



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Provincial Government Proclaims June 15 – 21, 2020 as Recreation Professionals Week

Saskatchewan — The Saskatchewan Association of Recreation Professionals (S.A.R.P.) is thrilled to announce that the week of June 15 - 21, 2020 has officially been proclaimed Recreation Professionals Week in Saskatchewan for the third consecutive year, thanks to the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport, Hon. Gene Makowsky.

Recreation is the experience that results from freely chosen participation in physical, social, intellectual, creative and spiritual pursuits that enhance individual and community well-being. Behind parks, open spaces, recreation facilities and other recreation opportunities are a diverse group of hard-working professionals who deliver programs and services that meet the highest standards in Canada.

“These professionals work tirelessly behind-the-scenes to help our province’s residents live their best lives,” said TJ Biemans, S.A.R.P. Interim Executive Director. “We will be highlighting one recreation professional every day of this week on our social media channels (@saskrecprof) to celebrate their outstanding contributions that are benefiting Saskatchewan residents, while championing the profession in the process.”

Their work reduces healthcare and social service costs, increases property values, attracts new businesses, enhances community development and expands tourism opportunities.

Recreation professionals are formally educated, trained and certified. These professionals deliver programs and services in a variety of settings such as communities, schools, acute care, rehabilitation centres, long-term care facilities and the Jim Paterson’s Children’s Hospital. In addition, they manage large infrastructure used by Saskatchewan residents such as: multi-purpose centres, aquatic facilities, soccer centres, parks, trails, and open spaces.

“Since this new normal began, according to Google Mobility Report parks usage in Saskatchewan has increased by 143%. With recreation centres closed courtesy of the pandemic, residents of Saskatchewan prioritized recreation and connected with the outdoors through our parks and trails systems. In adverse times, Saskatchewan people always figure it out” says TJ Biemans, Interim Executive Director. “Since mid-March when recreation centres began to shut down to flatten the curve, residents turned to recreational opportunities within our parks and trails system that supported social distancing while continuing to meet their social, emotional, physical and spiritual needs. At the same time, Recreation Therapists working in a variety of settings, including long term care were challenged to meet

the needs of patients and residents who were isolated from family and loved ones due to covid-19. Quickly learning virtual technology to keep families connected. Luckily in this province, from large to small communities and in residential and healthcare facilities we have Recreation Professionals caring for the entire system to ensure it's ready to respond to the needs of residents.”

About S.A.R.P.

The Saskatchewan Association of Recreation Professionals (S.A.R.P.) is a non-profit member driven organization committed to the recreation profession by representing and supporting current and future recreation professionals. Our Members are Individuals such as Recreation Professionals, Recreation Students, and retired Recreation Professionals. Learn more at sarponline.ca.

For more information:

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Supported by:

