Title: Application of a Community Development Model to Develop Policies to Improve Access to Recreation (ATR) in Peterborough County
Author: Janet Dawson, BSc HE, MSc
Affiliation: Peterborough County-City Health Unit (PCCHU) - Peterborough, Ontario, Canada

Background:
In 2011, an assessment of healthy community indicators revealed a need to improve overall access to recreation in Peterborough County. Through the application of a community development model, the PCCHU took the lead on this issue by hosting an exploration meeting with municipal recreation managers to determine possible action steps and policy options to address this issue.

Goal:
Increase the availability of accessible and affordable recreation and sporting programs, services and facilities in the city and county of Peterborough.

PCCHU’s Strategy:
Building Knowledge and Awareness
- Invite all municipalities to an exploratory meeting to learn more about the issue.

Creating a Supportive Environment
- Hire a consultant who specializes in municipal recreation to support the development of a municipal partnership.
- Support two municipalities with resident consultations.

Developing Healthy Public Policy
- Draft policy options for discussion.

Future Plans:
- Address other public health topics within an ATR framework (playgrounds, healthy community design, etc.).
- Formalize municipal partnership with a terms of reference.
- Invite neighbouring First Nation communities.

February 2014:
Application for funding submitted to continue sport & recreation consultations and deliver ATR related training

June 2013:
All partners agree to an ATR strategy

May 2013:
Consult with sport & recreation groups (2 municipalities)

June 2013:
Partners agree to draft a policy related to ATR

December 2013:
ATR Policy finalized by partners

October 2013:
ATR Policy drafted

In Progress:
Municipalities pass ATR Policy

Presented at: Global Summit on the Physical Activity of Children, May 21, 2014