



Active Communities Grants Program 2008 - 2009

The Active Communities Initiative is a cross-sectoral initiative focused on supporting communities to increase physical activity levels of British Columbians by 20% by the year 2010. The initiative mobilizes and collaborates with communities, local governments, First Nations and partner organizations to promote healthy lifestyle choices, increase accessibility to physical activities and build supportive community environments. The Initiative is delivered by [BC Recreation and Parks Association](#) with funding from the Provincial Government through [ActNowBC](#) and in partnership with [2010 Legacies Now](#).

There are 161 registered Active Communities as of May 2008. A registered Active Community is one that has voluntarily made a commitment to work towards the goal of 20% increase by the year 2010; to build an Active Communities team and to develop an Active Communities plan. There are Active Communities in all 7 [BCRPA](#) regions. Over 90% of the population of BC live in or near a community where there is a local Active Communities program.

The Active Communities Initiative serves registered Active Communities by:

- Acting as the focal point for funding opportunities, program ideas and promotion for communities.
- Designing and developing program information, and marketing tools for individual communities as well as the provincial initiative.
- Helping each community develop plans and programs and pursue appropriate opportunities to enhance their local activities.
- Encouraging communities to work and participate together in regional activities.
- Documenting success stories and sharing these examples with a wide range of stakeholders.
- Providing support to communities to measure the progress of their efforts.
- Identifying physical activity trends and patterns that may impact the healthy lifestyle of the residents in their communities.

Active Communities Grants

The Active Communities Grant Program is designed to assist communities with the development and implementation of an Active Community plan, OR development and maintenance of walkways, trails and/or bikeways. Grants are up to a maximum of \$5,000 and offered twice a year in May and November. Only registered Active Communities are eligible to apply. Since 2005, \$330,000 has been distributed to support local activities.

BCRPA Active Events Grants

The BCRPA active events grants are offered to support registered Active Communities in their participation in province-wide public health campaigns such as Spirit of BC Week and Move for Health Day. Small grants of up to \$300 are available to communities to use towards implementing active events. In 2008, 50 grants were approved for Spirit of BC Week and 60 grants for Move For Health Day.

For more information on Active Communities, please visit www.activecommunities.bc.ca

