

Saskatchewan Association of Recreation Professionals

Terms of Reference

Pathway to Professional Status

Philosophy

Saskatchewan Association of Recreation Professionals (S.A.R.P.) is the member organization committed to the recreation professional by representing and supporting current and future recreation professionals in Saskatchewan. The organization values the benefits of recreation, education and lifelong learning, mentorship, inclusion, and partnerships.

History

S.A.R.P. was founded as the Saskatchewan Recreation Society (SRS) in 1970 with 17 charter members. Originally, it was formed as a branch of the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA). In 1973, SRS became autonomous, but maintains a close working relationship with SPRA. In 1997, the organization changed its name to the Saskatchewan Association of Recreation Professions, as a result of a major reorganization and definition of the association's direction. Now in its 51st year of operation, S.A.R.P. endeavours to be responsive to the changing environment and evolve with its members, so it can both ensure the health of the organization and be innovative in executing its mission and mandate.

Project Background

S.A.R.P. acknowledges that those who work in recreation come to the industry from diverse educational and professional backgrounds, often originating from outside of recreation. While industry-specific knowledge and skills will contribute to success in the recreation industry, transferable skills and diverse professional experience could also contribute to success. As a result, S.A.R.P. recognizes that there are many qualified people working in the recreation industry in Saskatchewan that do not meet the requirements for S.A.R.P.'s professional membership category.

The purpose of this ad hoc committee is to explore the development of a pathway to professional status for recreation professionals who are currently employed in the recreation field or in a related field within Saskatchewan and have not graduated from a recognized post-secondary institution with a Diploma or higher in the area of recreation.

Goal for this Ad Hoc Committee

The goals for this committee are as follows:

1. To identify the core knowledge, skills, and classes taught at recognized post-secondary recreation programs in Saskatchewan
 - a. e.g., Saskatchewan Polytechnic, University of Regina, University of Saskatchewan, etc.
2. To propose criteria for expansion to the definition of S.A.R.P.'s professional member category

- a. e.g., the specific education requirements, professional experience, transferable skills, etc. required of a recreation professional
3. To propose a pathway to professional status for those who have not attended a recognized post-secondary recreation program
 - a. e.g., what would operationalization of this pathway look like, and what steps would an individual take to pursue this path.
4. To identify S.A.R.P.'s role in supporting the committee's proposed pathway to professional status.
5. To propose any other considerations necessary for S.A.R.P. to make this concept a reality.

This committee and its identified goals support the pursuit of the following long-term outcomes within Saskatchewan Association of Recreation Professionals' [2019-2024 Strategic Plan](#):

- Engagement of all those employed/working in the Recreation Profession.
- Strengthen the Recreation Profession through career development, knowledge transfer and core competencies.

Scope/Jurisdiction:

The committee will work to achieve the goals identified above. This will be done through research, including website and document review, email communication, interviews, or any other means required. This may also include review of documentation from key partners (Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association, Canadian Parks & Recreation Association, Canadian Therapeutic Recreation Association, etc.). The committee will need to include all employment fields within recreation (identified below).

The committee will develop a process for engaging S.A.R.P.'s membership, with the intention to deliver this engagement during S.A.R.P.'s annual general meeting or professional development day in September.

Timelines:

This committee will prepare a short report, overviewing its progress to date, to be provided to the membership at the S.A.R.P. Annual General Meeting in September 2021. This committee will present its findings to S.A.R.P.'s Board of Directors no later than at its April 2022 board meeting.

Committee Membership and Appointment:

The committee will be composed of a maximum 8 people. The committee will ideally include individuals of diverse characteristics, including gender, ethnicity, age, professional and academic experience, and location (geography & community size). As well, the committee will ideally include an individual from community recreation, therapeutic recreation, sport, education, tourism, parks, health and wellness, and arts, culture, and heritage. It is important that this committee includes both professional, associate, and alumni members.

The duration of the appointment will be one year, or until such time that final recommendations are submitted to the S.A.R.P. Board of Directors.

Number of meetings anticipated/location:

Meetings will be held once a month, with each meeting lasting a maximum of 90 minutes. The committee will meet electronically through S.A.R.P.'s Zoom platform (an in-person meeting will be considered if and when pandemic regulations allow). Outside work to contribute to the project will be approximately twenty to thirty hours over the course of the year.

Knowledge and area of interest that would be an asset:

Refer to 'Committee Membership and Appointment' for desired characteristics. No specific knowledge or interests are mandatory, however, previous knowledge about the prior professional development initiatives of S.A.R.P. would be considered an asset. Those with a network of associate and alumni members, or non-members, would also be considered an asset.

Proposed Actions and Outcomes:

The committee will determine the actions necessary to achieve the goals.

At the conclusion of the committee, a written report will be provided to the S.A.R.P. that will provide the relevant information and recommendations in response to the goals.

Volunteer Evaluation:

Feedback is very valuable to this Association. It allows for a greater success of the programs. At the conclusion of this committee, committee members will be asked to provide feedback on the following volunteer experience feedback questions:

- I understood the purpose of the task and role within the group I volunteered for.
- I felt the group completed the task successfully.
- I benefited from participating with this group.
- I would volunteer again with this or another S.A.R.P. group.
- What challenges did you face as you were working on this task?
- Are there any suggestions for improving your volunteer experience within your advisory group?

Resources and Budget:

S.A.R.P. will make available whatever relevant materials it may have. Where possible, S.A.R.P. will make introductions to network connections that may be able to support the committee in completing its work.

The S.A.R.P. Zoom account will be made available to the committee.

Should the committee have need of funding to execute the mandate of the committee, it may make a request in writing to the S.A.R.P. Board of Directors.

Contacts:

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