



COMMUNITY LINKS



Community consultation

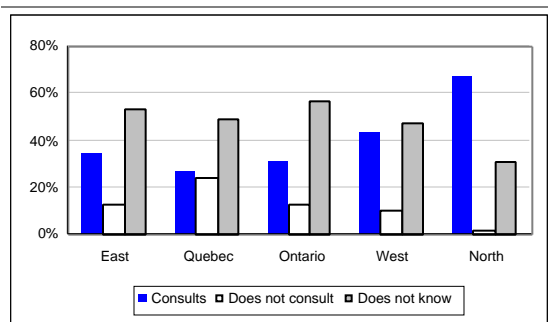
One in three Canadian schools report that their school board consults with some community group, such as a municipal recreation department, to ensure that community needs for physical activity are considered before building or renovating a school. Half as many (14%) report that no consultation of this kind takes place. However, the majority (51%) do not know whether or not the community is consulted. Elementary schools are just as likely as secondary schools to report that their school board takes part in some kind of community consultation.

Region Schools in the North are much more likely than schools in other regions to report that some kind of consultation between their school board and community groups takes place before building or renovating a school: 67% of schools do so. Less than half (43%) of schools in the West report this kind of community consultation, while approximately one-third of schools in the province of Quebec (27%), the province of Ontario (31%), and the East (34%) do so.

Estimated family income Schools having the majority of its students population from higher income families are more likely to consult with local groups and recreation departments than are those with the majority of its students from lower income families.

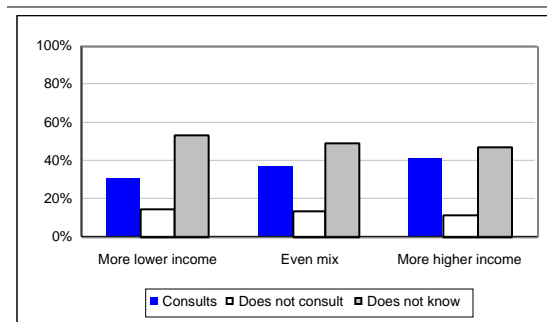
Implications When developing facilities that may be used by a broad spectrum of groups (children and youth, adults, seniors, disabled, cultural groups, etc.) it is appropriate to consult with municipal officials and recreation departments to ensure that newly built or modified facilities meet the needs of all individuals who may potentially use them. Indeed, school boards may wish to conduct a needs assessment not only of their students' needs, but also the needs of the community who may benefit from using such facilities. Moreover, all publicly funded facilities could take a similar approach permitting greater integration of school based and recreation based facilities in communities. This may be particularly relevant approach in smaller communities that generally report lower prevalence of facilities and programming.²⁷

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION
by region**



2001 Survey of physical activity in Canadian schools, CFLRI

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION
by estimated family income**



2001 Survey of physical activity in Canadian schools, CFLRI

Shared use of facilities

Almost two thirds (63%) of Canadian schools report that there is an agreement between either the school or school board and a municipality to share the use of either school or municipal physical activity facilities. Slightly more than one in ten reports that no such agreement is in place, and one quarter does not know. Secondary schools are more likely than elementary schools to report having a sharing agreement with a municipality.

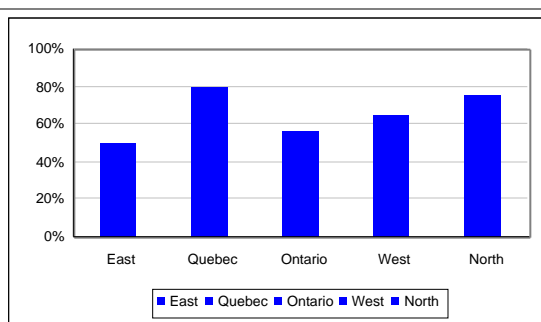
Region Of schools in any region, schools in the North and those in the province of Quebec are the most likely (75% and 80% respectively) to report that they have an agreement with a municipality for shared use of facilities. Schools in Eastern Canada are the least likely (49%) to report having such an agreement.

Student population size Schools with a larger student population are more likely than those with a smaller population to report that they have an agreement with a municipality to share facilities.

School setting Schools in rural areas are more likely than other schools to report that they do not have a sharing agreement with a municipality.

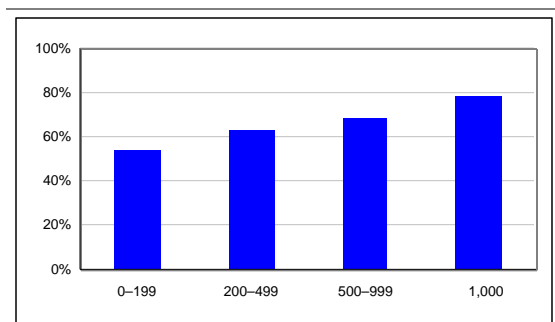
Implications A cooperative agreement for establishing partnerships for facility use between schools and communities are a cost-effective means of increasing physical activity opportunities for children and youth. Besides sharing facilities with municipalities, schools can play an important role in promoting community-based physical activity opportunities to students and parents through announcements, newsletters, flyers, activity guides, or posters. Moreover, community sports and recreation service providers must be aware of the needs of local families and to help alleviate barriers when establishing scheduling of programs, transportation, child care opportunities, and so on. These data are consistent with data on municipal programs related to physical activity, which states that roughly three-quarters of municipalities have agreements with local school boards regarding the shared use of facilities.²⁷

**HAVE AGREEMENT FOR SHARED FACILITIES
by region**



2001 Survey of physical activity in Canadian schools, CFLRI

**HAVE AGREEMENT FOR SHARED FACILITIES
by student population size**



2001 Survey of physical activity in Canadian schools, CFLRI

Community access to school facilities

Community groups or individuals in the community have access to facilities at most Canadian schools (93%). Of those schools that offer community access, one-third charges user fees to all groups whereas one-quarter does not charge fees to children, and one-fifth does not charge fees to any group or individual. Secondary schools are slightly more likely than elementary schools to allow community access to facilities.

Region Almost all schools in the West (96%), the East (93%), the province of Ontario (93%), and the North (91%) allow community access to school facilities. Schools in Quebec are less likely than the average Canadian school to allow community access to facilities: only 84% of schools do so. Schools in the West are the most likely to offer all community members free access to physical activity facilities.

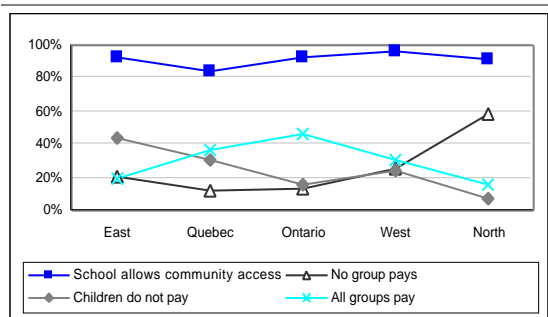
School population size The likelihood that all groups pay to access school facilities increases as the size of the student population increases.

School type Public schools are more likely than non-public schools to allow community members to access school facilities.

School setting Schools in rural areas are more likely than other schools to offer all community members free access to school facilities.

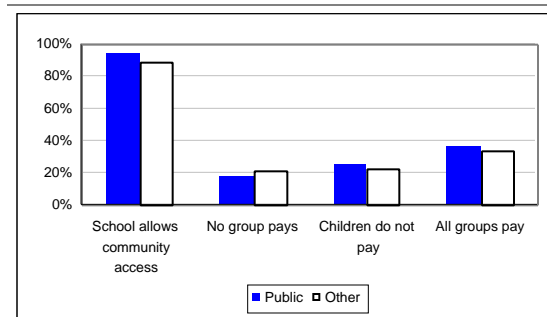
Implications The Center for Disease Controls' *Guidelines for School and Community Programs* cites the importance of shared facilities, and recommends that school facilities should be made available to community physical activity programs.¹⁸ It is indeed a positive sign that this type of access is so prominent amongst most Canadian schools. Schools could consider reducing or eliminating user fees for community groups using the facilities for purposes of children or youth physical activities. This will ensure inclusiveness of all children and youth in community physical activity programs, regardless of income level or similar barriers.

**COMMUNITY ACCESS TO FACILITIES
by region**



2001 Survey of physical activity in Canadian schools, CFLRI

**COMMUNITY ACCESS TO FACILITIES
by school type**



2001 Survey of physical activity in Canadian schools, CFLRI

Community consultation

2001 Survey of Physical Activity in Canadian Schools

	Consultations with local groups, recreation departments:		
	Yes	No	Don't know
OVERALL	35%	14%	51%
Elementary	35	13	52
Secondary	36	16	48
REGION			
East	34	13	53
Newfoundland	–	19	66
Prince Edward Island	49	–	–
Nova Scotia	48	–	46
New Brunswick	29	17	53
Quebec	27	24	49
Ontario	31	13	57
West	43	10	47
Manitoba	37	13	50
Saskatchewan	44	–	47
Alberta	45	11	44
British Columbia	42	9	49
North	67	–	–
STUDENT POPULATION SIZE			
0–199	33	14	53
200–499	37	12	51
500–999	31	17	52
1,000	44	15	41
SCHOOL SETTING			
Urban	32	13	54
Suburban	37	13	50
Rural	35	15	50
SCHOOL TYPE			
Public	36	12	52
Other	35	18	47
ESTIMATED FAMILY INCOME			
More lower income	31	15	54
Even mix	37	14	49
More higher income	41	12	47
LANGUAGE			
English	36	12	52
French	30	23	47
Both	36	11	53

– Data unavailable because of insufficient sample size.

Shared use of facilities

2001 Survey of Physical Activity in Canadian Schools

	School has agreement with municipality for shared use of facilities:		
	Yes	No	Don't know
OVERALL	63%	13%	24%
Elementary	61	13	26
Secondary	64	16	20
REGION			
East	49	16	34
Newfoundland	34	22	44
Prince Edward Island	–	–	–
Nova Scotia	52	11	37
New Brunswick	62	17	21
Quebec	80	12	8
Ontario	56	13	30
West	64	13	23
Manitoba	55	14	32
Saskatchewan	53	20	28
Alberta	71	9	20
British Columbia	68	12	19
North	75	–	–
STUDENT POPULATION SIZE			
0–199	54	20	26
200–499	63	12	25
500–999	68	10	22
1,000	78	10	12
SCHOOL SETTING			
Urban	64	11	25
Suburban	67	11	22
Rural	60	16	25
SCHOOL TYPE			
Public	66	10	25
Other	55	22	23
ESTIMATED FAMILY INCOME			
More lower income	62	12	26
Even mix	62	14	24
More higher income	66	14	20
LANGUAGE			
English	60	14	27
French	77	12	10
Both	65	8	27

– Data unavailable because of insufficient sample size.

Community access to school facilities

2001 Survey of Physical Activity in Canadian Schools

	School allows community access to facilities	Who pays for the access to these facilities:		
		No groups pay	Children do not pay	All groups pay
OVERALL	93%	19%	24%	35%
Elementary	91	21	24	33
Secondary	95	20	23	37
REGION				
East	93	21	44	20
Newfoundland	93	–	68	–
Prince Edward Island	98	51	–	–
Nova Scotia	92	24	27	28
New Brunswick	92	15	49	20
Quebec	84	12	30	36
Ontario	93	14	16	46
West	96	26	24	30
Manitoba	95	38	16	17
Saskatchewan	98	34	27	17
Alberta	96	21	24	36
British Columbia	94	20	27	35
North	91	58	–	–
STUDENT POPULATION SIZE				
0–199	86	32	25	21
200–499	93	18	26	35
500–999	97	12	20	43
1,000	96	7	19	58
SCHOOL SETTING				
Urban	90	13	23	41
Suburban	95	14	20	44
Rural	93	27	28	25
SCHOOL TYPE				
Public	94	18	25	36
Other	89	21	22	34
ESTIMATED FAMILY INCOME				
More lower income	93	20	26	32
Even mix	93	20	24	35
More higher income	92	15	21	43
LANGUAGE				
English	94	20	22	36
French	86	14	31	34
Both	94	15	26	33

– Data unavailable because of insufficient sample size.