



RECREATION Department

ACTIVITY REPORT MARCH TO MAY 2025

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

PROJECTS

Eastern Arctic Summer Games 2025: The community of Kuujjuaraapik/Whapmagoostui has expressed interest in hosting the EASG this coming summer. We are in the early stages of planning and providing support. If all proceeds as expected, our team will be actively involved in supporting the event.

We launched the Nunavik Recreation Survey in early January but received a limited response from the LRC. We are currently working on increasing engagement from the region.

COLLABORATION

Nunavik Recreation conference calls have been taking place at the end of each month. During the calls, coordinators share ideas from their communities and express interest in additional training opportunities that we provide. In response, we've begun reaching out to several organizations to arrange sessions in Wildlife Advanced First Aid, Basic First Aid, and Animator Training. Additionally, a training facilitator – a former Recreation Coordinator from Kuujjuaq – will be contracted to help train communities in operating recreation programs. More details on this initiative will be shared soon.

In early March, the Director travelled to Montreal to participate in a meeting with the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission focused on Women and Girls in Sports. During the meeting, we proposed action plans and made recommendations to promote and enhance sports and physical activity among women and girls.

In early April, the AWG Coordinator and the Director attended the All-Organizations meeting, where we had the opportunity to speak about our department and discuss future collaborations. We also voiced concerns regarding the limited implementation of recreation programs across the region and emphasized the importance of staying informed on community events.

We have also started reaching out to other organizations to explore collaboration opportunities. We've been in contact with both Qarjuit Youth Council and Makivvik, and we're excited to see a growing sense of unity and shared purpose as we move forward together.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

On March 28, Coordinator Elia Lauzon traveled to Montreal to receive training on supporting youth in crisis. This training is designed to help us better understand and address the mental and physical well-being of young people, enabling us to be more prepared. The content of this training will be reintroduced during the upcoming LRC training in June.

COMMUNITY VISITS

Salluit

February 26 to March 1: RTADA Emile Maheu visited the municipality to discuss the importance of upholding swimming pool guidelines, including safety equipment, operational procedures, lifeguard training, and overall pool management. With a background as a lifeguard in Kuujuaq, Emile is now working on enhancing pool-related content across Nunavik.

If your municipality requires assistance with training or would like support, please don't hesitate to reach out—we're happy to exchange ideas and collaborate.

Next visit will be on May 18, 2025, to visit the newly hired LRC, Mary Papigatuk.

Ivujivik

From March 2-5, Emile visited the newly hired LRC, Lucasi Iyaituk to train basics. He will re-visit the community as his trip was cut short due to weather related issues. His next visit will be on May 23, for further training and support.

Kangiqsualujjuaq

March 13-17, Elia Lauzon visited the LRC and met with Vanita Weetaltuk during AWG tryouts to explore expanding training opportunities in collaboration with LRCs from other communities.

Umiujaq

On April 30, Elia Lauzon visited the newly hired LRC, Akulia Anowak, to assist with basic recreation-related tasks and help with preparations for upcoming Dene Games tryouts in May.

Staff update

Due to current staffing shortages, fewer communities have been visited over the past few months. Community visits will resume once AWG tryouts are complete. The Director will continue to work closely with Human Resources to try and recruit new employees to join the Recreation team.

LRC TRAINING

Training for the Ungava Coast LRC is scheduled for the end of June, with Hudson Coast training to follow in July. We've received training requests from each LRC and are currently working on coordinating and confirming the organizations that will deliver the sessions.

Here are the training topics currently planned:

- Animator training
- Basic first aid
- Creating a healthy recreation work environment
- Application processes for various funding programs
- Mental health awareness
- Community engagement planning
- Recreation summer jobs for youth
- Nunavik Summer Camp funding

A RPAN Youth Training opportunity is scheduled to take place in Iqaluit, Nunavut during the week of June 9. We are in the process of recruiting LRCs and an animator to participate in this initiative, which aims to provide younger staff working in sports facilities with organizational skills and basic first aid training. Invitations were sent out during the first week of May, and we expect to announce the list of confirmed participants by the end of the month.

CIRQINIQ

The 2025 winter tours have been completed with the following communities visited:

Kuujjuaq – January 28 to February 13

Umiujaq – mid-February

Tasiujaq – March 25 to April 7

Kangirsuk – March 26 to April 8

Quaqtaq – April 2 to 15

Cirqiniq offers training opportunities for junior instructors. Upcoming Cirkaskina training will be held near Montreal from May 8-12, and we are excited to have five junior instructors participating:

- Umiujaq: Noriko Tooktoo, Selena Tooktoo
- Puvirnituk: Laina Kenuajuak
- Kuujjuaq: Charlie Saunders
- Kangiqsualujjuaq: Poasie Morgan

Junior instructors have also been actively practicing and continuing local workshops in their communities to promote and sustain the circus program. An additional Junior Instructor Training Camp will take place in Kuujjuaq just before the main summer camp for youth.

The Summer Camp will take place in Kuujjuaq from June 22-28, with youth from Ungava traveling to participate. Online registration forms were launched in early April, and we are starting to receive more applicants.

All relevant information (flyer) has been posted around communities, on Facebook, and through Tuttavik radio.

ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

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

Host society briefing update

From now until AWG meetings in Whitehorse from June 17-19, we continue monthly host society update meetings and technical committee/chef council meetings.

AWG Charter

An initial discussion has taken place with Air Inuit, and the conclusion is that the team will be using a 737-700 aircraft from Canadian North to have enough seats for the team, and for family and special guests. A formal invitation and detailed information for families and spectators will be made by the end of September, when we announce our team's final roster.

Clothing

Calls for tenders for parkas and sports clothing were finalized at the beginning of March. We're happy to report that Victoria Okpik will be designing Team Nunavik Quebec parkas for the 2026 games. An initial in-person meeting, fitting and feedback session happened on April 10 in Montreal with Philippe Chiasson and Emma Cain. The production will start in June and a presentation of the men and women parkas will be possible at the next RC meeting. On April 11, Philippe also met with our team clothing supplier, Affiliated sports group, from the Lachine, Quebec area. The purpose of the visit was to tour their main office and production site, discuss potential designs and logistics and timelines. More discussions are to come with updates at the next RC meeting. Production is scheduled to start by the end of September 2025.

Donation

The technical director of Badminton Québec, Christian Guibourt, has offered a great donation of various (new and slightly used) badminton equipment and clothing items that we'll be distributing to a selection of communities interested. We also had the pleasure of having him part of the badminton tryouts in Inukjuak.

Sports tryouts 2025

Four tryouts have taken place since March:

March 14-17: Snowshoeing in Kangiqsualujjuaq, and mini-tryout in Kuujjuaq from March 31 to April 1

April 4-7: Table tennis in Inukjuak

April 11-14: Badminton in Inukjuak

May 2-5: Arctic Sports in Kangirsujuaq

In total, 100 athletes, 9 coaches and 3 mission staff were involved in these tryouts.

We received 208 applications for AWG tryouts. Applications included 33 for coaches/managers, 167 for sports (22 snowshoeing, 19 table tennis, 31 badminton, 27 arctic sports and 68 Dene games) and 8 for cultural.

A big thank you to everyone involved in the logistics of the tryouts and in giving the athletes an opportunity to experience this and have fun while performing in their sport. Also, a big thanks to Air Inuit, the northern villages, cooks and caterers, school administration and employees, night guards, helpers, bus drivers, and local coordinators that made these events happen.

Online application for cultural group

A second application for cultural artists was made available online and the deadline was May 9. We received a total of 9 applications. The final group will be a maximum of 6 artists. For those who have not sent their small performance video, please do so. We will be in contact with all applicants to follow up on their application and the next steps. We are also looking at finalizing our Mission staff and managers within the coming month.

Pin contest

On May 12, we launched our pin contest, inviting Nunavik artists to submit drawings for the Team Nunavik Pin for the 2026 AWG. 2026 will also mark Team Nunavik's first time participating as a full member of the Arctic Winter Games. An owl pin design has been representing the team for many years now and with the team's new role within AWG, we want to feature Nunavik's unique artistic talent to create a one-of-a-kind piece that showcases the region. We are accepting drawings until June 20.

AWG souvenir photo album

A photo album featuring all 2024 AWG athletes, cultural artists, coaches and managers was sent to each northern village office. For those who haven't received them, please contact us.

Upcoming

Sports-specific training: We are planning training during the year with team-sport specific training sessions for Snowshoeing, Table Tennis, Badminton, Arctic Sports and Dene Game. Some training plans and timelines will be finalized in the coming weeks, with several training plans starting as soon as June 2025.

Cultural training: Once the selection is done, we are planning for at least three separate training sessions between June 2025 and February 2026.

Coaching session: This will take place in Kuujuaq on the weekend of September 13-14. The Aboriginal Coaching Modules (ACM) is an eight-hour session that will be offered over two days by facilitator Peter Montour from Kahnawake. We have a maximum of 20 available spots. The priority is for the selected team Nunavik coaches but if we do not fill all the spots, we'll open the registration to individuals around the region that would like to follow the training. More information will be posted on our Facebook page in June.

For more details, please send a message to AWG Coordinator, Philippe Chiasson, at pchiasson@krg.ca or krgrecreation@krg.ca .

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