



# M O T I O N

**MOVED BY:** Sharpe

**SECONDED BY:** Dzugan

WHEREAS the report released by Parks and Recreation Ontario (PRO) entitled "Investing in Healthy and Active Ontarians through Recreation and Parks Infrastructure" identifies an immediate need for provincial funding for municipalities to address a reported \$5 Billion dollar infrastructure deficit in municipally-owned community centres, arenas, and swimming pools alone; and

WHEREAS the report provides compelling data and recommendations that support an increased investment in parks, recreation, and sport infrastructure to address the growing problem of inactivity, obesity, and corresponding health problems among Ontarians; and

WHEREAS programs such as the Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative (MIII) do not meet the needs of municipalities because the funding is not ongoing, the deadlines are very short, and the criteria for construction-ready projects can be problematic from an overall timing perspective; and

WHEREAS Parks and Recreation Ontario advocated for dedicated funding for recreation, parks, and sport infrastructure, requesting \$400 million per year for the next five years; and

WHEREAS Minister Duncan, Minister of Finance, stated that the government had not received a strong indication from local government that community sport, recreation, and parks infrastructure funding is a priority; and

WHEREAS the City of Welland is facing a challenge as a result of the aging parks, recreation, and sport infrastructure and its inability to effectively accommodate citizens with suitable and accessible facilities to promote increased physical activity; and

WHEREAS the additional costs associated with the aging infrastructure is creating significant pressure on the City of Welland and on municipalities across the province as the vast majority of publicly-owned recreation facilities were built between 1956 and 1980, and are nearing the end of their useful life; and

WHEREAS Welland City Council, through its Strategic Plan and the implementation of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Plan, is committed to providing quality recreation facilities in order to improve and maintain a healthy lifestyle for all citizens of the City of Welland;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND endorses the report from Parks and Recreation Ontario entitled "Investing in Healthy and Active Ontarians through Recreation and Parks Infrastructure"; and further

THAT Welland City Council urges the Provincial and Federal governments to provide the much needed dedicated funding to municipalities for the development, renewal, and rehabilitation of physical activity facilities and outdoor spaces, but not at the expense of existing roads, bridges, water and sewer infrastructure priorities, and further

That Welland City Council directs that this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Dwight Duncan; the Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal, the Honourable David Caplan; local MP's and MPP's; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; the Federation of Canadian Municipalities; area municipalities for their endorsement; and, to Parks and Recreation Ontario for its information.

**CARRIED**   
**LOST**   
**NOT PUT**

COUNCILLORS	YEAS	NAYS
O'DELL		
VAN VLIET		
DZUGAN		
CAMPION		
CHIOCCHIO		
LETOURNEAU		
ALEXANDER		
LAROCHE		
GRENIER		
ALAKAS		
BELCASTRO		
SHARPE		
MAYOR GOULBOURNE		

**PRESENTED TO  
COUNCIL**  
**MAY 06 2008**  
 C.A. STIRTZINGER, City Clerk  
**CITY OF WELLAND**