



NWT
**RECREATION
& PARKS**
ASSOCIATION

2020–2021 **Annual Report**



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

2018-2021 Strategic Plan

The NWT Recreation & Parks Association envisions a territory where everyone has access to recreation programs and spaces that foster healthy families, strong cultures, and vibrant communities.

Below is a summary of 2020-2021 strategic plan activities. For a complete version of the NWTRPA 2018-2021 strategic plan, please visit www.nwtrpa.org.

2020-2021 Activities

Just as we have all had to adapt as we navigate through life during a pandemic, the NWTRPA has too. But we have also been up to a lot of great work!

Goal #1 The NWTRPA is working with intention to advance decolonization and reconciliation through its work, workplaces, and relationships.

- Hosted a presentation by the Native Women's Association of the NWT about the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and two Spirited People (MMIWG2S) Calls for Justice at the September 2020 Board meeting.
- Staff and Board participated in a facilitated racial equity assessment workshop.
- Staff completed anti-racism training, and participated in a facilitated anti-racism book club.
- Our Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA) representatives participated in anti-racism training and implicit bias training with the CPRA Board.
- Board approved the inclusion of a territory acknowledgement permanently on our website.
- Conducted a review of the Awards program to determine if it is in line with our commitment to decolonization and reconciliation.
- Hosted an Ethical Space session by Bush Kids for staff and the Awards Review Committee.
- Advocating for the Canadian Recreation & Parks Association to address the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action, to adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and to act on reconciliation.
- Continued to work with Crystal Fraser, Paul Andrew, Sharon Firth, Lorna Storr, and Kyla LeSage on a public exhibit and website about recreation and residential schooling in the NWT. Because of the pandemic, the project team shifted their focus from interviews with Survivors to archival research this year.



Sarah Cleary showing her beadwork in Sômba K'è / Yellowknife, June 2019. Photo taken by Pat Kane.

Goal #2 NWT leaders, communities, and NWTRPA partners understand recreation and recognize that it is essential to healthy minds, bodies, families, and communities.

- Promoted and celebrated June is Recreation and Parks Month campaign by offering Active, Resilient, and Connected (ARC) Grants. Approved 45 June ARC applications from 18 communities. A total of 1,389 NWT residents participated in ARC events during the month of June.
- Working with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs to develop a Sport, Physical Activity, and Recreation (SPAR) Framework, guided by: *Canadian Sport Policy, A Common Vision for Increasing Physical Activity, and Framework for Recreation in Canada*. The NWTRPA has been meeting with partners to advance the SPAR Framework.
- Presented five awards celebrating recreation and its importance in the NWT (see page 11 for information on the 2020 Awards recipients).
- Virtually presented and celebrated three Bright Spots that recognize successful recreation-related programs, events or initiatives.
- Continued focus on creating and sharing digital content on social media. Our Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter followers rose by 60%, 9.89%, and 7.1%, respectively. While more than 11,980 people visited our website last year.



An Elder and participant setting snares at Łútsēl K'édene School's Back to Culture and Traditions project, an NWT On The Land Collaborative grant recipient.

Goal #3 The NWTRPA is a vital resource for and champion of community-directed on the land programs.

- Continued participation on the administrative team for the NWT On The Land Collaborative. In 2020, the Collaborative distributed just over 839 thousand dollars in grants to 48 projects.
- Provided in-kind training to 18 Collaborative grant recipients, including hosting 11 training events in canoeing, wilderness first aid, water safety, Supporting Wellbeing, and conflict resolution with a total of 135 participants.
- Hosted the 2021 World Tour of the Paddling Film Festival in Sòmba K'è / Yellowknife and Łíídlı́ Kúę/Fort Simpson with 102 total attendees which raised almost \$1,400 for local paddling programs.
- Developed the first draft of the curriculum for Supporting Wellbeing and delivered the pilot training to 15 on the land leaders at Reindeer Station to evaluate the curriculum and guide adjustments to Supporting Wellbeing.
- Sponsored a screening of *Family Routes* at the 2020 Yellowknife International Film Festival where 99 people streamed the film.
- Commissioned an updated review of Collaborative grant reports that includes important information about the impact of on the land programs and the Collaborative, as well as key learnings from Collaborative-funded projects.
- Coordinated virtual sharing circles where Indigenous knowledge holders shared their approaches to being safe around water and ice.
- Collaborated with Adze Studios to create a film about Chief Paul Niditchie School's annual canoe trip, entitled *Rediscovering the Tsiigehnjiik*.



2017 Walk to Tuk. Photo by Pat Kane.

Goal #4 The NWTRPA is a valued organization, driven by community and membership, and committed to ethical governance and management.

- Adapted and tailored our programming to follow GNWT Chief Public Health Office guidelines and community risk assessments.
- Board initiated the inclusion of a respect of the land at all future Board meetings.
- Board prioritized using a lens of reconciliation, racial equity and ethical space while completing governance work.
- Board reviewed a newly developed Business Continuity Plan.
- Met with Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Paulie Chinna to discuss government priorities.
- Advocated for the GNWT to review and update the current Sport Physical Activity and Recreation Framework. Presented with recreation sector partners our recommendations to the Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Government Operations.
- Engaged in creating a new and integrated website.

Goal #5 More NWT residents of all ages are able to choose active ways of living because of improvements in the accessibility, diversity, and quality of community-based recreation programs.

- Assembled a steering committee to review and revise the current Fitness Leadership Program to better centre the training around NWT cultures, bodies, and lifestyles.
- Supported two individuals remotely to achieve their AFLCA fitness leadership certificate.
- Successfully trained nine individuals across the territory to become regional Elders in Motion facilitators.
- Began project to translate key information from all Active Communities programs into all 11 official NWT languages.
- Conducted two pilot trainings in two communities for a Long- Term Care version of Elders in Motion training. The goal of the pilot training was to increase accessibility and appropriateness of exercise programs for the very frail living in facilities through the pandemic.
- Hosted six knowledge sharing webinars, featuring five different NWT Elders in Motion experts/knowledge holders. Over 40 participants engaged in at least one session and 10 participants attended three or more sessions.
- Continue to work with recreation leaders in Łíídlı Kúę First Nation, Cole Crook Fiddle Association (Hay River), Hamlet of Ulukhaktok, and Whatı Community Government to support intergenerational recreation programs during the pandemic.
- Active participant on the leadership team for the Collaborating for the Inclusion of Older Adults programs. Began work with the NWT Seniors Society in the creation of a five-year communications strategy to increase awareness and capacity in communities to access resources for older adults.
- Offered Active, Resilient, and Connected (ARC) grant program to replace Get Active funding during COVID-19. The ARC grant program was offered to support organizations with flexible funding options for the unique situations during the pandemic. Approved 64 Winter ARC and Water Smart grant applications from 22 communities to support 147 events with over 9,060 participants.
- Contracted Constellation Consulting to evaluate the Get Active Program from 2010-2020.
- 5,579 people from 31 NWT communities and beyond participated in Walk to Tuk 2021 with a total 752, 215 kilometres walked. 2021 also saw the most participation from NWT residents ever.

Goal #6 The NWTRPA is the leading recreation training organization in the NWT.

- Introduced and offered a third second certificate to the Recreation North Training Program: Certificate in Northern Recreation Management.
- Delivered 19 online Recreation North Learning Events. An additional five spaces were added to each learning event to accommodate demand. In total, a completion rate of 91% was achieved by 208 participants.
- Reviewed and updated Recreation for Mental Health training to better reflect the needs of the NWT.
- Offered 2 HIGH FIVE® events and gained northern participation in one national online event.
- Hosted a series of nine engaging webinars in place of the 2020 Annual Conference due to COVID-19 restrictions. Webinar topics ranged from favourite parts of the conference, to how to engage audiences, to sharing circles.



Attendees of the Western Arctic Youth Collective's Youth Retreat participate in a Wilderness First Aid course sponsored by the NWTRPA outside of Inuvik/Inuvik. Photo submitted by Western Arctic Youth Collective.



Participants of the Supporting Wellbeing Pilot Training outside at Reindeer Station, located in the Beaufort Delta, in March. Photo by Anneka Westergreen.

Supporting Wellbeing

The NWTRPA is developing an emerging training program that aims to provide tools, tips, and resources to people who deliver land-based programming that will better prepare them to mitigate and respond to mental health challenges on the land. This training, entitled Supporting Wellbeing, is designed for people who have some level of experience in planning and delivering on the land programs, but who have little-to-no formal or clinical training in mental health service provision.

In 2020-2021, we were able to take significant strides on this project. We brought together a volunteer steering committee that includes five regions of the NWT. The steering committee members are Kristen Tanche (Dehcho First Nations), Jimmy Ruttan (Inuvialuit Regional Corporation), Noel-Leigh Cockney (Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning), Anneka Westergreen (Fireweed Counselling), Jennie Vandermeer (Sahtú Region), Mande McDonald (Dene Nahjo/PhD Student), and Tammy Steinwand/Julia Naedzo (Tłıchǫ Government). The steering committee guides the development of the curriculum.

There was a request for proposals call out and a curriculum developer hired. The steering committee decided to work with Donald Prince. He is an expert in blending Indigenous and Western approaches to wellbeing with 25 years of experience delivering and supporting mental health programs, including being the former Executive Director of the Arctic Indigenous Wellness Foundation. With Donald, the steering committee developed six modules to make-up Supporting Wellbeing. The modules cover:

1. Creating Community
2. Setting Up Camp for Wellbeing
3. Intergenerational Trauma
4. Conflict Resolution
5. Suicide Intervention
6. Supporting Wellbeing When The Program Ends

In collaboration with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the NWTRPA delivered the pilot training of Supporting Wellbeing in early March at Reindeer Station outside of Inuvik/Inuvik. The pilot training gathering was attended by 15 participants and steering committee members, and facilitated by Donald Prince. At the gathering participants would spend half the day covering a Supporting Wellbeing module and the other half harvesting muskrats with Hank Angasuk or skinning the muskrats with Sarah Rogers. Each evening was filled with sewing, card games and big laughs! At the end of the pilot training Mande and Jennie facilitated a group discussion to evaluate the program. The feedback from participants will guide the adjustments to the curriculum to ensure the curriculum is informed by the target audience.

Recreation North

The Recreation North Training Program was developed through a partnership of the three territorial recreation and parks associations in collaboration with governments and communities, and with generous funding from the Arctic Inspiration Prize.

Recreation North training is designed for anyone living in the Yukon, NWT, or Nunavut, who works or would like to work or volunteer in recreation. This fully online program (with the occasional option of in-person delivery) is flexible and allows participants to work toward a Certificate in Northern Recreation Leadership and/or a Certificate in Northern Recreation Management.

This year, the Certificate in Northern Recreation Management was added to the Training Program. This certificate has a series of advanced learning events. These learning events focus on proposal writing, more advanced risk management plans, and report writing. The first graduates of this certificate will be in April 2021.

Learners continue to join throughout the year as they gain employment in the recreation sector. Recreation employers are now requiring their newly hired staff to have or take the Certificate in Northern Recreation Leadership within the first 2 years of employment.

Because Recreation North already occurs fully online and with conference calls, we were fortunate that COVID-19 did not have a large impact.

Increasing Accessibility Through Language and Translations

This year, we reflected on barriers and the purpose of our Active Communities programming in order to overcome the inability to offer training and support in communities due to COVID 19.

One of the biggest barriers to knowledge sharing and accessibility in the North is the rich and diverse landscape of language and culture. Finding ways to communicate with all communities in a way that both program administrators

and community members find valuable. The first step in addressing this barrier became the sharing of opportunities and resources in a written, verbal, and visual language that every community and group in the NWT can understand.

Over the course of the year, the NWTRPA coordinated the translation of 600 words, program descriptions, exercise instructions, resources, waiver forms, subtitled videos, and applications into all 11 official NWT languages, as well as oral translation of key Elders in Motion information and instructions, and videography of Elders and intergenerational groups engaging in exercise in various regions and locations.

These translations will not only assist in increasing accessibility to NWTRPA programs, but the Elders in Motion video, similarly to Tłı̄chq̓ camp yoga videos, will be a resource in language revitalization for communities to use however they choose. Most importantly, it is another step towards creating programs and resources that function, look, sound, and feel like resources for NWT residents.

Recreation During a Pandemic

Though we can't know with any certainty what life will look like in the months ahead, we do know that recreation is key to finding a new normal because recreation at its core is about being well and being connected.

It's been a bumpy year, but we are focused on moving forward while staying flexible. We love connecting with communities, and recreation and on the land leaders in person but as there continues to be uncertainty concerning the pandemic we continue to adapt and adjust while following public health protocols.



Kate Inuktalik, Susie Malgokak, Laura Inuktalik, and Margaret Kanayok participating in an Elders in Motion class in Uluksaqtuq / Ulukhaktok, led by Lily Alanak.



NWTRPA Executive Director Sheena Tremblay, CPRA President's Award of Distinction Winner Geoff Ray, 2019–2020 NWTRPA President Cynthia White, and Award Nominator Jess Dunkin. Photo by NWTRPA.

2020 NWTRPA Award Winners

In 2020, the NWTRPA recognized it was more important than ever to continue celebrating excellence in recreation across the NWT by adapting our Awards program during the pandemic. The 2020 award recipients were:

- **Scott McAdam Youth Leadership Award**
Ava Pope (Tłegóhłı/Norman Wells)
- **Active Elder Award**
Elizabeth Hardisty (Łı́ıdlı́ Kúę/Fort Simpson)
- **Innovation Award**
Inmesit Graham (Sòmba K'è/Yellowknife)
- **Award of Excellence**
Rob Johnson (Sòmba K'è/Yellowknife)
- **Canadian Parks and Recreation Association
President's Award of Distinction**
Geoff Ray (Sòmba K'è/Yellowknife)

Thank You!

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!



2020–2021 Board Members Tim Van Dam, Derek Squirrel, Mary Gordon, Carly Gon, and Rena Chapple Sòmba K'è / Yellowknife. Photo by NWTRPA.

2019–2020 Board of Directors

- **Tim Van Dam (Tthebacha/Fort Smith)** – President
- **Cynthia White (Tthebacha/Fort Smith)** – South Slave Regional Director
- **Mary Gordon (Akłarvik)** – Director-at-Large
- **Kristen Tanche (Łíídlı́ Kúę/Fort Simpson)** – Dehcho Regional Director
- **Carly Gon (Behchokò)** – North Slave Regional Director
- **Kyla LeSage (Sòmba K'è/Yellowknife)** – Yellowknife Regional Director
- **Rena Chapple (Tulít'a)** – Sahtú Regional Director
- **Derek Squirrel (Uluksaqtuuq)** – Beaufort/Delta Regional Director

2020–2021 Staff

- **Kaila Jefferd-Moore** – Membership & Communications Coordinator
- **Abby Webster** – Administrative Coordinator
- **Rachel Cluderay** – On the Land Programs Consultant
- **Daytwon Ceschin & Delanie Vail** – Active Communities Coordinator
- **Bri Krekoski** – Director, Active Communities
- **Amanda Grobbecker** – Interim Executive Director, & Director, Professional Development
- **Sheena Tremblay** – Executive Director

The NWTRPA hosted **62** in-person and virtual events with a total of **810** participants from **28** communities.



Participating communities in NWTRPA events in 2020-2021



NWT Recreation & Parks Association

Statement of Operations

	(Unaudited) Budget 2021	Actual 2021	Actual 2020
For the year ended March 31,			
Revenue			
Contributions			
Corporate contributions	\$ 50,000	\$ 46,476	\$ 28,150
GNWT - Education, Culture and Employment	20,000	20,000	-
GNWT - Health and Social Services	60,000	70,080	91,203
GNWT - Municipal and Community Affairs	200,617	209,017	150,000
NWT/NU WCLP	800,000	821,000	821,000
NWT Seniors' Society	109,800	69,800	189,900
Canada Emergency wage subsidy	-	32,477	-
Canadian Heritage	40,000	40,000	-
Tlicho Government	15,000	15,000	-
Fees	34,150	70,547	95,068
Membership income	5,000	5,111	5,715
Investment income	-	78,784	-
	1,334,567	1,478,292	1,405,263
Add: Transfer from deferred revenue - prior year	218,522	218,522	326,671
Less: Transfer to deferred revenue - current year	-	(393,780)	(218,522)
	1,553,089	1,303,034	1,513,412
Expenses			
Accounting and legal	33,000	40,010	31,058
Advertising and promotion	104,115	120,233	68,088
Amortization	-	22,060	19,831
Bad debts	-	18,361	1,589
Conferences and workshops	116,762	64,025	151,738
Dues and fees	10,510	9,502	11,500
Grants and contributions	137,358	89,320	100,640
Insurance	8,000	4,989	6,443
Interest and bank charges	2,500	2,212	3,728
Office	14,200	4,866	15,767
Program contractors	178,937	132,778	41,240
Program materials and supplies	78,492	62,632	93,179
Rent (Note 9)	11,000	22,150	21,474
Telephone and internet	12,400	14,821	14,212
Travel	144,373	49,877	251,648
Wages and benefits	701,442	576,674	614,612
	1,553,089	1,234,510	1,446,747
Excess revenue	-	68,524	66,665
Capital expenses			
Transfer to Tangible Capital Assets Fund	-	(11,897)	-
Walk To Tuk Website	-	-	(145,802)
Excess revenue (expense) after capital expenses	\$ -	\$ 56,627	\$ (79,137)

Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31,	2021	2020
Assets		
Current		
Cash	\$ 592,275	\$ 450,026
Accounts receivable (Note 3)	42,250	65,386
Prepaid expenses	5,741	881
	640,266	516,293
Tangible capital assets (Note 4)	145,109	155,272
Restricted investments - Legacy and Contingency Funds (Note 5)	541,477	474,945
	\$ 1,326,852	\$ 1,146,510
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 6)	\$ 70,581	\$ 140,795
Payroll liabilities (Note 7)	32,525	26,958
Deferred revenue (Note 8)	393,780	218,522
	496,886	386,275
Fund Balances		
Unrestricted net assets	143,380	248,491
Internally restricted tangible capital asset fund	145,109	155,272
Internally restricted legacy fund	402,339	234,435
Rona Williams Tai Chi endowment fund	13,244	12,037
Internally restricted contingency fund	125,894	110,000
	829,966	760,235
	\$ 1,326,852	\$ 1,146,510



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

NWT Recreation & Parks Association

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