

Municipal Opportunities for Physical Activity

2015 SURVEY OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY OPPORTUNITIES IN CANADIAN COMMUNITIES



Networking with partners for the provision of physical activity opportunities among small communities

The 2015 Survey of Physical Opportunities in Canadian Communities asked small communities with fewer than 1,000 residents whether they worked with various community organizations and/or institutions when developing physical activity and sport facilities, programs and services. Furthermore, communities were also asked if they have agreements with local school boards and sports organizations regarding the shared use of school and municipal facilities, and sharing resources and programming (e.g., instructors, officials, equipment). This bulletin summarizes the findings in these two regards.

Partnerships

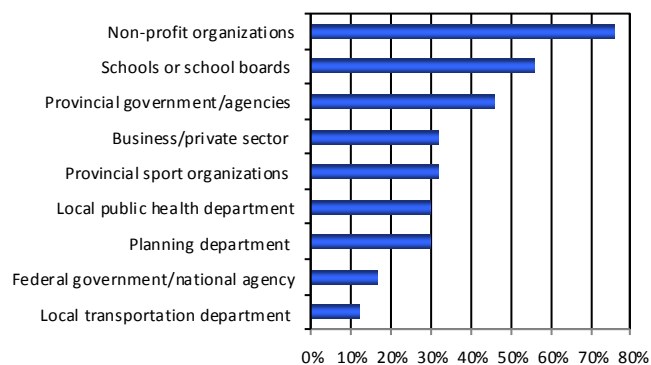
Concerning partnerships, the majority of small communities indicate collaboration with non-profit organizations (76%) or schools or school boards (56%) when developing physical activity and sport opportunities. Almost half of communities state that they partner with provincial government/agencies (46%) for providing opportunities in their community. Roughly one-third of communities collaborate with business/private sector (32%), provincial sport organizations (32%), a local public health department (30%), or a planning department (30%) for physical activity and sport opportunities, whereas less than one-fifth of small communities cite partnerships with federal government/national agencies (17%) or a local transportation department (12%) when developing these opportunities.

Region

Collaborations between small communities and various organizations differ by region, whereby small Atlantic communities are considerably more likely than the national average to collaborate with local public health departments, provincial government/agencies, and yet are slightly less likely to report working with schools or school boards and non-profit organizations for the delivery of sport and physical activity opportunities.

FIGURE 1

Organizations and institutions collaborated with by small communities, overall



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A higher percentage of small communities in Quebec indicate that they work with not-for-profit organizations in this regard. On the contrary, a relatively lower proportion of communities in Quebec say that they work with businesses/private sector or with provincial sport organizations, whereas communities in the West are relatively more likely to report working with both of these types of organizations when providing physical or sport opportunities in their community.

Shared use agreements

Almost half of small communities (45% of communities with less than 1,000 residents) state that they have agreements with one or more school boards regarding the shared use of school or municipal facilities. One-quarter of these small communities (25%) have agreements with at least one school board regarding the sharing of resources or programming (e.g., human resources, programming, or equipment).

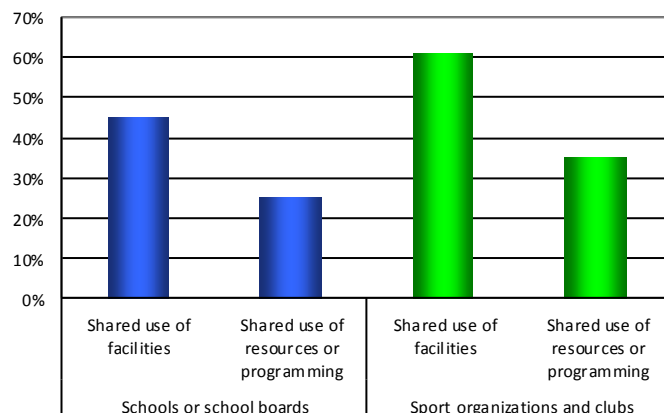
In a similar way, the majority of communities (61%) cite agreements with sport organizations or physical activity clubs regarding the shared use of municipal facilities, whereas 35% report that they share resources and programming with these types of organizations.

Region

In addition, the existence of agreements between municipalities and schools/school boards or sport organizations, vary by region. Compared to the national average, a greater proportion of small communities in Quebec, whereas relatively fewer in the Atlantic and the West, indicate that they have agreements with schools or school boards regarding shared use of facilities. Relatively fewer Atlantic and Western communities have agreements with sports organizations or physical activity clubs regarding shared use of facilities when compared to the average, whereas those in Quebec are more likely to indicate this. Moreover, municipal administrators in small communities in Quebec are slightly more likely than the national average to have agreements with schools/school boards about sharing resources and programming.

FIGURE 2

Formal shared use agreements with local school/school boards, small communities



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