

Within the community, the municipal recreation department co-ordinates community effort and resources, provides continuity for the activities of voluntary organizations and guides the community in long-range recreational planning.

Ideas and programmes originate to a large extent in the municipal recreation department, where the needs of the community are best known. The municipal recreation director is an important link in the network that helps every citizen to be fit.

Federal grants, administered through the provincial directorates, reach into and assist communities across Canada. The grants cover numerous projects -- student aid, assistance to competitions, the employment of additional people as required for new services, the purchase of equipment for training purposes and, above all, through workshops, clinics, conferences and schools, leadership and coach training, designed to encourage and develop better procedures for coaching, officiating, training and administration.

SERVICES

Information Services

Informational materials being produced through the Programme include visual aids (such as films and filmstrips) for coaching purposes, printed instructional guides on sports and recreational activities, and technical information on the construction and use of facilities. These are prepared in close co-operation with sports and recreational associations.

Emphasis has been placed on the development of reliable aids on typically Canadian activities through the production of a series of "How-To" kits. A typical kit combines the use of film and the printed word to provide expert instruction and includes an illustrated manual, a promotional film to rouse interest in the subject, and filmstrips and loop films in which techniques are demonstrated.

The first kit in the series, entitled Figure Skating, was released in November 1963. It received the first-place award in the "sports, recreation and physical education" category at the 1964 American Film Festival. Additional kits have been produced annually. These deal with such subjects as skiing, family camping, lacrosse, water sports and recreation services.

Advisory and Co-ordinating Services

One of the important developments to emerge from the national Programme is the co-ordinating role played by the Department of National Health and Welfare through the Fitness and Amateur Sport Directorate. Directorate consultants work closely with national sports-governing bodies, professional associations and other agencies, and provide advice, on request, on the planning of activities and the use of funds.