



RECREATION Department

ACTIVITY REPORT JUNE TO SEPTEMBER 2025

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

PARTNERSHIPS

As outlined in a resolution to Council, a partnership agreement is pending between the Canadian Football League (CFL) and the KRG. The CFL would like to introduce a flag football program to youth in Nunavik. The initial launch of the program is scheduled for September 9–11, 2025, during which CFL representatives will deliver the core programming. Our team will support the delivery by assisting with a football clinic and coordinating local participation. Further updates will be provided at the next Regional Council meeting.

COLLABORATIONS

Participants from Nunavik attended the RPAN Animator Training in Iqaluit, Nunavut from June 15 to 22 where they learned how to organize summer camp schedules and received an introduction to first-aid training. The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, with strong interest expressed in expanding access to similar training opportunities.

Kuujuaq Graffiti Mural Support - Kuujjamiut Inc. is leading a community graffiti art project aimed at engaging youth in Kuujuaq. The initiative brings together multiple partners, including the Qarjuit Youth Committee and KRG Recreation, to collaborate on the planning and execution of the mural. The goal is to provide a creative outlet for youth while addressing ongoing concerns around graffiti vandalism in the community. The project will offer Kuujuaq youth a constructive and artistic activity, while also serving as a unique collaboration opportunity for our department outside of the traditional Northern Village framework.

Nunavik Cross-Country Integration – RTADA Emile Maheu is currently in discussions with the RSEQ (Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec) to explore the possibility of recognizing Nunavik as an official region for participation in the upcoming Québec cross-country championships.

This initiative complements Arctic Winter Games (AWG) preparation program, as cross-country running is considered the summer training counterpart to snowshoe racing. Involvement in

provincial-level events will help Nunavik athletes build endurance, gain race experience, and better prepare for competitive snowshoe events at the AWG. A joint action plan is being developed to define the required steps, logistics, and timelines for Nunavik's integration.

Participants in the discussions include:

- Éric Boucher – Director General, RSEQ Côte-Nord
- Alain Groleau – Director General, RSEQ Abitibi-Témiscamingue
- Karine Mayrand – Director General, RSEQ Lac St-Louis
- Marie-Claude Lamontagne – School Sector Lead
- Olivier Audet – Assistant Director, RSEQ

COMMUNITY VISITS

Kangiqualujuaq – July 22-26

Elia Lauzon visited George River community to connect with Recreation activities taking place at the local community center. There was discussion of problems faced by staff facilitating activities, how best to support them with the available capacity, and to better understand why there is no access to funding for the community center. A follow-up visit took place from August 24 to 30.

All communities are set to resume activities for the rest of the year.

CIRQINIQ

The Kuujuaq Summer Camp was successfully held from June 22 to 28. Our staff played a key role in supporting the Cirqiniq Summer Camp, contributing to coordination efforts, engaging with youth, and assisting instructors throughout the week.

In addition, we successfully integrated the Nunavik Rocks Music Program alongside Cirqiniq activities, offering youth a broader range of creative and educational experiences.

LOCAL RECREATION COORDINATOR TRAINING

RPAN have launched their next conference that will take place in Iqaluit, Nunavut. We are inviting our LRC to attend to gain more experience in recreation and facility training.

ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

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

Key AWG organizing meetings

From June 17–19, the host society, Whitehorse, hosted AWG meetings, bringing together chefs and assistant chefs de mission for three days of collaboration, planning and discovery. The schedule included engaging presentations, venue tours and important logistical discussions to prepare for the upcoming Games. The atmosphere was positive, with strong connections built

and valuable insights shared. With the groundwork now set, this upcoming Games is shaping up to be an amazing experience for all teams involved.

AWG Charter

Following discussions with Canadian North, we are pleased to report that there will be extra seats available for families and spectators wishing to travel to the Games. The exact number of seats will be announced at the end of September, alongside the release of the TNQ roster. Seats will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority given to families of athletes and artists participating in the Games. Detailed information, including travel responsibilities, will also be provided at that time. Please note that there will not be reserved plane seats.

AWG Clothing

Team clothing: Designs are currently in development, with production planned between October and December. The official presentation of the team clothing will be shared on our Facebook page, followed by an in-person unveiling at the first Council meeting in 2026.

Cultural group

We are in the final stages of selecting our cultural artists and manager(s) for the group. An announcement will be made at the end of September.

Pin contest

From June 6 to July 7, a TNQ Pin Contest invited Nunavik artists to submit original designs for the 2026 AWG. In total, three drawings were submitted. A panel of seven judges reviewed the entries and selected the winning design.

On August 25, we announced the contest winner, and presented Sarah Khan with her prize. Her design will proudly represent our region at the 2026 AWG.

Masters Indigenous Games

During May, announcements were posted on Team Nunavik Facebook page on the participation of six Nunavik athletes in the Masters Indigenous Games in Ottawa from August 14 to 17. These Games provides Indigenous adults, aged 19 years and older, the opportunity to compete against their peers in a variety of contemporary and traditional sporting activities. The Games brought together thousands of Indigenous athletes from around the world to compete in sport competitions, celebrate Indigenous wellness and showcase the rich diversity of cultures and traditions of the world's Indigenous Peoples. This year, we were approached to send athletes from Arctic sports, and to observe coach and official training in Arctic Sports.

Artificial turf field enquiry

We have reached out to a company regarding turf products after positive feedback from athletes at the recent 2024 summer games held in Sanikiluaq. Our enquiry focused on obtaining detailed information about their turf systems, including technical and environmental requirements for outdoor installations in remote and northern communities. Additionally, we explored options for using turf or similar systems as seasonal covers for indoor ice rinks. We requested brochures and technical specifications to better inform communities that might be interested in the product. For more information, send a message to kgrecreation@kg.ca.

Ongoing and Upcoming

Sports specific training

The snowshoeing team will be training with our coaches, mission staff, and our new contractor, Derrick Spafford from Health and Adventure. Derrick is an experienced distance runner and coach specializing in snowshoe running. With a background in working with athletes of all ability levels, we're very excited to have him on board to support our training leading up to the AWG.

Planning is currently under review to better facilitate training for other sports, including table tennis, badminton, Arctic sports and Dene. Arrangements are also being considered to support the cultural group's preparation.

Coaching session

Aboriginal Coaching Modules (ACM) training will take place in Kuujjuaq on September 13–14. This eight-hour session will be facilitated by Peter Montour from Kahnawake. On August 10, a Facebook post invited six individuals from the region to join several TNQ coaches for this valuable training opportunity. For more details, please send a message to the coordinator, Philippe Chiasson, at pchiasson@krg.ca or krgrecreation@krg.ca

DEPARTMENT STAFF

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RTADA: Recreation Technical Assistance and Development Advisor