



September 17, 2024

To: The Honorable David Eby, Premier of British Columbia and NDP Candidate for Vancouver Point Grey

From: Katie Fenn, CEO, British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association

Dear Premier,

As the CEO of British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) I am writing on behalf of our membership of over 126 local governments, including 5500 individual recreation, parks and culture employees and 3000 fitness professionals (group fitness and personal trainers) living and working in communities across British Columbia. Together we are the provincial voice for recreation and parks in BC.

Now, more than ever, people living in BC understand the essential role recreation and parks play in sustaining healthy and resilient communities, creating a sense of belonging, and safeguarding individuals through preventative health programs, services, spaces and places.

Yet, we are in an undeniable crisis. Substantial provincial and federal infrastructure investment programs specifically for recreation, parks and culture have not been enacted in BC since Canada's Centennial. Most community infrastructure in our province is beyond end-of-life state leading to increased physical inactivity. This situation results in a \$3.9B sunk cost to the health care system annually due to the treatment costs of rising preventable chronic conditions and economic impact of income loss from early mortality (see [here](#)). In addition, Recreation and Parks couldn't be needed more as we look to address the housing crisis. Densification means the need for shared green space, tree canopy, active places, and community gathering points will significantly increase.

To address this growing crisis, our national federation, the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, **has requested an investment of \$40B over 10 years from the federal government.**

We know that with construction cost doubling in the last 5 years, \$4B/year is a reasonable cost within our province alone to address the recreation and parks deficit. Through provincial investment coupled with municipal and federal matching we can right this deficit and be adaptive to the changing dynamic needs of our communities. Together we can get back to well-being and away from crisis response.

Attached you will see:

1. [Snapshot – 2024 rec parks infrastructure projects.pdf](#)  
A snapshot of 2024 recreation and parks infrastructure projects in British Columbia.
2. [BCRPA 2024 Budget submission – 2023 May 30.pdf](#)  
Our submission to the 2023 provincial finance committee for consideration of the 2024 budget.
3. [Example Budget Letter 2024 Follow-up BCRPA MMA.pdf](#)  
An example funding request letter – letters were sent to the Minister of Health, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Minister of Environment & Climate Change. We were grateful to receive a number of meetings with the Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, Municipal of, Municipal Affairs and Environment & Climate Change. However, no funding commitments were made at the provincial level specific to recreation, parks and culture in 2023 or 2024.

BCRPA stands by the 2023 funding request for an initial investment into sound data (\$500,000 to move the current National Infrastructure database from 70% completion to 100% sustained) and a 10 year strategic plan (\$2M) in order to make sustainable decisions for the generations that lay ahead, and alongside Indigenous governance.

Thank you for your important consideration of this information as you forge ahead in your campaign to become the elected representative of **Vancouver Point Grey and the Honourable Premier of the province of British Columbia**.

I wish you all the best and look forward to further discussions in the months to come.

Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to be in touch.

Yours in gratitude,



Katie Fenn, CEO  
[kfenn@bcrpa.bc.ca](mailto:kfenn@bcrpa.bc.ca)

Attachments: 1. Snapshot – 2024 rec parks infrastructure projects.pdf; 2. BCRPA 2024 Budget submission – 2023 May 30.pdf; 3. Example Budget Letter 2024 Follow-up BCRPA MMA.pdf