



TOWN OF MINTO

DATE: October 25th, 2016
REPORT TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Matthew Lubbers, Recreation Services Manager
SUBJECT: Recreation Framework Update

STRATEGIC PLAN:

7.0 Maintain and enhance recreation opportunities for the benefit of persons of all ages and abilities using existing well maintained parks and facilities, and ensure the location, supply and availability of major facilities is reflective of cost/benefit and community development benefits.

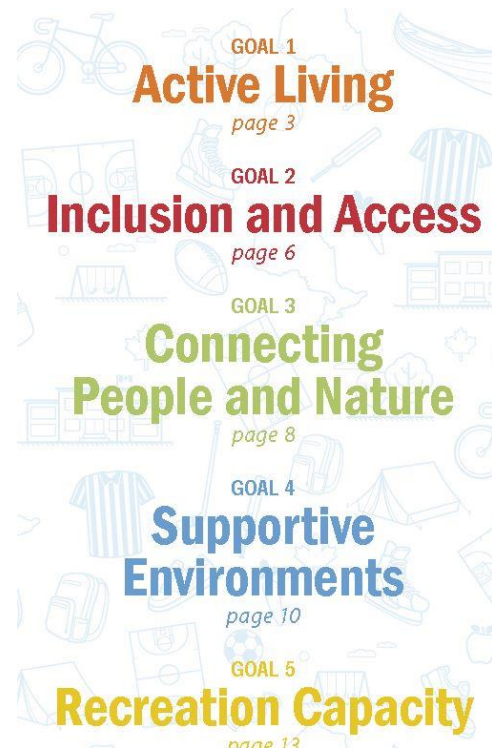
BACKGROUND:

In February 2015, the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport along with other Provincial and Territorial Ministers responsible for Sport, Physical Activity, and Recreation (SPAR), formally endorsed the Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015 as a guiding document for the recreation sector in Canada.

The Framework was endorsed by members of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities at their September 2016 meeting.

The Town received correspondence on October 3rd, 2016 from Eleanor McMahon, Ontario's Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport. This Ministry undertook a process to identify government initiatives that support the Framework and promote the benefits of recreation. The attached Ontario Support for the Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015 report highlights some of the goals and priorities including:

1. Active Living
2. Inclusion and Access
3. Connecting People and Nature
4. Supportive Environments
5. Recreation Capacity



COMMENTS:

The Town of Minto Recreation Department is currently involved in initiatives that support goals set in these 5 areas.

Under Active Living, the province has launched the Ontario Healthy Kids Strategy with one of the main pillars being healthy communities for kids to grow up in and get active. There are a number of facilities, many of which are Town-owned, that make Minto a healthy community.

To help with better Inclusion and Access, the Town is involved in accessibility-related projects and was a recent recipient of a Seniors Community Grant Program grant, which will be overseen by the Minto Retiree Activity Group.

The Ontario Trails Strategy supports Connecting People to Nature and the Town will benefit from this long term plan as we develop, manage and promote the use of our trails system. With the linkage of the trail from Palmerston to Harriston now complete, the Minto Trails Committee is nearing the point where community member involvement can begin.

Supportive Environments programs include the Ontario Cycling Strategy, which promotes active transportation and the Community Use of Schools Program. This program provides the Town and other groups with the opportunity to use local school gymnasiums for free; and in turn offer free programs. The Town's Grassroots Basketball program at Norwell for example.

Provincial support of the Federal Framework will require the help of local municipalities. The Town remains committed to providing recreation programs and facilities within our community. We support actions that deter rising rates of obesity and sedentary living, increase opportunities to connect with nature and eliminate inequities within society that have limited access to recreational programming and opportunities.

At the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting on October 24th, 2016, the Framework and this report were discussed.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receives the Recreation Services Manager's October 25th, 2016 report regarding Recreation Framework Update for information.

Matthew Lubbers, Recreation Services Manager