



# PHEnex Journal/Revue phénEPS

## **National Recreation Summit**

### *Sommet national des loisirs*

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On October 23-26, 2011 in Lake Louise, Alberta, over 200 leaders and experts in the various facets of recreation and parks gathered to discuss and plan the future of the field. Many discussions are relevant to the readers of *PHEnex*. This article is a report with links to the documents of the National Recreation Summit, rather than a set of abstracts. The complete documentation of the Summit, including 25 Commissioned Papers, Reference Materials, many of the Plenary and Panel Presentations, and the Initial Summit Synopsis are available via the Lifestyle Information Network (LIN) database at <http://lin.ca/national-recreation-summit>

The Summit's objectives were:

1. To examine and discuss trends, information, research, retrospectives and promising practices in the recreation and parks field and the wider quality of life sector to which it belongs.
2. To clarify, describe and prioritize the strategic challenges that lie ahead for the recreation and parks field and related stakeholders in the quality of life sector.
3. To explore novel pan-Canadian approaches for recreation and parks development that would respond to these strategic challenges – particularly those that have promise for increased physical literacy and activity among Canadians (especially children and youth) and enhanced community building, social inclusion, and improved quality of life.
4. To examine and design innovative ways whereby federal, provincial/territorial and municipal governments can engage in partnered recreation and parks development strategies.
5. To discuss and amplify ways in which corporate, not-for-profit, and other public agencies in the quality of life sector - such as health, social services, and education authorities and associations – can contribute to these priorities through collaborative strategies and actions.
6. To examine the feasibility and practicality of establishing a multi-year dialogue (a National Recreation Summit series, perhaps) to improve intra- and inter-governmental and inter-sector collaboration.

7. All of the above, then, contributing to the development of a national agenda for recreation. Work on this agenda is now underway. (<http://lin.ca/national-recreation-summit>)

Over the four days of the Summit, the invited delegates heard from experts about the following topics.

- Opening Plenary  
Carl Honoré [Author and Journalist, London, England]  
*In Praise of Slow and the Future of Our Children*
- Theme 1: Confronting Canada's Public Health Crisis  
Trevor Hancock *Healthy People Need Healthy Communities: Putting People at the Centre in Confronting Canada's Public Health Crises*
- Theme 2: Respecting Nature and Our Environment  
Richard Louv *The Nature Principle: Human Restoration and the End of Nature Deficit Disorder*
- Theme 3: Building Community  
Sherri Torjman *The Communities Agenda: Shared Space and Community Recreation ... Creative Opportunities*
- Theme 4: Contributing to Public Sector and Social Innovation  
Christian Bason *Leading Public Sector Innovation: Co-Creating for Better Results*
- Theme 5: Repositioning Recreation – Building a National Recreation Agenda  
John Crompton *Repositioning Recreation: Concepts, Strategies and Public Policy*
- Closing Plenary  
Brian Johnston *Summit Overview and Synthesis* (Burton, 2011a)

Each plenary speaker was followed by a panel discussion (see Burton, 2011b for the complete list). Then themes 1 through 4 were addressed by the delegates in preassigned discussion groups working through the implications and actions of each topic. Delegates created and chose their own discussion groups after the plenary session for theme 5.

I will not give you lists of all the sessions, panels, papers and reference materials. I will let you explore the Summit website to find material that may pique your personal interest.

### References

- Burton, T.L. (2011a) *NRS List of Plenary Addresses*. Retrieved from <http://lin.ca/Uploads/NRS%20List%20of%20Plenary%20Addresses%28%29.docx>
- Burton, T.L. (2011b) *NRS List of Plenary Addresses*. Retrieved from <http://lin.ca/Uploads/NRS%20List%20of%20Plenary%20Panels%28%29.docx>
- National Recreation Summit (2011) *National Recreation Summit / Sommet national des loisirs*. Retrieved from <http://lin.ca/national-recreation-summit>