

# MEDIA RELEASE



## BCRPA'S RECREATION AND PARKS SECTOR RESTARTING GUIDELINE RELEASED

Vancouver, BC (June 1, 2020) – BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) is helping bring recreation back! In response to COVID-19, public recreation services and most amenities across the province shut down. As we enter into Phase 2 of the Province of BC's Restart Plan, BCRPA has released their [Recreation and Parks Sector Guideline for Restarting Operations](#) (The Guideline) to help local and regional governments restart their recreation services and amenities, and operate them safely.

Produced at the request of the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture and the Provincial Health Office, [The Guideline](#) is a planning tool to help BC's public recreation and parks sector to carefully re-open and offer services and programs safely during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Created by a Task Force comprised of nine BCRPA members, and with the input of the sector's senior leaders from every local and regional government, provincial authorities and sector stakeholders, The Guideline provides a framework for each individual community to develop their unique restart plans and procedures specific to their municipality and regional district.

"The intent of The Guideline was to facilitate a coordinated approach to restarting recreation, not a synchronized approach," states Rebecca Tunnacliffe, BCRPA chief executive officer. "Each local and regional government has its own balance of risk, resources, capacity, and public demand to weigh, in making decisions about re-opening facilities and offering services. We've made sure The Guideline is flexible and scalable to meet their needs".

The Guideline is built upon the foundation of the Provincial Health Office (PHO)'s Five Principles for Every Situation, which include:

- Personal Hygiene
- Stay Home if You Are Sick
- Environmental Hygiene
- Safe Social Interactions
- Physical Modifications

The [Recreation and Parks Sector Guideline for Restarting Operations](#) provides recommendations for how the recreation sector can comply with these principles, and as directed by the Province, focuses on three main considerations for both recreation and parks patrons and employees:

- Processes to restart safely,
- Measures to keep people safe to avoid further outbreaks,

- A plan in the event that a case or an outbreak should occur.

To address these three considerations, the Guideline provides key strategies for **physical distancing controls, hand hygiene provisions, and touch point sanitization.**

In addition Guideline covers six main areas, which include:

- Current PHO Considerations for preventing the transmission of COVID-19
- Risk Review Process
- Common and Uncommon Service Area Considerations
- Public Engagement
- User Groups and Leaseholders
- Employee and Volunteer Safety

COVID-19 has changed the way British Columbians live and interact with each other and the world. This Guideline will help local governments navigate the complexities and nuances of service to, and space for, their communities in and after the pandemic, maintaining community health and wellbeing as the primary focus. The context in which this document is applied will also continue to evolve as the PHO and Local Health Authorities announce further updates in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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BCRPA is available to speak directly to the Guideline's content, creation, and use for communities. For details about specific community reactivation and reopening plans, please contact the related local government directly.

**To request media interviews:**

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**BACKGROUND:**

The British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) is the voice of public recreation and parks, and champions the sector's development of healthy people and connected communities. Representing over 95% of the provinces' local governments, we play a central role in supporting the enrichment and improvement of the quality of life of British Columbians. Our work as a not-for-profit organization focuses on creating community connectedness and well-being based on the knowledge and recognition that recreation and active living, as well as access to parks and the natural environment, have significant impacts on our physical and mental health. Since 1958, the BCRPA has provided leadership, training and support, fostering the principles of accessibility and inclusiveness, to help its members meet provincial and local mental health and physical activity priorities. [www.bcrpa.bc.ca/about-us/](http://www.bcrpa.bc.ca/about-us/)