



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 18, 2018

## **June 18-24, 2018 is Recreation Professionals Week in Saskatchewan**

The Saskatchewan Association of Recreation Professionals (S.A.R.P.), in partnership with the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA), are pleased to announce that June 18-24, 2018 is the first annual *Recreation Professionals Week* in Saskatchewan.

Recreation opportunities and experiences are made possible through the hard work and passion of our province's Recreation Professionals. This diverse group includes any person working in the recreation and parks field in a non-volunteer capacity. Using their passion for recreation and parks, experience in our communities and core body of knowledge, these professionals deliver programs and services that meet the highest standards in Canada. The economic development of Saskatchewan is supported by Recreation Professionals, whose work reduces healthcare and social service costs, enhances property values, attracts new business, enhances community development and increases tourism opportunities.

"Saskatchewan's Recreation Professionals provide expertise and untiring dedication in the communities and institutions in which they work, towards realizing a vision of wellbeing for all individuals, communities and natural and built environments", said Shelley Thoen-Chaykoski, S.A.R.P. Chairperson. "Our citizens need to realize that behind the recreational services they value so highly, are educated, trained professionals, who subscribe to the highest of standards and care very deeply for the populations they serve."

Recreational professionals are formally educated, trained and certified to provide recreation programs and services. They represent a wide range of positions within our communities, including:

- Recreation Directors, Programmers and Technicians
- Recreation Therapists
- Community Development Managers
- Recreation and Wellness Coordinators
- Directors of Leisure Services
- Facility Operations Managers
- Parks Workers, and
- Aquatics Directors

"Saskatchewan people are able to pursue healthy, active lives in their communities because the delivery network for recreation programs and services is supported by highly qualified Recreation Professionals", said Coralie Bueckert, SPRA President. "Their efforts ensure that our communities provide safe, welcoming and supportive physical and social environments for people of all ages to participate in activities that improve their quality of life."

## Background

### About Recreation

Recreation is the experience that results from freely chosen participation in physical, social, intellectual, creative and spiritual pursuits that enhance individual and community wellbeing.

The recreation field includes paid professionals, volunteers, community groups, educators, researchers, organizations and governments that work collectively to enhance individual and community wellbeing through recreation.

June is recognized as [Recreation & Parks Month](#) in Saskatchewan and across Canada.

### About the Saskatchewan Association of Recreation Professionals (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.

### About the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA)

The Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA) is a non-profit member organization dedicated to the leadership and facilitation of programs and services to enhance the impact of recreation for the quality of life in Saskatchewan. SPRA is funded by Saskatchewan Lotteries and administers the Recreation Section of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund.

### Media Contacts:

Nicole Walchuk  
Executive Director  
Saskatchewan Association of Recreation  
Professionals  
[sarponline.ca](http://sarponline.ca)  
306-693-SARP

Christian Bates-Hardy  
Communications Consultant  
Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association  
[spra.sk.ca](http://spra.sk.ca)  
306-780-9268

Supported By:

