

## Introduction

In 2015, *A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015: Pathways to Wellbeing* (The Framework) was released, designed to “guide and stimulate coordinated policies and practices in recreation and related jurisdictions in Canada that aim to improve the wellbeing of individuals, communities, and the built and natural environments” (p. 6). Except for Quebec, all provinces and territories endorsed the document. In 2017, Quebec published the *Policy on Physical Activity, Sport, and Recreation: Quebecers on the Move!*, a policy that promotes physically active lifestyles for all Quebecers. The following analysis compares similarities and differences between the two documents.

In comparing the two documents, four themes were identified: (1) Roles for document implementation within society; (2) Document structure and intended audience; (3) Creating high-quality and accessible experiences; and (4) A vision of community.

<b>The Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015</b>	<b>Policy on Physical Activity, Sport, and Recreation: Quebecers on the Move!</b>
<b>Roles for Document Implementation within Society</b>	
<p>Focus on community collaboration to increase and improve recreation services for Canadians.</p> <p>Community stakeholders, service providers, researchers, governments, recreation organizations and other sectors are encouraged to collaborate to promote change, development and implementation for recreation services.</p> <p>No specific ministries or services are targeted; all are accountable for providing optimal recreation opportunities for Canadians.</p>	<p>Initial focus on implementation to take place through multiple government sectors and various recreation and sport disciplines according to Quebecers’ age groups and life stages.</p> <p>Secondly, Quebec’s ministries of Health and Education are tasked with the implementation of the policy, and their respective roles are outlined.</p> <p>Finally, specific responsibilities are assigned to the provincial, regional, and local governmental sectors, along with their influence among certain disciplines. It appears only some recreation and sport disciplines and some ministries are mentioned in the process.</p>
<p>The above differences are likely due to the nature and intention of each document. The Framework was written as guidelines for Canadian recreation services, associations, and political sectors. Meanwhile, the Quebec policy was written as a concrete action plan for governmental services and sectors relating to recreation and physical activity.</p>	

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<p><b>Document Structure and Intended Audience</b></p>	
<p>The language and content seem accessible to most citizens. The document’s structure promotes the idea that anybody can be an agent of change to facilitate recreation experiences for Canadians, due to its accessible language, layout, and explanation of recreation terms in its extensive glossary.</p> <p>The Framework reinforces that all people can participate in its objectives, and that improving the recreation experiences of Canadians is not exclusive to recreation professionals nor government officials.</p>	<p>The document structure focuses on conveying its message to leisure professionals and environments. It defines the precise roles of each governmental sector, recreation domain, and environmental facilitator for Quebecers within the document’s implementation.</p> <p>Although the document has accessible language, a clear layout, and explains its recreation terms, the policy was intended for recreation professionals and government officials.</p>
<p><b>Creating High-Quality and Accessible Experiences</b></p>	
<p>Both documents emphasize creating high quality, recreation experiences that citizens enjoy and fully appreciate, thus prompting frequent recreation engagement, promoting healthy lifestyle habits and choices.</p>	
<p>Both documents prioritize vulnerable populations and stress the importance of accessibility of all populations to recreation services. Each document highlights women and girls, multicultural communities, older adults, Indigenous Peoples, people living in rural communities, and people with disabilities as populations in need of equitable recreation and sport access. The Quebec document seems to place a high emphasis on reaching children and youth.</p>	
<p>Focuses on recreation in its broadest definition.</p>	<p>Focuses on physical activity as its primary recreation medium.</p>
<p><b>A Vision of Community</b></p>	
<p>High-quality recreation experiences take place at the community/citizen levels. Community-building, therefore, was a common theme in both documents.</p>	
<p>Definition of community: Beyond the physical environment, includes supportive environments</p> <p>“A group of individuals who share common interests or characteristics, such as demography, geographic location, culture, and who are perceived or who perceive themselves as distinct in some respects from the larger society within which it exists” (p. 33).</p>	<p>Definition of community: focus on geography and physical examples, such as facility and service proximity within a physical community environment. Multicultural communities are considered but as a population with particular needs rather than a group of individuals with similar interests.</p>

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<p>Emphasis on social connection between individuals to foster strong community cohesion within recreation participation</p> <p>Recommend utilizing communities such as academics and researchers, volunteers, service providers, and policymakers to support the growth of recreation access and provision for all Canadians.</p>	

**Conclusion**

*A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015: Pathways to Wellbeing* and the *Policy on Physical Activity, Sport, and Recreation: Quebecers on the Move!* share some similarities, but also have some differences. Both documents emphasize the need to offer high-quality and accessible experiences for their populations as a means to improve the quality of the lives of their citizens. They both recognize the important role that community plays in delivering recreation services. The documents differ in their use of various definitions and who is tasked with implementing the framework or policy. They have a slightly different emphasis related to priority populations, target publics, and their focus on recreation versus physical activity participation. Though it could be argued that the documents are more similar than different, it is important to recognize that the differences may influence implementation procedures and strategies crucial to providing high-quality recreation experiences.