



RECREATION Department

ACTIVITY REPORT SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 2025

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

COLLABORATION

Our partnership with the Canadian Football League (CFL) will provide an exciting opportunity for youth engagement. On September 26, four youth were invited to attend the Montreal Alouettes game, where they received special recognition from the crowd. Their enthusiasm and appreciation highlighted the value of such experiences. Promotional materials from this collaboration between CFL and KRG will be featured during our presentation to the Council.

We also initiated discussions on a potential strategic partnership at the regional level. An online meeting was held with stakeholders to explore collaborative planning. While these conversations are still in early stages, further steps will set a structured framework, including clearly defined roles and responsibilities for hosting joint events. Follow-up meetings are scheduled for early 2026.

This year, we opted not to attend the annual Recreation Conference in Iqaluit. Instead, our focus remains on addressing the unique needs of Nunavik communities. We plan to seek support from conference organizers specifically for training initiatives tailored to our region.

Improving collaboration between KRG and local municipalities remains a priority. Communication challenges persist across several communities. To address this, Recreation Coordinator Elia Lauzon and I conducted a site visit to George River, which proved highly beneficial. We aim to continue these community visits across all 14 municipalities over the next two years. These visits allow us to better understand local cultures, assess staffing challenges, and strengthen relationships between municipalities and recreation services.

Achieving long-term goals for recreation in Nunavik requires a renewed commitment to staff retention and direct support. By fostering stronger connections and providing hands-on guidance, we can build a more resilient and responsive recreation network. Visuals reinforcing this message will be shared in the presentation to Council.

DEPARTMENTAL DEVELOPMENT

Strategic Planning and Capacity Building

As part of our ongoing development efforts, the department focused on several foundational elements to guide long-term planning and employee sustainability. These included:

- Team Meetings – Regular sessions to foster collaboration, share updates, and align departmental goals
- Decisions Log – A centralized record of key decisions to ensure transparency and continuity
- Partnerships – Strengthening relationships with external organizations to enhance program delivery and innovation
- Wellbeing Framework – Establishing principles and practices to support staff wellness and resilience
- Decision-Making Methods – Implementing structured approaches to ensure inclusive and effective decision processes

Together, these initiatives will contribute to the creation of a long-term framework that defines the future direction of recreation and reinforces our commitment to employee support.

Leadership Development

To build internal capacity, staff members are enrolled in a Leadership Training Program offered by Rec North. This bi-weekly online course runs through Spring and culminates in a certification. Plans are in place to extend this program to Local Recreation Coordinators in 2026.

Additionally, Director Emma Cain has joined McGill University's Public Administration and Governance courses to deepen her expertise and bring valuable insights to the department.

COMMUNITY VISITS

November 16-21 – Elia Lauzon and Emile Maheu travelled to Kangiqsualujjuaq to finalize local recreation structure and strategic planning.

October 8-12 – Emile Maheu travelled to Inukjuak to meet with the Local Recreation Coordinator.

CIRQINIQ

Cirqiniq is undergoing an exciting transformation – that places inclusivity at the heart of its mission and reflects the vibrant diversity of our region. As we embark on this new chapter, we want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the growth and resilience of Cirqiniq over the years. Your dedication has laid the foundation for what comes next.

Looking ahead, Cirqiniq is embracing a renewed vision that fosters meaningful partnerships with existing programs, weaves arts and culture more deeply into our offerings, and creates space for new voices and perspectives. We are committed to building a program that reflects and uplifts the communities we serve.

As part of this change, we are planning a cultural event to take place by the end of the year. This gathering will celebrate many aspects of our traditions, including Elder-led discussions, arts and crafts, hunting, beading, workshops, and general community connection. While details are still being finalized, our goal is to make this a regional event that brings people together in a spirit of unity and cultural pride.

This is more than a transition... it's a new beginning. We are filled with hope and excitement for what lies ahead.

ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

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

Athlete confirmation letter

From September 9 to October 22, confirmation letters were sent to individuals that have been chosen to be part of the team. Most rosters have been finalized except for under-18 female and open-male Dene Games teams. There will be a selection of athletes chosen to participate in a mini-tryout, with dates and host community to be confirmed, to make final roster selections.

Cultural group

We have made our first selections as part of the first group of cultural artists invited to train and prepare for the upcoming AWG. We are planning three cultural training sessions between December 2025 and February 2026 to prepare our final team. While this first selection includes eight participants, the final team will include six artists.

Snowshoeing team training

Seven Nunavik athletes traveled to Kingston, Ontario in late October to participate in two races: a four-kilometre, cross-country and an eight-kilometre trail run. It was an opportunity for the team to meet running coach Derrick Spafford and strengthen connections. It was also great to see the strong team building that developed. It was also an opportunity for the group to understand how training watches work and to get tips on training and techniques. The group received donations from Runners Choice, Queen's University, and the Kingston Road Runners Association, as well as a few souvenirs from Spafford Health and Adventure.

Team sponsorship

The first correspondence was sent on August 12 to multiple contacts in Nunavik. Should you require more information on Team Nunavik-Québec sponsorship possibilities, our AWG Coordinator, Philippe Chiasson, can be reached by email at pchiasson@krg.ca or at 819-469-9417. Also note that, once your organization's contribution has been received, the KRG will be able to issue an official receipt for tax deduction purposes.

Team Nunavik sports training

For all AWG athletes and artists that have been chosen, please contact us if you need specific equipment or need training. We'll also be discussing training opportunities over the next several months with team coaches.

Ongoing and upcoming – coaching session

We are planning a second coach training course, the Aboriginal Coaching Modules, in December. More details will be posted on the Team Nunavik Facebook page.

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

DEPARTMENT STAFF

Staff Name	Position	Extension	Email	Location
Emma Cain	Director	819-964-2961 ext 2318	ecain@krg.ca	Kuujuaq
Elia Lauzon	Coordinator	819-964-2961 ext 2220	elauzon@krg.ca	Kuujuaq
Émile Maheu	RTADA	819-964-2961 ext 2492	emaheu@krg.ca	Kuujuaq
Aysa Bakir	RTADA	819-964-2961 ext 2403	abakir@krg.ca	Kuujuaq
Vacant	RTADA			
Vacant	RTADA			
Philippe Chiasson	AWG Coordinator	819-469-9417	pchiasson@krg.ca	Remote

Recreation Department Offices
Kuujuaq - Tel: (819) 964-2961
RTADA: Recreation Technical Assistance and Development Advisor