

My name is Gail Farnsworth, councillor for the Town of Nackawic and I have been asked to present this information for Randy Wilson, who is our Director of Community Services. Randy had been asked to speak on the role of a school in the community with regards to recreation.

* This document, Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015, has been 4 years in the making has been supported by, federal, provincial and territorial governments. Within NB supported in has received by Provincial, Municipal governments and REC NB. Its intent was to look at recreation's capacity for achieving wellbeing.

Recreation has the potential to address challenges and troubling issues –

- Sedentary lifestyles which can lead to obesity and health issues
- Decreased contact with nature
- Inequities that limit recreation opportunities for some population groups.

We have a Vision for Recreation here in NB.

We envision a NB in which everyone is engaged in meaningful, accessible recreation experiences that fosters wellbeing for

- the Individual
- the Community and for *(recreation)*
- both our natural and built environments

Here in Nackawic, we are living this vision and have been the beneficiary of three great school. 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 but they also provide recreational opportunities in the form of green spaces, playgrounds, recreational fields and 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 the important role schools play in our community, 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, these schools are vital to the wellbeing of their students and their residents. We are not asking for anything more here, heck we won't even argue with you over the school's name!

* From this report there are five goals to strive for

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 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.

~~Hiken 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, staff and its residents.

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.

These Three schools that are wonderful assets 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.