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O.R.F.A. SUPPORTS CALL FOR NATIONAL SPORT, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

TORONTO, September 29 - The Ontario Recreation Facilities Association (O.R.F.A.) supports yesterday's call by provincial/territorial Ministers Responsible for Sport, Physical Activity, and Recreation for a designated national sport, physical activity and recreation infrastructure program.

O.R.F.A. and other members of the Canadian Recreation Facilities Council (CRFC) have long maintained that recreation infrastructure is essential to the quality of life in our cities and communities and to the health of Canadians. "It is as essential as other core infrastructure projects and should be given the same consideration when infrastructure funding and programs are developed", said John Milton, Executive Director of O.R.F.A.

The Provincial/Territorial Ministers responsible for sport, physical activity and recreation are urging the federal government to work collaboratively, within a shared mandate, to immediately develop a national sport, physical activity and recreation infrastructure program. Provincial/Territorial Ministers have undertaken a review of sport, physical activity and recreation infrastructure in Canada and have estimated a capital deficit of at least \$15B nationally.

"The O.R.F.A. agrees with the Ministers that sport and recreation plays a key role in contributing to the health and physical well-being of Canadians," said Bill Upper, O.R.F.A. President. "I am personally delighted that all of our Provincial/Territorial Minister's are now formulating plans that will meet or exceed those historical programs of 1967. Federal Minister Michael Chong and Federal Health Minister Tony Clements need to take action in harmony with their Provincial/Territorial counterparts to ensure that by 2017 a legacy of sport, physical activity and recreation infrastructure is created in celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary". And further, "The O.R.F.A. will assist our Provincial Minister to advance this program anyway possible!"

Additional Support Reading:

<http://www.orfa.com/facilityalert/Infrastructure.pdf>

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T. 416.426.7062
F. 416.426.7385

1.800.661.ORFA

info@orfa.com