

My name is Randy Wilson, I am the Director of Community Services for the Town of Nackawic. I sit on the Boards of Recreation NB, WV REC, WV PRO Kids and I am the Vice President of VNB. My endeavour here tonight is to discuss the role of a school in the community with regards to Recreation.

This Document is: Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015

The Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015 which it describes, allows for a timely re-visioning of recreation's capacity for achieving wellbeing. This document was a co-led initiative and has been supported by, federal, provincial and Territorial Governments that has been 4 years in the making. Most recently here in NB. It was given the stamp of approval by the Union of Municipalities in the form of a resolution. At our most recent AGM for REC NB. It was supported unanimously by all of our members. Tourism, Heritage and Culture – Minister Bill Fraser, who was also in attendance, fully supports this document.

Recreation has the potential to address challenges and troubling issues such as increases in sedentary living and obesity, decreased contact with nature, and inequities that limit recreation opportunities for some population groups.

A Vision for Recreation here in NB.

We envision a NB in which everyone is engaged in meaningful, accessible recreation experiences that foster;

- Individual wellbeing
- Community wellbeing
- The wellbeing of our natural and built environments

Here in Nackawic, we are living this vision and have been the beneficiary of three great school that as you know are gems in our community and I will brag for just a bit, three schools that has produced many high level students that continue to positively impact communities in which they reside. These schools are tremendous learning environments that also provide recreational opportunities in the form of green spaces, playgrounds, recreational fields and yes gymnasiums. All provide active opportunities for our students and our

residents. They are a critical part of our heritage, just like our Big Axe, our waterfront and our community arena. The Province has recognized this, most recently 30 minutes to the West of us in Woodstock, there are two new K – 8 schools, with all the bells and whistles, parks, sports fields, green spaces and yes each school has two full sized gymnasiums, vital to the wellbeing of their students and their residents. We are not asking for anything more here, hell we won't even argue with you over the schools name.

This Framework is entailed and would take more time then I am allotted to expand upon it. I have however, highlighted five goals and priorities for action under each goal.

The goals are:

Goal 1: Active Living Foster active living through physical recreation.

Goal 2: Inclusion and Access Increase inclusion and access to recreation for populations that face constraints to participation.

Goal 3: Connecting People and Nature Help people connect to nature through recreation.

Goal 4: Supportive Environments Ensure the provision of supportive physical and social environments that encourage participation in recreation and build strong, caring communities.

Goal 5: Recreation Capacity Ensure the continued growth and sustainability of the recreation field.

It's the belief of many that **good** government has a role to play in all five goals. But Its Goal number 4 that hits home for me as we stumble down the road to reach an understanding of how our community will look in the future with regards to schools. Too many times a problem is defined by a line item in a budget with the end result being linked to cost recovery and the lack there of. I see this argument played out daily in local governments. Let's pave more streets because we need to – we all know there is no cost recovery in asphalt but we do it because it a necessary evil. I liken this to the school issue, a vibrant school with all the bells and whistles creates a positive learning atmosphere with a tremendous prescription for good health and wellbeing for its students, all staff and through reciprocal agreements, its residents. Reciprocal agreements by the way that create a revenue stream. A healthy active population is not a line item in a budget but it sure creates

less stress on our health care system, a great prescription for a healthy active community. This document clearly speaks to this.

Three schools and yes three wonderful assets work in our community, they have been for a long time. Trying to fit three populations into two undersized facilities is strictly a reactionary measure that simply will not work. Your salvation is strictly that it will save the province money in the long term. Your vision is narrow and short term and needs to be focused on long term needs. In doing so, please keep in mind the physical wellbeing of the kids in an overcrowded environment. Our numbers today and our numbers in years to come clearly support the continued status quo. This is the strong position of the Town of Nackawic and the opinion of our residents on this matter.

Thank you for your time tonight.