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Provincial Government Proclaims June 19 – 25, 2023 as Recreation Professionals Week

Saskatchewan — The Saskatchewan Association of Recreation Professionals (S.A.R.P.) is thrilled to announce that the week of June 19 - 25, 2023 has officially been proclaimed Recreation Professionals Week in Saskatchewan for the fourth consecutive year, thanks to the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport, Hon. Laura Ross.

"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" (A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015: Pathways to Wellbeing). Behind parks, open spaces, facilities and services are a diverse group of hard-working professionals that deliver programs and services that meet the highest standards in Canada.

These past few years have been filled with many changes. Recreation has had to adapt and people had to adjust to new ways they live and take part in leisure and recreation activities. "The pandemic has highlighted the importance of access to leisure activities as an investment in the long-term health and well-being of communities and institutions. This would not be possible without the dedicated recreation professionals in our province," said Guylaine Green, S.A.R.P Chief Administrative Officer.

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

Recreation professionals are formally educated, trained and certified. With their passion, core body of knowledge, and experience; these professionals deliver programs and services in a variety of settings such as health care and community settings, mental health services, and schools. These professionals also manage large infrastructure used by residents of Saskatchewan, such as multi-purpose centres, aquatic facilities, soccer centres, parks, trails, and open spaces.

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. Learn more at <u>sarponline.ca</u>.

For more information:

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