



## Parks and Recreation Ontario announces – The HIGH FIVE<sup>®</sup> Provincial Accreditation Launch

June 20, 2006 – (Town of Ajax) Parks and Recreation Ontario (PRO) is pleased to announce the provincial launch of the HIGH FIVE<sup>®</sup> Accreditation Process.

HIGH FIVE<sup>®</sup> is a quality assurance standard of PRO, designed to support the safety, well-being and healthy development of children, ages 6 to 12, in recreation and sport programs. HIGH FIVE<sup>®</sup> accreditation establishes the benchmark for excellence in children's recreation and sport programming based upon a child focused, research based quality framework.

Over the past two years, the HIGH FIVE<sup>®</sup> Accreditation Process was tested in five pilot organizations: Town of Ajax and Bracebridge, Municipality of Port Hope, and the Boys and Girls Club of Kawartha Lakes and Niagara. The pilot sites have proceeded with persistence and dedication towards the development of the HIGH FIVE<sup>®</sup> Accreditation process and will be the first to achieve the HIGH FIVE<sup>®</sup> Accreditation Organization designation.

“This is truly a momentous occasion for HIGH FIVE” .says Nina de Vaal, PRO President. “The recreation sector has long been committed to ensuring the highest quality standards for children's recreation and sport; standards and systems that help children along the path of healthy development. Many years of research, development and testing have gone into the creation of the Accreditation Process and we are proud to say that it is the only one of its kind. But most important is that it is our children who will benefit.”

The Launch is being held at the Rotary Park Pavilion in the Town of Ajax at 1:30 p.m. “We are honoured to simultaneously host the provincial launch as well the Town of Ajax Community Launch”, says Linda Cork, Manager of Leisure Services for the Town of Ajax. “We see our work as an essential service and we see HIGH FIVE<sup>®</sup> as a great system through which we can develop and maintain quality policies, procedures and leadership.” The remaining four pilot sites will be holding their HIGH FIVE<sup>®</sup> Accreditation Community launches by year-end.

PRO is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life, health and well-being of people, their communities and environments throughout Ontario. To learn more about PRO, please visit [www.prontario.org](http://www.prontario.org). To learn more about HIGH FIVE<sup>®</sup> or to find out how to become a Registered Organization, please visit [www.HIGHFIVE.org](http://www.HIGHFIVE.org).

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