



## **RECREATION Department**

### **ACTIVITY REPORT DECEMBER 2024 TO FEBRUARY 2025**

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The Recreation Department is responsible for delivering recreational programs within the region, with a special focus on the youth of Nunavik.

#### **PROJECTS**

The Putulik Memorial Cup was held in Salluit in late November 2024. Recreation advisors Emile Maheu and Ryan Angaotokalook assisted the Local Recreation Coordinator (LRC) in the weekend's logistics. Kangiqsualujuaq, Kangiqsujuaq, Inukjuak, Sanikiluaq and Salluit were the main teams competing in basketball, floor hockey and volleyball.

A Nunavik Recreation survey was launched on January 13, 2025. This survey explores various topics including: our department's services, recreational amenities in local facilities, and information on age categories we should target in regional programs. A follow-up on this survey will be done in April 2025 during the LRC training week.

#### **COLLABORATION**

A regional conference call took place in late January, and all LRC were invited to take part. Various organizations such as our department, Makivvik's sport and youth initiatives department, Nunavik Volleyball, Nunavik Soccer, and ESUMA were invited to present their mandates, plans for winter and spring, and to relay all necessary messages to local communities. It was also good to communicate our plans so that when we plan our upcoming events, we don't overlap one another.

We have received numerous requests on how we can get community facilities renovated and/or worked on. We have been in touch with Municipal Public Works (MPW) on how we can manage these requests. Here are some clarifications that may help your Northern Villages:

- 'Maintenance' and 'renovations' are distinct works. The NVs are solely responsible for maintaining municipal facilities. MPW can assist in connecting the NVs with suppliers and contractors only and provide unofficial on-demand training.
- At times, NVs cannot perform regular maintenance due to staff shortages. The NVs must hire contractors to perform maintenance in those periods because the facilities should not be left without it.
- Some renovation works are possible when funds are available in MPW-managed programs. The due process begins with municipal resolutions requesting the projects under the programs.

- Makivik Sports and Youth Initiatives Department recently requested our support for the Avannaa Arctic Sports competition held in Ilulissat, Greenland in February 2025. Our Recreation Advisor, Ryan Angatookalook was part of the logistical team and assisted the project.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

RTADA Aysa Bakir and director Emma Cain attended the Dialogue for Life conference in Montreal in late November 2024. Workshops included:

- Activating trauma: an informed approach
- Applied suicide intervention skills
- Living works safe talk: train-the-trainer
- Safe talk in youth
- Mental health, self care, and internal work: how culture applies to these topics

The KRG Recreation team travelled to Kuujjuaraapik in December 2024. Staff met to determine community visits for the next six months, to review department mandates, discuss areas that needs improvement and action plans for programs. Attendees included: Emma Cain, Ryan Angatookalook, Emile Maheu. Online: Elia Lauzon, Aysa Bakir and Philippe Chiasson.

## **COMMUNITY VISITS**

### **Salluit**

November 25 to December 2, 2024: Emile Maheu and Ryan Angatookalook visit with LRC Kelly Savidjuk to review the upcoming Putulik Memorial Tournament and assist in coordinating tournament logistics.

### **Puvirnitug**

January 13 to 17, 2025: RTADA Emile Maheu visited with LRC Putugu Tukulak to assist in various clerical work, and to finalize facility's renovation plans with the NV and KRG's MPW.

### **Kangiqsualujuaq**

January 12 to 17, 2025: RTADA Elia Lauzon met with LRC Vanita Weetaltuk to review funding needs of the community, visit facilities and personnel, support activities planned for the community, and to help prepare for the snowshoes sport trial in March.

### **Tasiujaq**

February 3 to 5, 2025: RTADA Elia Lauzon and director Emma Cain visited with the new LRC, Elisapee Cain Snowball, and discussed various training topics: general introductions from KRG to NV, basic trainings: organizing, budgeting, and reporting. The Ayagutak School asked for support in initiating Arctic Sports training.

### **Akulivik**

February 10 to 14, 2025: RTADA Emile Maheu visited the new LRC Saimma Aliqu. Basic training on KRG and NV's relationship were reviewed.

### **Kangiqsujuaq**

February 17 to 21, 2025: RTADA Aysa Bakir visited with the LRC Sarina Suppa.

## **Inukjuak**

February 17 to 20, 2025: RTADA Ryan Angatookalook visited with the LRC Aloupa Epoo-Mina.

Although our mandate applies to recreational programs, development, and staff trainings, we find that related challenges remain, such as the relationship among Recreation staff with staff of the municipalities. LRC are expressing discouragement with their workplaces. Transparency between municipal staff and recreation staff needs to improve to keep us working together to provide the opportunities that our youth and communities are seeking. Our message to municipalities is that if you need assistance in bridging the gap between you and your staff, we are more than happy to assist.

## **LRC TRAINING**

Sports for Life Summit (Ottawa, January 20-25, 2025)

Attendees:	Kuujjuaraapik:	Minnie Ittoshat & Mary Tuckatuck
	Inukjuak:	Aloupa Epoo-Mina
	Puvirnitug:	Putugu Tukalak
	Kangiqsualujjuaq:	Vanita Weetaltuk
	KRG Recreation:	Emma Cain, Aysa Bakir, Emile Maheu, Elia Lauzon, Ryan Angatookalook

Sessions and workshops included: values-based leadership in sports management, Indigenous sport and recreation initiatives, Beyond Boundaries: Reimagining sport without racism, creating diverse spaces in sport leadership, physical literacy, and intercultural skills development

RPAN Youth training opportunity will be held in Iqaluit, Nunavut during the week of June 9, 2025. We are currently planning on recruiting LRCs and an animator to participate in this opportunity to share organizational skills and basic first aid with younger staff hired to work in sports facilities.

## **CIRQINIQ**

Winter tours are now set for the following communities:

Kuujjuaq – January 28 to February 13, 2025

Umiujaq – mid-February 2025

Tasiujaq – March 25 to April 7, 2025

Kangirsuk – March 26 to April 8, 2025

Quaqtaq – April 2 to 15, 2025

Cirkaskina Training opportunity – May 8 to 12, 2025

## **ARCTIC WINTER GAMES**

The next Arctic Winter Games take place in Whitehorse, Yukon, from March 8 to 15, 2026.

## **Host society briefings**

Meetings have restarted after a pause during the holidays. All technical packages and age groups have been reviewed. From now until AWG meetings in Whitehorse from June 17 to 19, we continue monthly host society update meetings and technical committee/chef council meetings.

## **AWG charter**

Due to unforeseen events with the initial tender, we had to launch a new call for tender for the charter. The call closed on December 9 and the contract was awarded on January 17. We're happy to report that Air Inuit has been awarded the contract and we'll be using a Canadian North aircraft to bring the team to Whitehorse for the 2026 AWG. An initial discussion has taken place with the airline to determine the number of extra seats that can be provided for families following the team. More details will be shared at the next Council meeting in May.

## **Clothing**

A public tender call for clothing was issued on November 4 and closed on December 12, 2024. Only one bid was received but this bid did not meet our technical requirements. The coordinator revised the technical specification and details and a new call for tender was launched the week of January 27 and closed on February 19. A call for tender by invitation was also launched that same week for traditional clothing.

## **Coaches**

All coaches and alternates selected have received confirmation emails with information on training requirements for the team and for the Arctic Winter Games, including:

- 1- safe sports training (knowledge and skills to create healthy and safe environments by recognizing, addressing and preventing maltreatment in sport)
- 2- mental health in sports (supporting the well-being of participants in their sport programs, while also supporting their own mental health)
- 3- making headway in sport (knowledge and skills needed to prioritize participant safety, including concussion protocols)

Also, we will have coaching opportunities that include tryouts, training sessions and a coaching clinic in September 2025.

## **Sports tryouts 2025 – cultural selection**

A host application form was sent to Northern Villages and local stakeholders on November 25 to invite applications for hosting one of five sports events between March and June 2025. The deadline to apply was extended to January 20. We received four applications: Inukjuak, Salluit, Umiujaq and Kangiqsualujjuaq. After analyzing the applications and discussions, the following tryout dates and hosts have been confirmed: Kangiqsualujjuaq snowshoe tryout from March 14-17. Umiujaq: Dene Games from March 21-24, and Arctic Sports at end of April. Inukjuak: table tennis from April 4-7, and badminton from April 11-14.

For the cultural team, we will be in contact with all applicants to follow up on the selection process. A small video of their performance may be requested for registration. We will have a minimum of three groups in training before the departure in March 2026. More details to come.

## **Online application for athletes and cultural group**

Athletes and cultural artists interested in trying out can still apply online until February 28. The application portal opened on November 14, and individuals can only register for one sport or the cultural group. The link is available on Team Nunavik Quebec Facebook page and on promotional posters around your community. For more info, please contact us on the TNQ Facebook page.

On January 28, we had 101 applications. Those include: 37 for Dene, 22 for badminton, 15 for table tennis, 14 for arctic sports, 8 for snowshoe and 5 for cultural.

### Promotion posters, social media posts and FM radio announcements

Promotional posters were finalized on January 15. Each NV, school and local organizations received a copy by email on January 23 and we asked everyone to print and post them in their community. FM promotion for applications and tryouts was made in the first week of February.

### Sports introduction and training sessions

We are exploring the possibility of past and present athletes to be part of this project. If you are available to travel in one or multiple communities during the year, we are looking for individuals that can assist gym teachers, recreation coordinators, animators or individuals in communities to plan sessions around traditional sports like Inuit Games but also Dene games and other sports that Team Nunavik is involved in at the AWG, such as table tennis, badminton and snowshoeing.

If you are interested, please send a message to AWG coordinator Philippe Chiasson at [pchiasson@krg.ca](mailto:pchiasson@krg.ca) or [krgrecreation@krg.ca](mailto:krgrecreation@krg.ca)

### DEPARTMENT STAFF

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