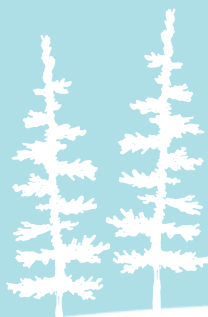




NWT
RECREATION
& PARKS
ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2025-26



The NWT Recreation & Parks Association (NWTRPA) was established in 1989 to promote the benefits of recreation. Today, the NWTRPA promotes quality accessible recreation across the NWT by supporting leaders, communities, and partners through training, advocacy, and networking.

Decolonization, Reconciliation, and Racial Equity

Goal: Continue to transform the NWTRPA through a commitment to decolonization, reconciliation, and racial equity.



Sharing Survivor Stories

In 2025-26, How I Survived hosted community listening events in Teet'it Zheh/Fort McPherson and Inuvik/Inuvik. These free public gatherings brought together community members of all walks of life to listen to excerpts from the How I Survived Podcast, hear Survivor stories, participate in guided discussions, and make art with materials provided by local artists. The project also hosted school learning events in Tsiigehtchic and Inuvik.

Listening events create welcoming spaces for dialogue, creativity, and intergenerational knowledge exchange. They also support local Indigenous artists, who develop custom beading kits, and nurture creativity and cultural revitalization.

Through listening, discussion, education, and the arts, How I Survived continues to honour Survivor stories and deepen public understanding of recreation's complex place in the histories and legacies of residential and day schools in the Northwest Territories.

The How I Survived Podcast is available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and at www.howisurvived.ca.

The How I Survived podcast brings together the stories of NWT residential school survivors and their experiences in the context of physical activity, sport, and recreation. The podcast episodes have been recognized across the NWT and more broadly in Canada as valuable resources not only for the education system but for anyone seeking to learn more about the history and impact of residential schools in Canada.

- Debbie DeLancey



7

Episodes



2,896

Downloads as of
March 31, 2026.

The How I Survived project and podcast would not be possible without the guidance, wisdom, and experience of the project's advisory committee.



Left to right: Advisory Committee Members Sharon Anne Firth and Lorna Storr with Project Co-Leads Crystal Gail Fraser and Jess Dunkin (holding Ada Gilday-Dunkin). Missing Advisory Committee Members: Paul Andrew, Amos Scott, and Rebecca Gray.

Communications and Advocacy

Goal: Promote understanding and recognition of the essential role recreation plays in fostering mental, physical, and community wellbeing.



Through our networks and communications channels, we help people in the NWT and beyond learn more about the importance of recreation, as well as job opportunities and activities happening in their community.

OUR REACH



↑ **12,100**
visitors to the
NWTRPA website



↑ **1,098**
engaged e-news
subscribers



↑ **690,000**
Facebook and Instagram
content views

Sharing the Impact of Recreation

Celebrating Recreation Leaders

In 2025-26, the NWTRPA launched Celebrating Recreation Leaders, a new profile series highlighting the people who make recreation possible across the NWT and recognizing their leadership, creativity, and contributions to their communities.

The first profiles featured Angela Ruben and Britney Nadli, two recreation leaders making and impact in their communities of Paulatuq and Zhatié Kúé/Fort Providence, respectively.



Recreation for Mental Health

The NWTRPA continued to promote understanding of the essential role recreation plays in supporting mental, physical, and community wellbeing. Through knowledge sharing project such as Mental Health and Recreation for Youth & Elders, and Reducing Stress Through Recreation, we highlighted how recreation can strengthen connection, reduce stress, support mental wellness, and contribute to healthier communities across the NWT.



Left to right: Activate NT gathering participants Christopher Smith, James Williams, and Byron Kotokak

Training

Goal: Be a leader in recreation training for the Northwest Territories.



The NWTRPA offers a variety of training opportunities for recreation professionals in the NWT, including Recreation North, Recreation for Mental Health, Foundations of Northern Youth Recreation Leadership, Facilitator Training, and Conference information sessions.

The Numbers



12

training events



531

participants



20

NWT communities represented

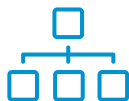
Employment Programs

This year, we managed Green Jobs a youth employment program for the three territories. Through Green Jobs:



15

northern communities were supported with wage subsidies.



18

Organizations hired youth to work in recreation.

Building Skills, Strengthening Communities

Activate NT officially launched in 2025-26, providing youth aged 15–30 with leadership training, mentorship, and \$5,000 microgrants to create recreation opportunities in their communities. Funded primarily through the Government of Canada’s Canada Service Corps, the program selected 54 youth from 15 NWT communities, while meeting its commitments to support Indigenous youth and youth from outside Sòmba K’è / Yellowknife.



In October 2025, 57 participants and mentors gathered in Sòmba K’è/Yellowknife for a three-day training workshop focused on project planning, budgeting, leadership, communications, risk management, and relationship-building.

All 54 grant recipients either completed or were actively delivering their projects at the time of writing. Their initiatives included sport, arts, culture, on-the-land activities, youth clubs, and community events, creating free or low-barrier recreation opportunities for hundreds of NWT residents, primarily children and youth.

Activate NT was strengthened by a network of mentors, schools, Indigenous and municipal governments, recreation leaders, and community organizations. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with one school principal describing the program as “life curriculum.” The program’s first year demonstrated the creativity and leadership potential of young people across the NWT while building practical skills they can carry into future community leadership.



\$270,000

in grants distributed

54

Youth trained and mentored

On the Land

Goal: Remain a strong partner and champion for community-directed on the land programs.

The NWTRPA remains a vital member of the administrative team for the NWT On the Land Collaborative. This year we helped to distribute \$1,119,200 in grants to 55 projects across the territory that connect NWT residents with land, culture, and community.

The NWTRPA also offers in-kind training and program support to Collaborative grant recipients, including:



First Aid



Canoe Safety



Water Safety



Wilderness Survival



Incident Command Support

The Numbers



11

programs supported



9

training events



5

communities represented



116

training participants

Introduction to Paddling for Newcomers

In partnership with the NWT Literacy Council, four introductory paddling programs helped newcomers to Canada build confidence, water safety skills, and stronger connections to life in the Northwest Territories. Many participants had little or no previous boating experience and limited swimming ability, making these sessions an important first step toward safely participating in outdoor recreation opportunities.

Two canoe sessions introduced participants to the foundational skills of the Paddle Canada Tandem Lake Canoe certification, including paddle strokes, steering, launching and landing, partner communication, and essential water safety practices. As their confidence grew, participants successfully circumnavigated a Lake as a group, a significant accomplishment for many first-time paddlers.

Two beginner kayak sessions also provided a safe, controlled environment to develop basic paddling, maneuvering, balance, and water confidence. Several participants progressed to introductory kayak rolling techniques, demonstrating remarkable skill development in a short time.

Each participant received a personal flotation device upon completion of the program, reducing financial barriers and supporting continued safe participation. Together, these programs strengthened water safety, physical literacy, confidence, social inclusion, and access to land-based activities.



Participants from the NWT Literacy Council celebrate completing a Paddle Canada Introduction to Tandem Canoe course August 2025

Participation

Goal: Improve the accessibility, diversity, and quality of community-based recreation programs so that NWT residents of all ages can choose active ways of living.



Active Communities is a diverse and dynamic program area that is dedicated to ensuring that quality recreation is available to everyone in the NWT.



94

NWT residents from 10 communities participated in Elders in Motion Trainings.



4,133

NWT residents participated in Get Active events in 19 NWT communities



1,600

People participated in Walk to Tuk. Together, they completed 2.6M minutes of physical activity.



659

NWT residents took part in Swim to Survive and water safety events funded with 7 NWTRPA grants

Water Safety For All

The NWTRPA partnered with elementary schools in Xátt'odehchee/Hay River, Inuvik/Inuvik, and Tthebacha/Fort Smith to bring Swim to Survive and Water Smart programming into physical education classes. During the winter, 470 students from Kindergarten to Grade 8 learned swimming skills alongside lifejacket use, boating safety, and ice safety.

Water Safety funding also supported programming for Elders, newcomers to Canada, and underserved populations. In Sòmba K'è/Yellowknife, 64 swim lesson sessions were delivered through the Access for All program, serving 640 participants.

For many participants, these were their first swimming lessons, helping build confidence and essential skills for staying safe around water.



Recreation and Climate Change Adaptation



With funding from the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer, the NWTRPA worked to provide clean and cool air spaces in NWT communities to mitigate effects of climate change and poor air quality due to wildfire smoke.



NWTRPA facilitated the distribution of HEPA air purifiers, cooling systems, and real-time air quality monitoring units to 11 communities, helping create cleaner and cooler air spaces during periods when smoke and extreme heat pose health risks.



At the 2025 NWTRPA Annual Conference in Inuvik/Inuvik, participants explored Recreation and Wildfire Smoke, with a focus on adapting programs during poor air quality. Sessions examined health impacts, air-quality information, program modifications, and facility preparedness, helping recreation leaders strengthen their response to increasingly frequent climate-related disruptions.

Organization

Goal: Ensure the NWTRPA remains an effectively and sustainably managed organization.



In 2025-26, we:

Met with NWT politicians to advocate for the recreation sector and sustainable lottery funding.



Represented NWT perspectives on recreation and emergency preparedness in national discussions including the renewal of the Recreation Framework for Canada.



Advocated for northern recreation priorities at the national level through participation in Canadian Parks and Recreation Association meetings and its national Summit, including a meeting with Rebecca Alty, Member of Parliament for the NWT and Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations.



Reviewed Board orientation and onboarding processes and identified opportunities to strengthen governance and support future Board members.

Continued improving internal systems and organizational operations to support effective and sustainable management.



Gratitude

We owe our successful year to the dedication of our Board of Directors, volunteers, staff, and our members. Thank you to our funders and sponsors who make our work possible. We look forward to another great year ahead!



Left to right: Britney Nadli, Jerome Gordon, Mike Scott, Johanna Elliot, Heather Atkins, Roxanne Mantla.
Missing: Luisa Ospina, Igor Cvetkovski.

2025-26 Board of Directors

Luisa Ospina (Inuvik) – President
Mike Scott (Hay River) – South Slave Regional Director
Heather Atkins (Łı́ıdlı́ Kúę) - Director-at-Large
Britney Nadli (Zhatı́é Kúę) – Dehcho Regional Director
Roxanne Mantla (Gamètı) – North Slave Regional Director
Johanna Elliot (Sòmba K'è) – Yellowknife Regional Director
Igor Cvetkovski (Tulıt'a) – Sahtú Regional Director
Gerome Gordon (Inuvik) – Beaufort-Delta Regional

2025-26 Staff

Sheena Tremblay – Executive Director
Tim Van Dam – Director, Active Communities
David Brinston – Director, On the Land Programs
Adam Woogh – Director, Professional Development
Vince Ret – Membership & Communications Manager
Finnlay Rutherford-Simon – Special Project Coordinator, Environmental Resilience
Diane Lam - Logistics Coordinator, Activate NT

Financial Highlights

Statement of Operations

For the year ended March 31, 2026	Budget 2026	Actual 2026	Actual 2025
Revenue			
Contributions			
Corporate contributions	76,500	80,478	38,266
GNWT - Industry, Tourism and Investment	-	7,500	-
GNWT - Health and Social Services	66,470	135,703	159,577
GNWT - Municipal and Community Affairs	123,567	134,657	105,000
GNWT - Executive and Indigenous Affairs		5,000	
NWT/NU Western Canada Lottery Program	800,000	800,000	800,000
Tłıchq Government	22,494	22,494	20,000
Canada Parks and Recreation Association	12,330	17,738	24,223
Government of Canada funding	312,145	436,447	132,489
Fees	61,268	78,481	110,569
Membership income	1,000	27	520
Investment distributions	-	20,675	20,184
Rent in kind		21,000	21,000
	1,475,774	1,760,200	1,431,828
Add: Transfer from deferred revenue - prior year	270,782	392,715	298,909
Less: Transfer to deferred revenue - current year	-	(93,969)	(392,714)
Less: Transfer to contributions repayable	-	(14,526)	
	1,746,556	2,044,420	1,338,023
Expenses			
Accounting and legal	55,800	88,396	74,255
Advertising and promotion	43,210	66,934	42,869
Amortization	-	22,349	23,881
Bad debts	-	638	24,807
Conferences and workshops	194,950	126,890	172,006
Dues and fees	7,792	8,882	7,904
Grants and contributions	409,948	379,967	106,717
Insurance	11,000	11,280	13,665
Interest and bank charges	2,400	7,310	10,201
Office	8,306	9,631	4,253
Program contractors	69,514	95,979	48,407
Program materials and supplies	51,386	149,158	59,180
Rent	-	21,000	21,000
Telephone and internet	25,389	19,890	26,433
Travel and accommodation	210,006	289,958	51,079
Wages and benefits	656,855	657,152	550,377
	1,746,556	1,955,414	1,237,034
Excess revenue	-	89,006	100,989

Other Income			
Gain (loss) on sale of tangible capital assets	-	(28,591)	-
Net gain (loss) on investments	-	36,702	30,272
Excess revenue	-	97,117	131,261

Statement of Financial Position

For the year ended March 31, 2026	2026	2025
Assets		
Current		
Cash	530,104	874,102
Accounts receivable	63,544	12,394
Prepaid expenses	39,677	129,825
	633,325	1,016,321
Restricted investments - Legacy, Contingency, and Tai Chi Funds	812,023	565,487
Tangible capital assets	63,517	108,007
	\$1,508,865	1,689,815
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$91,575	94,068
Vacation Payable	43,278	38,830
Government remittances payable	60,086	56,620
Contributions repayable	14,526	-
Deferred revenue	93,969	392,715
	303,434	582,233
Fund Balances		
Unrestricted Net Assets	329,890	310,532
Internally Restricted Tangible Capital Assets Fund	63,518	108,007
Internally Restricted Legacy Fund	598,627	510,097
Internally Restricted Contingency Fund	197,973	164,255
Endowment Rona Williams Tai Chi Fund	15,423	14,691
	1,205,431	1,107,582
	1,508,865	1,689,815

The financial information presented above has been extracted from the NWTRPA's audited financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2026, prepared by Crowe McKay LLP. The complete financial statements, including the independent auditor's report, are available from the NWTRPA.

These statements have been reviewed and approved by the NWTRPA Board of Directors.



NWT
**RECREATION
& PARKS**
ASSOCIATION

Get
Active



**Elders in
Motion**



Recreation North
Training Program

**NWTRPA
CONFERENCE**

The NWT Recreation and Parks Association's physical office is located in Sõmba K'è on Chief Drygeese Territory in Treaty 8, the traditional home of the Yellowknives Dene and North Slave Métis, also known as Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.

NWT Recreation and Parks Association
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Recreation is Life!



nwtrpa.org

