC**

June 5, 2018 – The Saskatchewan Association of Recreation Professionals (S.A.R.P.) supports and represents recreation students and professionals that work in the field of recreation. S.A.R.P. has begun a provincial wide advocacy campaign to reverse the recent Recreation Service cuts and has started by sending Saskatchewan Polytechnic a letter that has outlined our concerns.

As a provincial organization who understands the benefits of recreation, we find these cuts appalling. This decision, in fact, “de-values” recreation, sport and fitness. The message being conveyed through these cuts is not acceptable and we respectfully requested further explanation behind the decision. As obesity and inactivity rates rise, recreation gets cut? Quality of life for students decreases and the benefits of recreation are lost.

Closing Recreation Services without the new Wellness Strategy ready to roll puts students, staff and alumni at risk while they create the new strategy. In fact, there seems to be a “lack” of strategy behind this process. The addition of mental health support is definitely a step in the right direction but if recreation is eliminated, are they gaining any ground? One of the benefits of recreation is the positive impact it has on mental health. There has been no mention of alumni being included in the new Wellness Strategy. We hope that their access to services is not eliminated once the Strategy rolls out. It not only affects them personally if they utilized these services, it is a slap in the face to everyone working in the Industry as these Professionals understand the importance recreation has on individual and community well-being.

The timing of Thursday’s cuts is discouraging, as this is the first week of “June is Recreation and Parks Month” (JRPM) across Canada. With no notice for users to make an alternative fitness plan, they have literally been locked out of recreation facilities. In addition to JRPM, the Provincial Government has proclaimed June 18<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 as the first ever “Recreation Professionals Week” in Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Polytechnic is laying off Recreation Professionals two weeks prior.

Saskatchewan Polytechnic currently offers two education programs based on Recreation, the Recreation and Community Development Diploma program and the Therapeutic Recreation Diploma program. While producing recreation graduates, they are cutting jobs from the industry.

The Saskatchewan Association of Recreation Professionals requested that the necessary actions be taken to suspend the current decision of cutting Recreation Services until an in-depth review/consultation is completed.

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