



NWT
RECREATION
& PARKS
ASSOCIATION

2022-2023 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.

2022-2023 was a year of transition for the NWTRPA as time was spent throughout 2022-2023 updating the strategic plan which was launched in the spring of 2023.

Below is a summary of the 2022-2023 strategic plan activities. For a complete version of the NWTRPA 2018-2021 strategic plan, please visit www.nwtrpa.org.

2022-2023 Activities

This year, the staff and Board worked hard to support NWT communities, our members, and recreation and on the land leaders as we emerged out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

- Initiated a Racial Equity Plan.
- Based on the program review recommendations, implemented changes to the 2022 Awards such as updated terminology, nomination forms, criteria, the selection composition, and provided options for the physical award and recognition.
- Board approved a diversity statement for all job descriptions.
- Staff participated in a Trauma-Informed Workplace Development Workshop.
- Board and Staff were supported to participate in land-based programs including Dog Sledding.
- Reviewed the NWTRPA Walking Challenge to determine if it is in line with our commitment to decolonization and reconciliation. This work was led by an Indigenous consultant, guided by an Indigenous advisory committee, and engaged stakeholders, members, participants, and NWT residents.
- Reviewed the Human Resources Parameter Policy with a racial equity lens.
- Hosted sessions on the land at the 2022 Conference.
- Board reflected on the development of a culturally appropriate definition of recreation.
- Continued to work with Crystal Fraser, Paul Andrew, Sharon Firth, Lorna Storr, and Amos Scott on a research project about recreation and residential schooling in the NWT. Conducted four interviews with residential school survivors, reviewed archival materials, and submitted two articles for publication.
- Board and staff participated in a session by Daniel T'seleie on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People and how it might relate to the recreation and on the land sector.



Board and Staff participating in Dog Sledding activities. From left to right: Sheena Tremblay, Hillary Deneron, Mike Scott, David Brinston, Derek Squirrel, Sophie Kirby, Twyla Etchinelle and Ivania Carballo-Hinchey.

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 June Get Active Grants. Awarded 62 June Get Active grants to 18 communities. A total of 1,423 NWT residents participated in Get Active events during the month of June.
- Engaged with NWTRPA members, Board members, and NWT Teachers on a definition of recreation through a hands-on activity where participants showcased examples of northern recreation.
- Presented and celebrated three Bright Spots at our Annual Conference that recognized successful recreation-related programs, events and/or initiatives.
- Worked with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs to develop a Recreation, Sport, and Physical Activity, Framework to ensure it reflects the priorities of our sector.
- Presented five awards celebrating recreation and its importance in the NWT (see page 10 for more information).
- The Walking Challenge continues to provide a platform for inspiring people to take part in regular physical activity in the coldest months of the year.
- Produced a monthly e-newsletter that highlights relevant resources, opportunities, and initiatives. Our e-news had 9,197 cumulative recipients in 2022-23.
- Continued to focus on creating and sharing digital content on social media. Our Instagram and Facebook followers rose by 7%, and 11%, respectively. More than 15,514 people visited our website last year.



Youth participants practice their skills during a Wilderness First Aid course hosted collaboratively by HomeBase and the NWTRPA, in Sòmba K'e/Yellowknife, NWT. Photo by Vincent Ret.

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 2022, the Collaborative distributed \$1,003,655 in grants to 53 projects across the territory that connect NWT residents with land, culture, and community. Eight other projects received supplemental funding, and six projects were referred to other funding partners for a total impact of \$1,171,165 distributed between 62 projects in the NWT.
- Offered in-kind training and program support to 18 On the Land Collaborative grant recipients including eleven training events in seven communities in canoeing, canoe safety, wilderness first aid, water safety, and facilitation skills with a total of 76 participants.
- Hosted the 2023 World Tour of the Paddling Film Festival in Sòmba K'è/Yellowknife, Tthebacha/Fort Smith, and Łíídlıı Kúę/Fort Simpson with 133 attendees and raised over \$2,000 for local paddling programs.
- After being awarded the \$500,000 category of the Arctic Inspiration Prize, the NWTRPA facilitated the transfer of Supporting Wellbeing (SWB) to becoming a project under Makeway's Shared Platform.
- Continued support of Supporting Wellbeing's Curriculum development and training.
- Celebrated the achievements of the Tree of Peace Friendship Center's Youth and Elder Eagle Program as part of the Bright Spots session at the NWTRPA Conference.
- Offered, 'Walking in Our Ancestor's Footsteps - The Land Before Time', 'Families on the Land - Gathering for Fun and for Life', and 'Reclaiming Our Families Medicines' as sessions at the NWTRPA conference.
- Collaboratively developed an advocacy paper, grounded in academic literature but written as a policy document, demonstrating the proven value of land-based programming. The document was published through the Yellowhead Institute as a special report.

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

- Further developed our Business Continuity Plan.
- Board approved a Racial Equity Action Plan.
- Board approved an employee wellness benefit.
- Board approved a Climate Action Policy.
- Updated the NWTRPA succession plan.
- Developed a coordinated approach to sponsorship solicitation.
- Engaged in strategic planning sessions and approved the 2023-2026 strategic plan.
- Created a monitoring, evaluation and learning plan to coincide with the new strategic plan.



2022 NWTRPA Conference in Tthebacha/Fort Smith, Storytelling Circle with host Richard Van Camp. People left to right: Robin Young, Richard Van Camp, Spider Jones, Loyal Oskenekisses. Photo by NWTRPA.



Elders in Motion training with long-term care providers and students from Aurora College in Sõmba K'è/Yellowknife. Photo by NWTRPA.

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.

- Hosted the Elders in Motion, Active Living Exercise Program training with 28 participants.
- Supported five AFCLA fitness trainings for 50 participants.
- Participated on the leadership team for the Working Together with Elders Project.
- Distributed 131 Get Active grants to support 215 events with over 6,017 participants.
- Distributed five water safety grants.
- Engaged over 1,960 people from 26 NWT communities and beyond who participated in the NWTRPA 2023 Walking Challenge with a total of 257 teams.
- Supported Community Health Representatives and Elders to attend the NWTRPA conference and Elders in Motion stream of sessions.
- Presented on Elders in Motion during Community Health Representative training and for the Working Together with Elders Facilitator Gathering.



Cedar Wechlin teaches students how to safely use a bow and arrow during a sponsored Winter Get Active event in Echaoti'ıı Kųę/Fort Liard. Photo by Kori Wechlin.



2022 NWTRPA Conference in Tthebacha / Fort Smith, Elders in Motion: Knowledge Exchange sessions. People left to right: Rena Chapple and Sonia Manuel. Photo by NWTRPA.

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

- NWTRPA Director – Professional Development completed the process of becoming a Recreation North instructor, High Five PHCD instructor, and Recreation for Mental Health instructor.
- Delivered four in-person Recreation North learning events with 78 participants from 16 communities.
- Delivered three online Recreation North Learning Events with 12 NWT participants, and another 29 NWT participants took part in 15 additional online Recreation North learning events from eight communities. In total, a completion rate of 91.6% was achieved by 119 participants.
- Hosted the 2022 conference in Tthebacha/Fort Smith in October. 75 delegates from 17 NWT communities attended (see page 9 for more details).
- Delivered eight Recreation for Mental Health training sessions in eight different communities with a total of 75 participants from 13 communities.
- Offered nine HIGH FIVE® training events in nine communities. A total of 99 participants from 13 communities attended.
- Offered ICA Facilitator Training, a nationally recognized training for workplace leaders to 30 leaders from eight communities.
- Managed the Youth Employment Experience (YEE) wage subsidy programs and Reaching Each and Every One (REEO) projects, for all three Territories. Together these projects supported 46 organizations and 31 communities across Canada’s North.
- Supported 11 organizations from seven communities through YEE supporting jobs in recreation for youth who face barriers to employment.
- Supported 15 organizations from seven communities for projects that aim to remove barriers and increase participation rates in recreation for underrepresented groups.
- Attracted over 797 visitors to our Jobs webpage on nwtrpa.org.



Walking Challenge Advisory Committee meeting in Tuktuuyaqtuuq/Tuktoyaktuk. Top from left: Nuka de Jocas, Jennie Vandermeer, Hannah Taneton and Elizabeth Stirrett. Bottom from left: Sheena Tremblay, Diane Gordon, Christina Holman and Annie Steen. Missing in the picture: Lesley Blake. Photo by NWTRPA.

2022-2023 Highlights

Walking Challenge Program Review

In January 2021, the NWTRPA Board of Directors released a statement indicating a temporary name change of the annual winter walking challenge from Walk to Tuk to the NWTRPA Walking Challenge. This was due to feedback that the name Walk to Tuk was disrespectful and harmful to survivors of residential schools in Canada. The name had created an unfortunate connection between the Program and the experiences of three young boys who tried to walk to Tuktoyaktuk, after escaping from a residential school in Inuvik: two of the young boys died on their way home. In line with the NWTRPA's strategic goal to "*work with intention to advance decolonization and reconciliation through our work, workplaces and relationships*", the NWTRPA hired Jennie Vandermeer Consulting to initiate a full review of the flagship event.

The NWTRPA is committed to engaging with stakeholders, participants, NWT and Indigenous residents, and members of the NWTRPA therefore in 2022 the organization promoted a call out for the Walking Challenge Advisory Committee (WCAC) members to help guide the important work. There were 22 applicants and after careful deliberation, the NWTRPA selected six indigenous members which totalled: two members from the Beaufort-Delta region and one each from the remaining four NWT regions. The NWTRPA decided to provide two spots to the most northern region as the concerns regarding the name originated there. The committee members agreed to provide direction and general guidance to the NWTRPA on matters relating to the Program name and review. The WCAC provided great insight, knowledge, and engagement during the process.

Three WCAC meetings and two public information sessions took place throughout 2022-2023. The first in-person committee meetings took place in Tuktuuyaqtuuq/Tuktoyaktuk while the second and third took place virtually. As part of the engagement process, two public information sessions took place, the first in Tuktuuyaqtuuq/Tuktoyaktuk and the second virtually to allow participation from any NWT community to share their thoughts. Ultimately, a final comprehensive report entitled, *Walking the Steps of our Ancestors: NWTRPA Walking Challenge Review*, was finalized in March and provided to the Board of Directors.

The NWTRPA would like to thank the WCAC and Jennie Vandermeer Consulting for their valuable input and work on the Walking Challenge program review. The NWTRPA would also like to thank the people of Tuktuuyaqtuuq/Tuktoyaktuk for welcoming the WCAC and the NWTRPA into their community. And finally, the NWTRPA would like to thank all participants from previous Walking Challenge seasons for their devoted belief in this Territorial event.

NWTRPA Conference

The 2022 NWTRPA Conference was held at Tthebacha/Fort Smith in October 2022, for the first time since 2016, and resumed the traditional format of two keynotes and three breakout sessions for three streams over three days. The streams represented were Recreation Leadership, On the Land, and Elders in Motion. The conference theme for 2022 was Recreation and Recovery.

The 2022 conference was a community conference held at the Salt River First Nations Center (SRFN) and the Northern Life Museum and Culture Center for breakout sessions. Sessions were also held at JBT Elementary School, and two other outdoor sessions took place. Highlights of the conference included traditional foods preparation activity with country foods delivered to elders in the community, Bright Spots presentations from Inuvik/Inuvik, S̓m̓ba K'è/è/Yellowknife and the national program Youth Employment Experience with youth from across the NWT. 75 participants from 17 communities attended, utilizing all available accommodations at Tthebacha/Fort Smith.

Highlights from Day one include an entertaining opening keynote from local author Richard van Camp, a session at JBT school building community garden boxes at a session on local food sources, and a screening of the film "Walking in our Ancestor's Footsteps: The Land Before Time" - a film about the Canol Trail Youth Leadership Hike.

Day two highlights include the plenary "What does the Land Say?" and the outstanding "Living with the Land" sessions by local knowledge holders Chloe Dragon-Smith and Robert Grandjambe, and an information-rich Knowledge exchange for Elders in Motion stream participants. Delegates enjoyed learning activity doing a traditional beading session that allowed participants from across the NWT to meet and renew old friendships. A night of local music rounded out the day.

Day three highlights included a blend of traditional with social media in a session about traditional foods preparation over Facebook during COVID restrictions. Another highlight included a session about local traditional wellness products and one family's adventures gathering and creating them, and a perennial favourite, Bright Spots.



2022 NWTRPA Conference attendees in Tthebacha/Fort Smith. From left to right: Colinda Blondin, Nathen McPherson, Alexander Robertson and Kyle Donovan. Photo by NWTRPA.

NWT On the Land Collaborative and the NWTRPA's Role in their Successes

This year the NWT On the Land Collaborative granted a record high of \$1,171,165 to 62 On the Land projects in the NWT! It was also the Collaborative's first year recording the statistics on supplementally funded projects and projects referred to funding partners. As a member of the Collaborative Administrative Team, our Director - On the Land Programs, David, held a leading role at the 2022/2023 granting meetings as well as in the creation of the On the Land Collaborative's 2022 Annual Report which highlighted specific projects in each region doing excellent work in their communities. David also had the privilege and pleasure of representing the On the Land Collaborative and the NWTRPA at the Northern Manitoba Food, Culture, and Community Collaborative's Learning Tour in Churchill, Manitoba where he was able to learn about how other Collaboratives are working and share about the successes and ways in which the On the Land Collaborative works. Collaboratives collaborating!



Chloe Dragon Smith and Robert Grandjambe leading an On the Land session at the 2022 NWTRPA Annual Conference. Photo by NWTRPA.

2022 NWTRPA Award Winners

For over 20 years, the NWTRPA Awards Program has been celebrating and recognizing recreation professionals and volunteers in northern communities for their efforts and achievements in promoting recreation and active living for all northerners.

The NWTRPA is working to implement recommendations from an Awards review in an effort to decolonize the program. The NWTRPA has updated terminology, nomination forms, criteria, the selection committee composition, and provided options for the physical award and recognition. This year each recipient selected how they wished to receive their award in their community. These events honoured the winners for their continuing efforts and achievements in promoting recreation and active living for all Northerners.

In March 2023, the NWTRPA celebrated the Innovation Award Ceremony at the Annual Ediwa Weyallon Handgames Tournament in Behchokò, NT. The Scott McAdam Youth Leadership Award and Elder Award were celebrated at the Community Hall in Inuvik/Inuvik, NT. For the physical awards, each recipient selected framed photo/art from local artists from the NWT. The Honourary Life Membership Award and CPRA Award of Merit celebration will likely take place at the 2023 NWTRPA Annual Conference.

The 2022 Award Recipients:

- Scott McAdam Youth Leadership Award – **Alaina Joe Beaudin (Inuvik/Inuvik)**
- Elder Award – **Jeffrey Amos (Inuvik/Inuvik)**
- Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA) Award of Merit – **Shawna McLeod (Tthebacha/Fort Smith)**
- Innovation Award – **Mercedes Rabesca (Behchokò)**
- Honourary Life Membership Award – **Colin MacPherson (Sòmba K'è/Yellowknife)**



NWTRPA Scott McAdam Youth Leadership Award Winner Alaina Joe Beaudin and NWTRPA Elder Award Winner Jeffrey Amos, celebrating their award recognition with family and friends in their community, Inuvik/Inuvik. Photo by NWTRPA.



NWTRPA Innovation Award Ceremony at the Annual Ediwa Weyallon Handgames Tournament in Behchokò, NT. Left to right: William Weyallon, Colinda Blondin, Tłı̨chǫ Grand Chief Jackson Lafferty, Mercedes Rabesca, Behchokò Chief Clifford Daniels and Ivania Carballo-Hinchey. Photo by Nancy Rabesca.

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!



NWTRPA Board Meeting, January 2023. Board Members (left to right): Twyla Etchinelle, Coleen Hardisty, Jacqueline Gon, Hillary Deneron, Derek Squirrel, Mike Scott, Sophie Kirby, missing: Luisa Ospina.

2022-2023 Board of Directors

- **Derek Squirrel (Uluksaqtuuq)** – President
- **Mike Scott (Hay River)** – South Slave Regional Director
- **Coleen Hardisty (Sòmba K'è/Yellowknife)** – Director-at-Large
- **Hillary Deneron (Echaotı'ıı Kuę /Fort Liard)** – Dehcho Regional Director
- **Jacqueline Gon (Behchokò)** – North Slave Regional Director
- **Sophie Kirby (Sòmba K'è/Yellowknife)** – Yellowknife Regional Director
- **Twyla Etchinelle (Tulít'a)** – Sahtú Regional Director
- **Luisa Ospina (Inuvik)** – Beaufort/Delta Regional Director

2022-2023 Staff

- **Sheena Tremblay** – Executive Director
- **Tim Van Dam** – Director, Professional Development
- **Nuka De Jocas** – Director, Active Communities
- **David Brinston** – Director, On the Land Programs
- **Clair Littlefair** – Professional Development Coordinator
- **Jeanne Yurris & Ivania Carballo Hinchey** – Membership & Communications Coordinator/Manager

Financial Statements

Audited financial statements prepared by Crowe McKay. No irregularities were found. These statements have been reviewed and approved by the NWTRPA Board of Directors.

Statement of Operations

For the year ended March 31,	(Unaudited) Budget 2023	Actual 2023	Actual 2022 (Restated)
Revenue			
Contributions			
Corporate contributions	\$ 17,500	\$ 15,625	\$ 51,330
GNWT - Health and Social Services	59,850	59,851	257,371
GNWT - Municipal and Community Affairs	150,000	150,000	150,000
NWT/NU Western Canada Lottery Program	800,000	821,000	821,000
NWT Seniors' Society	-	-	20,000
Canada Parks and Recreation Association	28,257	80,929	97,129
Tłı̨chǰ Government	-	-	10,000
Fees	19,000	92,186	83,711
Membership income	5,000	1,653	389
Investment income	-	(902)	21,115
	1,079,607	1,220,342	1,512,045
Add: Transfer from deferred revenue - prior year	427,268	455,962	393,780
Less: Transfer to deferred revenue - current year	-	(231,358)	(455,962)
Less: Transfer to contributions repayable	-	(33,174)	(21,852)
	1,506,875	1,411,772	1,428,011
Expenses			
Accounting and legal	47,000	43,001	44,345
Advertising and promotion	75,038	33,542	64,889
Amortization	-	24,230	22,581
Bad debts	-	-	4,753
Conferences and workshops	150,889	188,533	126,532
Dues and fees	10,910	10,164	10,817
Grants and contributions	141,655	104,562	65,902
Insurance	8,000	8,618	8,856
Interest and bank charges	2,500	4,717	3,375
Office	10,493	3,485	7,467
Program contractors	132,224	129,497	152,295
Program materials and supplies	70,450	36,243	61,519
Rent	20,503	21,812	25,344
Telephone and internet	16,394	13,632	16,050
Travel and accommodation	195,942	218,836	121,131
Wages and benefits	624,877	552,117	647,031
	1,506,875	1,392,989	1,382,887
Excess revenue	-	18,783	45,124
Transfer to tangible capital assets fund	-	-	(9,605)
Excess revenue after transfers	\$ -	\$ 18,783	\$ 35,519

Statement of Financial Position

For the year ended March 31,	2023	2022 (Restated)
Assets		
Current		
Cash	\$ 637,719	\$ 694,655
Accounts receivable	41,413	96,148
Prepaid expenses	1,002	1,026
	680,134	791,829
Restricted investments - Legacy and Contingency Funds	517,540	548,722
Tangible capital assets	107,903	132,133
	\$ 1,305,577	\$ 1,472,684
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 89,687	\$ 77,308
Payroll liabilities	58,046	42,602
Contributions repayable	33,174	21,852
Deferred revenue	231,358	455,962
	412,265	597,724
Fund Balances		
Unrestricted Net Assets	204,078	143,380
Internally Restricted Tangible Capital Assets Fund	107,903	132,133
Internally Restricted Legacy Fund	404,393	422,078
Endowment Rona Williams Tai Chi Fund	12,683	13,114
Internally Restricted Contingency Fund	164,255	164,255
	893,312	874,960
	\$ 1,305,577	\$ 1,472,684



The NWT Recreation and Parks Association's physical office is located in S̓m̓ba 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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Recreation for Life!

