

# activate Nova Scotia

Volume 1-Issue 1  
December 2000

*A Publication of The Nova Scotia Active Living Alliance Network*

*Contact Agency: Recreation Nova Scotia*

*P: (902) 425-1128 F: (902) 422-8201 [rns@sportns.ns.ca](mailto:rns@sportns.ns.ca)*

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Recreation Nova Scotia (RNS) invites expressions of interest for individuals to join the newly formed Accessibility Committee. This committee is committed to supporting the Active Living Alliance (ALA) and discussing/sharing best practices regarding facilitating the inclusion of individuals who have disabilities and or individuals who require support to be involved in community based recreation and leisure programs and services.

This year the Recreation Nova Scotia Accessibility Committee is focussing on projects such as: playground accessibility, inventory of accessible opportunities and challenges, inclusion training, facilitator training, and the Older Persons - Get Active video and facilitators guide.

If you are a person who values community inclusion, promotes team building, develops training, facilitates group process, and/or creates solutions this committee would like to hear from you. Please contact RNS office: 425-1128 ext 223.

## ACTIVATE YOUR COMMUNITY

The Active Living Alliance Viabilite Action Plan is a national social marketing campaign to reduce physical inactivity among Canadians with a disability. Three primary social marketing engines will drive this initiative.

1. Web site - easily accessible information for all audiences - visit [www.ala.ca](http://www.ala.ca).
2. Publicity Campaign - articles, press releases and target market specific publications.
3. Speakers' Bureau - to provide trained presenters to carry the active living message.

The primary audience for these activities will be people with disabilities themselves, with a secondary objective to encourage and educate community service providers to make their active living programs and opportunities more available to persons with disabilities.

## GET CONNECTED!

The ALA is asking Canadians to get active by signing up to their database to receive active living and disability information. If you, or a group you



*Delegates gather at an Active Living Alliance for Canadians with a Disability Strategic Planning Meeting held in Perth, Ontario, in November 2000.*

know, would like to be added to the database please contact RNS office at (902) 425-1128 or register online at [www.recreationns.ns.ca](http://www.recreationns.ns.ca).

## ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE

The Accessible Playground Committee, formed in September 2000, is a sub-committee of the RNS Accessibility Committee, which supports the goal of RNS and the ALA to facilitate the availability of accessible leisure opportunities to all Nova Scotia's. Committee members include: Laurene Rehman, Bud Brown, Laughie Rutt, Dave Malloy, Blair Blakeney, Marion Currie, Claudy Levy and Chair, Janet Landry. The committee's first project is the Universal Play Space Project.

Individuals and society, in general, are demanding higher standards

**Viabilite**

around quality and accessible recreation opportunities. There are a number of known factors which impact on the accessibility of recreation and leisure opportunities:

- Liability and insurance
- Cost for additional infrastructure
- Lack of knowledge and awareness
- Lack of advocacy
- Outdated manuals and models
- The management of risks
- Availability of professional development and learning opportunities

A recent assessment of the universal play space topic indicates that the resources presently available to respond to these needs are dated back to the 1980s and early 1990s. The identification and coordination of these resources is required to assist the sport and recreation community to address the issues.

The energetic and enthusiastic committee has been formed to:

1. Develop an inventory of existing resources, expertise, and programs and services, available for those interested in developing and managing universal play space.

**Update:** In consultation with Dalhousie University, an inventory is being designed.

2. Organize a forum of stakeholders to address the universal play space design and develop future action including an advocacy plan.

**Update:** Contact has been initiated with leaders in the field in New Brunswick, Ontario, and Alberta. A working group has been formed to work with RNS staff to plan and co-

ordinate a Spring 2001 Symposium/ Train the Trainer event on the topic of Universal Play Space Design. Committee members continue to dialogue with the Canadian Standards Association and CPRA regarding legislation and minimal standards of accessibility required for universal design.

3. Develop a resource manual containing best practices, tools and models.

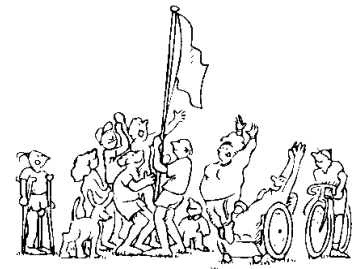
**Update:** The Spring 2001 event will include the release of a database of resources, key websites, organizations, funding sources, and legislation information.

For more information or to assist the committee, contact RNS Accessibility Officer, Camille Vokey, at 425-1128 ext. 223 or Janet Landry, Committee Chair at 542-1985.

## Inventory of Accessible Opportunities

The RNS Accessibility Committee is developing a survey, which will be sent out to provincial recreation practitioners and volunteers to determine the current level of inclusion. In order to have a better idea of some of the practices used to ensure inclusion, questions will examine facilities, pricing strategies, programs, and participants. As well, a section will be devoted to obtaining feedback on the potential need for a

provincially based fund sharing program (e.g., KidsSport Fund) or whether individual municipalities and townships are currently operating such a system. A final component of the survey will be used to determine some logistics behind offering training inclusion workshops and will ask questions related to timing, length, content, and pricing. Please keep watch for the survey and respond.



## Notices & Announcements

♦ RNS will be hosting an Active Living Alliance (ALA) Provincial Strategic Plan session in the new year to develop a work plan that will contribute to a national plan of decreasing physical inactivity among persons with disabilities.

♦ The RNS office has a ALA CD-ROM containing information on the Alliance resources available, and offers training and resources in: Awareness, Adaptations, Policy, Inclusion Checklist, Making Inclusion happen, Playground Accessibility and Advocacy. Call today to book a training course.