

Moving from “safe” to “risky” play



Heather Turner 2017

Today's Reality

**Unstructured play
undervalued & feared**



Children missing out





GABY GODDARD

Role of Canadian and Provincial/ Territorial Governments

- Leadership in connection to health & child protection
- Financial support to organizations such as ParticipAction – advocating for increased physical activity – “Make Room for Play” initiative
- Financial and moral support: National Recreation Statement – important position statement for recreation sector that recognizes that connection to nature and play are critical
- That’s it – that’s all

At a community level

- Venue provider
- Service/experience provider: programs and services
- Catalyst, connector, advocate
- Closest to residents

What's in our way? (aka barriers)

- Attitudes (parents, children and others)
- Fear of litigation
- Some licensing and risk managers – ‘No Risk’ police
- School boards – unwilling partner or lacking capacity and leadership?
- Competing priorities for our time and resources
- Need to fill expensive indoor facilities

Extreme response to fears





Before:

After:





T⁵ I² M³ E¹

F² O³ R⁸

C⁴ H⁶ A² N² G⁴ E¹

We are working on it:

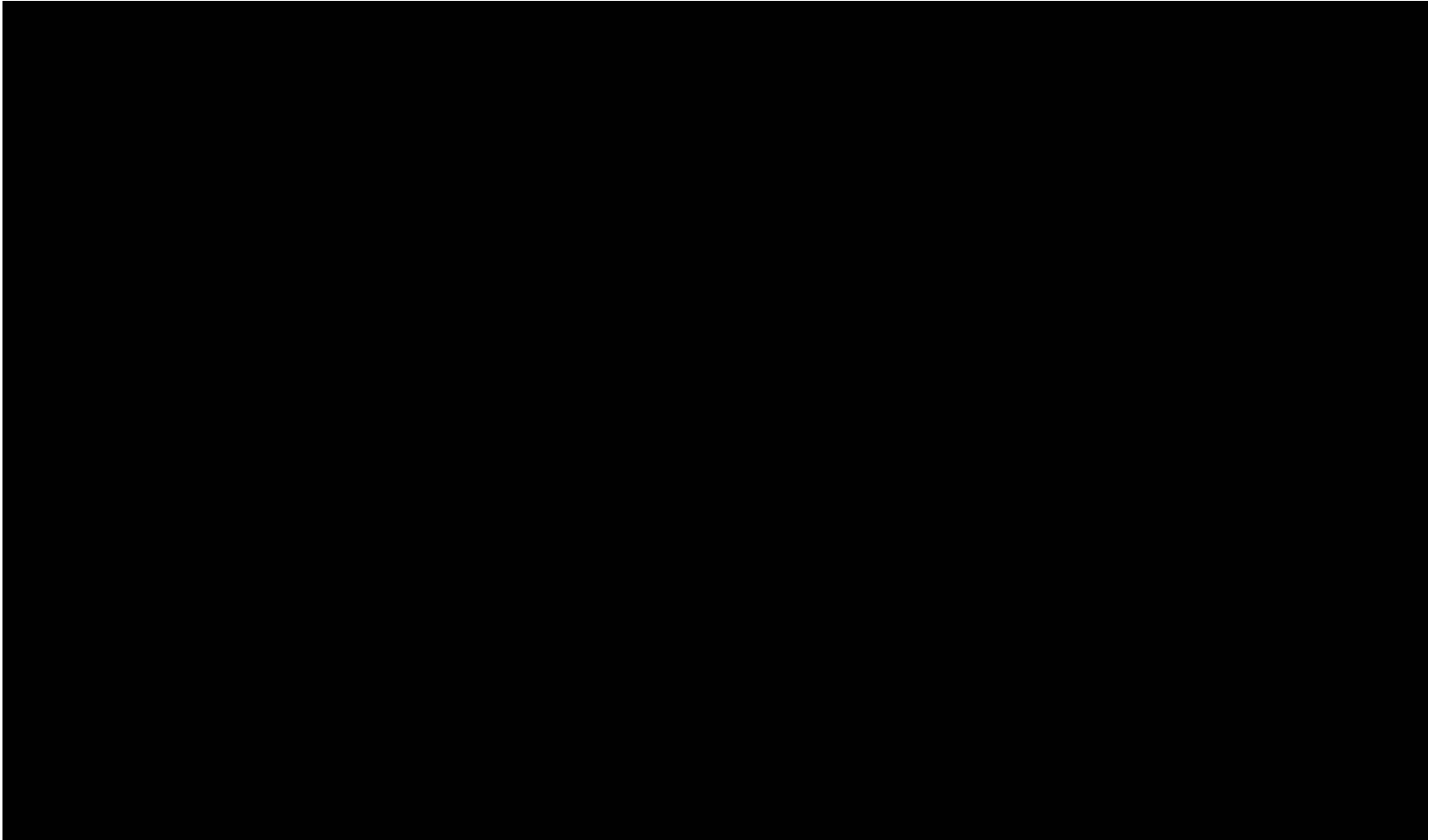
- Awareness – “Canada, we have a problem!”
 - listening, understanding, conversing, educating
- Taking a stand – being bold
 - Being clear on vision and intent
 - Challenging stupid rules and standards
- Truly listening to children
- Working together
- Trying, evaluating and trying again

What we've noticed...

- Awareness is heightened – people are talking
- Parents and children demanding better play opportunities
- Providers creating better play areas and opportunities
- Legal ruling in BC that “perfection is not the standard of care when minding school aged children.”

What kids have to say...

North Vancouver Recreation & Culture Commission



Cool stuff we are proud of:

- Canadian position statement on Active Outdoor Play (12 organizations)
- National recreation framework – inclusion of play
- 7 Cs: an informational guide to young children's outdoor play spaces (UBC)
- Communities:
 - Child, youth and family friendly strategies
 - Exciting new outdoor play services and venues

Our Goal: From this



To more of this



Thank you!

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