

10 Ways to Use the Framework

1. Current Alignment

Understand how you already align with the Framework.

Whether it's through programming, infrastructure, policies or partnerships, you likely already have some alignment with the Framework. Understanding your current alignment will make implementing the Framework a much less daunting task. Start by reviewing the five goals and consider how you are already striving towards each priority. For example, the first priority under the *Active Living* goal is to *enable participation in physically active recreational experiences throughout the lifecourse*. Which of your current programs/policies/partnerships work toward this priority? Which facilities and outdoor spaces encourage this priority? This will result in a list of the great initiatives you are currently engaged in and spark ideas for enhancements.

2. Strategic Planning

Use the Framework to assist with your strategic planning.

The Framework is a strategic plan. Feel free to use parts that pertain to you. The vision, values, and principles provide a solid philosophical foundation for public investment in recreation. Each goal and priority is a starting point for more specific planning. Use the ones that are relevant to you, and plan how you will achieve them in the context of your community.

3. Policies

Create or adjust existing policies to align with the Framework.

It is critical to revisit your policies every couple of years to make sure they still serve their purpose. Does your facility allocation policy allow equitable access for all? Does your fees and charges policy reflect the financial means of your demographics? Do you have policies in place to maximize the benefits of partnerships? The Framework encourages the recreation sector to have policies related to facility allocation, physical accessibility, removing participation barriers, nondiscrimination of gender identity, and environmental sustainability among others.

4. Present to your Staff

Use the Framework as a tool in staff orientation and development.

Ensure that your staff know about the Framework and its significance. There is a basic PowerPoint presentation on the Framework that you can use and adjust to your purposes, available on the Leisure Information Network website. Demonstrate to your colleagues and staff how you already align with the Framework and indicate which areas need more attention. Collectively brainstorm how you can advance

your own initiatives to provide greater benefit to your individual participants as well as the broader community. A common understanding of recreation throughout Canada will help unite and advance the sector as whole.

5. Present to your Elected Officials

Present the Framework to your Elected Officials and other decision makers.

Elected Officials and other decision makers have significant influence over decisions such as facility and park development, policy making, and strategic planning. Ensure that they know the benefits of recreation and how it influences the best in communities. Share why the Framework was developed, why it's important to the sector, and highlight examples of how you currently align with it.

6. Endorse the Framework

Publicly endorse, adopt, embrace, or acknowledge the Framework.

Finding ways to acknowledge the Framework demonstrates commitment to recreation service delivery and to providing quality and accessible recreation opportunities. A number of municipalities, provincial/territorial governments, and non-profit associations across the country have already endorsed/adopted the Framework. Endorsement could include a formal motion, press release, written alignment in a strategic plan, article on your website, or a combination of each. Use the [Key Messages](#) and [FAQ](#) documents to help word your endorsement.

7. New Initiatives

Identify new initiatives to further the Framework's goals and priorities.

Through your planning processes, identify new initiatives you can advance if there are gaps in your alignment with the Framework. Goals and priorities are good in theory but we must bring them to life. New recreation programs, staff development, volunteer recognition, promotion of programs, data collection, and collaborations are just a few examples of initiatives that would further the Framework's goals and priorities.

8. Encourage Community Groups

Encourage community groups that are publicly supported to find alignment with the Framework.

If community groups are supported by public funds, then they could be encouraged to align their services with the Framework. Provide copies of the Framework and outline the elements that pertain to them. Encourage community groups to align in their own planning documents and promote alignment when distributing grants. Use the Framework to support the public's investment in these community groups.

9. Use Available Resources

Use the resources available on the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA) and Leisure Information Network (LIN) websites.

Resources are available on the CPRA and LIN websites to support broad implementation of the Framework. PowerPoint presentations, key messages, frequently asked questions, and best practices from across the country are available. The Framework is the most significant resource of all. It is available in [English](#) and [French](#) as a PDF. Hardcopies can be purchased from CPRA.

10. Share your Successes

Share your successes with the recreation sector.

We want to know how you've implemented the Framework in your community! Help build capacity in the recreation sector by sharing success stories with your colleagues by posting in the Best Practices database. Do not be shy! You can share your success stories by emailing info@lin.ca. The Recreation Podcast is also a new platform for sharing stories. Please visit therecreationpodcast.com for more details.