



## **Ontario Increases Funding to Help Kids Stay Active and Healthy** *Province increases investment in local after school programs for children and youth*

**NEWS**

December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Atikokan —The Ontario government is investing \$57,653 through Ontario’s After School Program to support the Township of Atikokan.

This investment is part of the \$1.1 million in additional funding that the province is providing to Ontario’s After School Program for the 2023-24 school year, bringing total funding support to \$14.6 million.

“I am pleased to see our government’s continuous support of our children through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport’s After School Program”, said Kevin Holland, MPP for Thunder Bay – Atikokan. “This funding will ensure that all our children have opportunities to be more physically active and engaged. They will also have an opportunity to develop important leadership skills for the future.”

This program is improving the health and well-being of children and youth and encouraging their development of leadership skills through safe and supervised sport and recreation activities. Participants are also provided with a healthy snack and additional programming, such as academic support and arts and cultural activities, tailored to meet the needs of the local community.

“Our government is supporting opportunities for children and youth to be active and healthy,” said Neil Lumsden, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport. “This \$1.1 million increase in funding will enable after school programs to continue to serve high-priority neighbourhoods and tailor their programming to align with the needs of the local community.”

“Ontario’s After School Program is critical to maintaining positive physical and mental well-being of children across the province,” said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education. “By expanding access to these programs, we are helping to instill confidence, leadership development and life skills in youth across Ontario.”

This significant investment will help to offset rising program delivery costs and inflation and provide additional funding support to the 110 organizations that administer safe and supervised activities to more than 13,000 children and youth across the province.

### **QUICK FACTS**

- Ontario’s After School Program was launched in 2009 and is currently delivered by 110 organizations across Ontario that support low-income and northern/rural communities, Francophone neighbourhoods and First Nations.
- Ontario’s After School Program supports supervised sport and recreational activities for more than 13,000 children and youth, from Kindergarten to Grade 12, in more than 80 communities across the province, including 11 First Nations communities.

- Families interested in Ontario's After School Program can contact an [ASP delivery partner](#) for more information about eligibility requirements and services that are offered by their program.

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

[Ontario's After School Program](#)

---

### **Media Contacts**

Karson Cameron, Director of Communications

- MPP Holland's Office

- 807-623-6702

- [Karson.cameron@pc.ola.org](mailto:Karson.cameron@pc.ola.org)