



## The Corporation of the Town of LaSalle

<b>Date</b>	April 18, 2018	<b>Report No:</b>	R & C 2018-11
<b>Directed To:</b>	Council	<b>Attachments:</b>	
<b>Department:</b>	Culture and Recreation	<b>Policy References:</b>	
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Director of Culture and Recreation		
<b>Subject:</b>	Parks and Recreation Ontario		

### RECOMMENDATION:

That the report from the Director of Culture and Recreation dated April 18th, 2018 (C&R 2018-11) regarding the Parks and Recreation Ontario Sector update BE RECEIVED;

### REPORT:

As part of the 2015-2018 Strategic Plan, The Town of LaSalle created a Community Vision that *"LaSalle will be an active, healthy and caring community...for the benefits of all ages and abilities."* The Culture and Recreation Department is continually striving to promote this vision and grow our exposure and knowledge to enhance recreation services.

This year Culture and Recreation Staff attended the 2018 Parks and Recreation Ontario (PRO) Education Forum. Staff were educated on various topics that are relative to our Sector including new regulations and their impacts on our municipal operations. We heard about Recreation Trends, Funding opportunities, Programming enhancements, Provincial Regulations, operations, service delivery and community development.

The Recreation Director was invited to participate in a Senior Leadership session hosted by the CEO and President of PRO on Thursday April 12th. Approximately, 20 Parks and Recreation Directors from across Ontario were invited to participate from large urban populations such as Toronto and Brampton to smaller populations like Woodstock and Huntsville. It was an opportunity for the senior leaders of our sector to come together to lead, collaborate on common issues and discuss new opportunities. The consultation engaged senior leaders throughout Ontario to set the stage for the future and address the focus our energies and resources. This roundtable discussion provided a platform to exchange information with the leaders of the Provincial Recreation realm and learn from peers in other municipalities.


One key discussion was around the impacts of Bill 148 and how municipalities were preparing for the changes in parks and recreation service and budgeting for the effects. It became evident that our municipality is ahead of most municipalities and more educated than the larger urban centres who have a disconnect with other departments (ie. HR and Finance). Staff shared the extensive work done around compression and county wide research done with partners in our neighbouring municipalities to ensure solid market value and prepare a new hourly pay grid.

The other sessions staff attended included the following topics:

- Working with Distinct Generation (Millennials, Gen X-ers and Baby Boomers)
- PRO public Policy: position your community for change
- What collective action is needed to shape and support our future?
- The First 48: Critical Incident experts
- Senior Staff Planning Session
- 10 Tips for Cost Recovery: Proven tools for affordable growth
- Measuring and managing for success
- Fine-tune your pitch
- Building sensational customer service from the ground up
- Training staff well with technology
- Leadership strategies to build a strong team
- Physical Literacy and older adults

Attending the forum allowed staff the opportunity to meet peers from over 200 municipalities, explore the trade show, discuss current struggles and learn about successes. The exhibits at the trade show emphasized resources from parks, maintenance, aquatics, consulting services, architectural firms, new products, turf, software and non-profit partnerships. There was extensive knowledge and growth in all aspect for our staff who attended. We are looking at submitting a session topic at the 2019 forum and celebrate the new Active Living Map in LaSalle.

  
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 Director of Culture and Recreation

Reviewed by:							
CAO 	Treasury	Clerks	Env. Services	Planning	Parks & Rec	Building	Fire