Important information about the Impact of Bill 108 on municipal parks and recreation

To: Head of Council
From: Parks and Recreation Ontario

As you are aware, the Provincial Government, through the More Homes, More Choice Act, 2019 (Bill 108), has introduced significant changes to how Ontario’s municipalities will plan and fund parks and recreation facilities in their communities. On June 6, 2019, Bill 108, the More Homes, More Choice Act, received royal assent. The Province describes this legislation as a plan to increase the amount of housing in Ontario by boosting supply. After careful review, Parks and Recreation Ontario (PRO), through consultation with its membership and key stakeholders, determined this Act could have a significant negative impact on how municipalities deliver parks and recreation facilities in their communities.

From our consultation, we have developed four key recommendations that we will be submitting to the Province as they review and prepare for implementation of the Act. These are:

1. The community benefits approach must meet the funding needs of all municipalities today and into the future;
2. Develop a Community Benefits Charge (CBC) cap and formula that is responsive to community-specific and growth-related needs;
3. Provide clarity on transition for in-progress planning applications; and
4. Ensure sufficient time and capacity for municipalities to transition to new CBC authority.

The issues and recommendations are described in further detail in our submission.

We are sharing recommendations with you as a resource to consider in your discussions with the Provincial Government, your local council, staff and key stakeholders. We are also aware that many of you may be meeting with provincial representatives at the upcoming annual AMO Conference and wanted to ensure that this information was available for these
potential meetings. We ask that you please share this information with staff who may be preparing submissions on behalf of your municipality.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and your support to advance PRO’s mission to provide every person equitable access to vibrant communities, sustainable environments, and personal health.

About PRO

PRO is a provincial association that works to advance the health, social and environmental benefits of quality recreation. We represent over 6,500 members in municipalities across the province. Our members provide vital services and facilities to more than 85% of Ontarians. In all of PRO’s submissions, we use evidence-based practices, resources and collaborative partnerships to ensure sound recommendations that reflect the unique voices of the variety of municipalities across Ontario.