

Background

The Northeastern Ontario Recreation Association (NeORA) provides training and development and acts as the representative voice for the community sport, culture, recreation and fitness organizations in Northeastern Ontario. NeORA is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life, health and wellbeing of people and to promote the value and benefits of parks and recreation to the public in their environments throughout Northeastern Ontario.

The Northeastern Ontario Recreation Association hosts an annual educational forum to provide an opportunity for recreation and sports volunteers, professional staff, elected municipal officials, municipal recreation committee members, public health, recreation retailers and provincial government personnel to meet annually in an educational and social setting to:

- Develop and promote leadership skills.
- Increase organizational effectiveness.
- Learn about new trends and changes.
- Improve networking amongst partners.
- Build commitment for the importance of physical activity, sport, recreation and healthy active living.

The first Educational Forum was held in North Bay in 1951 and has been held every year since, with one exception in 1999. The City of Greater Sudbury (City) last hosted the Educational Forum in 2012. NeORA strives to rotate the conference through its four regions (Sudbury-Manitoulin, Nipissing-Parry Sound, Algoma, and Cochrane-Temiskaming) every four years.

NeORA has called for hosts for the 2019 Annual Educational Forum & Trade Show. The City has provided a letter of intent to host the 2019 educational forum, pending approval from City Council in the form of a resolution (Appendix A – 2019 NeORA Bid Letter).

Benefits of Hosting

By hosting the 2019 Northeastern Ontario Recreation Association Educational Forum & Trade Show, our community would benefit in the following ways:

- Solidifies Greater Sudbury's role as a leader in the recreation, sport, health and fitness movement in Northeastern Ontario.
- Provides the opportunity to showcase the municipality's many new and revitalized facilities such as the Northern Water Sports Centre, Kivi Park, new splash pads, Adanac Ski Hill, the Howard Armstrong Recreation Centre and pickleball complex at O'Connor Playground.
- Share success stories with delegates from across the province such as the City's affordable access to recreation strategy, Greater Sudbury's population health strategy and playground revitalization.

- Allows the City to feature and recognize the work of local volunteers and associations who contribute to active living initiatives in Greater Sudbury such as local sports associations, neighbourhood associations, youth groups and other community partners.
- Introduces staff, officials and volunteers to new ideas and recreation trends while building a valuable network of regional colleagues.
- The community benefits from the economic impact of hosting up to 150 delegates over a four day period.
- Provides dynamic educational programming to local staff and volunteers.
- Provides opportunities to engage and feature community partners.
- Provides a means to engage and feature local businesses and develop partnerships.

Host Requirements

The Northeastern Ontario Recreation Association requires host communities to have the capacity to accommodate up to 150 delegates, have facilities to host concurrent educational sessions, trade show, banquet and social events and to demonstrate financial commitment from the local municipality and private sector. The Leisure Services Division will allocate \$5,000 towards the event as part of the 2019 operational budget, special events line account. Other funds required are generated through registrations, corporate sponsorships and grant applications.

Summary

As was demonstrated in 2012, the City is well positioned to host the NeORA Annual Educational Forum & Trade Show. Greater Sudbury has the resources and ability to showcase the required conference and accommodation facilities and numerous developments in the areas of recreation, sport and active living. Approximately 100 delegates attended the 2012 conference and the feedback regarding the educational sessions, facilities and activities were exceptional.

Next Steps

Upon Council's confirmation to host the 2019 Educational Forum and Trade Show, the resolution will be provided to the Northeastern Ontario Recreation Association.

The proposed conference dates are September 23rd through 26th, 2019 (pending final confirmation of venue) with a proposed conference theme of 'Play is a Priority', focusing on the population health priority to provide accessible opportunities for all ages to play.

References

Northeastern Ontario Recreation Association website
<http://www.neora.ca/>