

SPORT, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND RECREATION BRANCH - SPAR -



September 2021

COVID-19 Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation (SPAR) Update

The Government of Alberta (GoA) and Alberta Health Services (AHS) have declared a Public Health Emergency and announced temporary enhanced health measures. Further information is available at www.alberta.ca/enhancedpublic-health-measures.aspx.

Please contact the SPAR Branch SPAR@gov.ab.ca or your respective SPAR consultant if you have any questions.

Alberta Athletes at the Tokyo Paralympic Games

Congratulations to the Alberta athletes that were named to Team Canada for the Tokyo Paralympic Games from August 24 - September 5, 2021.

Canada sent 128 athletes, including a total of 20 Alberta athletes, to compete at the Tokyo Paralympic Games. Canada won 21 medals at the Paralympic Games in Tokyo. Alberta athletes won three medals.

Congratulations to Kate O'Brien (silver), Stefan Daniels (bronze), and Morgan Bird (bronze).

Freedom to Care Act

The Freedom to Care Act took effect on September 1, 2021. It supports the province's recovery as nonprofits provide critical programs and services in our communities by:

- making it easier for nonprofits to identify and access existing exemptions to regulations
- creating a process for nonprofits to apply for one-time, short-term exemptions from regulations – if an exemption does not already exist
- introducing new liability protections for volunteers who are acting in good faith within their scope of duties

Under the Freedom to Care Act:

- Cabinet (through an Order in Council) can now grant one-time, short-term exemptions for nonprofits from Government of Alberta regulations intended for business, where an exemption does not already exist
- the Minister of Culture is now required to report annually to Cabinet on exemption applications that cannot be addressed through existing processes or legislation
- individual volunteers are now protected from liability claims, if certain conditions are met, through ‘volunteer liability protections’

Please visit the [Freedom to Care website](#) for further information.

National Coaches Week - September 18-26, 2021

National Coaches Week is here! It is the time to celebrate the positive impact coaches have on athletes and communities across Canada. Take the time to say #ThanksCoach for their time, effort, and generosity both on and off the field of play.

Log into [The Locker](#) to access all of the free eLearning modules available from September 18 - 26, 2021.

The [NCCP Multi Sport Module Calendar](#) has the most up-to-date listing of NCCP modules offered in Alberta. There are 13 online modules offered during National Coaches Week, including Alberta’s first Make Ethical Decision module delivered in French!

National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) Updates

Leading Drug-free Sport has been updated and adapted into a single eLearning training and evaluation module. The new Leading Drug-free Sport eLearning module introduces new and experienced coaches to the values of

fairness, excellence, inclusion, and fun in the context of drug-free and clean sport.

Other NCCP multi-sport modules now available through eLearning include:

- NCCP Sport Nutrition
- NCCP Initiation in Sport
- NCCP Coaching Athletes with a Disability
- NCCP Making Headway

The updated fall schedule for online and in-person NCCP multi-sport modules are listed on the website. Coaches can register for the eLearning modules through [The Locker](#).

Arctic Winter Games Mission Staff

The Ministry of Culture and Status of Women invites applications for Mission Staff volunteer positions for Team Alberta North at the 2023 Arctic Winter Games, happening January 29 - February 4, 2023, in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, Alberta.

Mission Staff have a key role as members of Team Alberta North acting as a liaison between individual sports and the Arctic Winter Games organizational structure. Up to nine Mission Staff members residing north of the 55th parallel will be selected to represent the sport community in northern Alberta. Mission Staff members are volunteers who do not receive payment for their services or compensation for time off work. Pre-approved travel and other expenses required to perform duties will be provided.

Please distribute this information to anyone within your sport community who may be qualified, reside within the [eligible communities](#), and who may be interested in becoming a member of Team Alberta North's Mission Staff for the 2023 Arctic Winter Games. Those interested in applying are asked to review the Mission Staff responsibilities and complete the Team Alberta [online application](#).

Deadline to apply is **Friday, October 15, 2021**. For additional information, please contact Michelle Deering (Chef de Mission) at michelle.deering@gov.ab.ca or Steven Patrick (Assistant Chef de Mission), at steven.patrick@gov.ab.ca.

Positive Youth Development through Sport

SPARC Alberta is a three-year collaborative project with key leaders in the SPAR sector. The goal is to build on the commitment and dedication within the SPAR sector to take a province-wide approach that results in a cultural shift in Alberta towards intentional positive youth development through sport.

SPARC Alberta is offering a FREE training course that is aligned with other healthy child development champions, including HIGH FIVE and Sport for Life.

This training is designed for coaches, leaders, and volunteers who support children and youth in community and recreational sport programs. By utilizing the Positive Youth Development (PYD) Framework, this training brings together tips, tools, and strategies to help coaches, leaders, and volunteers (including caregivers and supporters within a sports program) create positive sport experiences for children and youth.

Go to the SPARC Alberta website to learn more. [Registration is now open.](#)

Exciting New Changes coming to SPAR Social Media

Changes to SPAR Branch social media are happening. We are pleased to announce a new Ministry of Culture and Status of Women SPAR Branch Facebook page that will provide you with content related to the SPAR Branch and broader sector news. Learn about our programs, our projects, and the fantastic sector that we support.

Team AB and Alberta Games followers, friends, and fans! We will also bring together our Team Alberta and Alberta Games accounts to provide you with all the related content you have come to expect and appreciate from us about the games. Get all the great information you have come to expect from us on our Team Alberta and Alberta Games feeds all in one place!

If you are a follower on the channels, you will not need to change anything; the new look channels will be up and running at the end of September. Please contact the SPAR Branch SPAR@gov.ab.ca or contact your respective SPAR consultant with any questions.

Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA) Professional Development Certification

Working in the recreation and parks sector requires a unique and diverse set of knowledge, skills, and attitudes. The CPRA Professional Development Certification Program (CPRA PDC) fosters continual growth of these competencies through accessible professional development opportunities and creates a national standard and network that will strengthen the credibility and quality of its practitioners.

Professional Development is vital for creating a healthy and adaptable workforce. CPRA Professional Development Certification helps to enhance the quality of services and programs.

This program is available to all Canadian professionals and practitioners who are active members of a provincial or territorial recreation and parks association.

[Register now](#) for Fall 2021 courses.

Board Leadership Alberta

“Collaborating to Provide Relevant and Accessible Training for Not-for-Profit Volunteer Sector Groups and Organizations”

Free online sessions are available on September 23, and October 4, 2021 from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. on both days.

- *September 23th - How to Make the Most Communicating Virtually*

This session will help participants lay the foundation for future success. We will review some of the basic elements of a successful brand, discuss how to tell your brand story, and look at some of the many tools available to help streamline your marketing efforts.

Presenter - Brian Siddle - Director, Strong Coffee Marketing

- *October 4th - Governing in Changing Times*

This session offers perspectives on leading in a changed and changing not-forprofit environment. Governing in uncertain times requires board members to shift how they lead, work together, and make decisions. Building awareness of

and understanding trends in the not-for-profit, social, political, and economic environments can help leaders navigate change.

Presenter - Mike Grogan - Executive Director of IntegralOrg.

For more information and to register please visit the [Board Leadership Alberta website](#).

ParticipACTION launches new app

ParticipACTION is pleased to announce the launch of a new premium app experience that supports the health and wellness needs of organizations through physical activity. **ParticipACTION+** is an easy low cost tool that easily integrates into existing wellbeing plans to support physical and mental health and improve organizational culture.

ParticipACTION+ gives organizations access to:

- Fun and engaging group challenges
- Chances to win sweepstake prizes
- Robust engagement analytics to monitor progress
- Bilingual tools and resources to help spread the word about ParticipACTION+ and drive engagement in our active challenges

For more information and to get started on ParticipACTION+ head to the ParticipACTION [website or download from the Apps Store](#).

The 2021 Sport Canada Research Initiative (SCRI) virtual conference October 28-29,2021

The theme for the 2021 conference is The Future of Sport Participation. Coming out of an unpredictable and challenging year, this event focuses on what is next for sport. By bringing together Canada's thought-leadership, cutting-edge research, and the desire for change, together the sport community can re-envision sport.

The 15th annual Sport Canada Research Initiative (SCRI) virtual conference is free to everyone. The conference takes place on October 28 and 29, 2021.

[Go to the conference website](#) to learn more, and to register for the conference.

Online Concussion Course

Want to learn more about concussions? Take a free, non-credit online course on concussions! The University of Calgary, in collaboration with Université Laval, are once again offering the seven week online concussion course.

The course is to prevent, identify, and manage concussions, and is for parents, coaches, teachers, officials, school and sport administrators, health care professionals, policy makers, athletes, and anyone else who may have an interest in concussions.

Course Details

- Training: Monday, September 13 to Monday, November 8, 2021
- Last Day to Register: October 7, 2021
- Duration: 7 weeks (self-paced, but must be complete by November 8)
- Approximate effort: 1.5 to 2 hours / week

[Go to the University of Calgary website](#) to both learn more and to register for the course.

2021 Alberta Recreation and Parks Association (ARPA) Conference Registration is Open

Registration is now open for the 2021 ARPA Conference. The conference will be taking place with both in-person and virtual options.

Join Alberta Recreation and Parks Association In-person at Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise on October 28 - 30 or Virtually on November 2 - 4.

Go to the website for more information about the different registration options.

[Registration is now open.](#)

Petro-Canada Sport Leadership Conference November 3-5,2021

The Coaching Association of Canada (CAC) is pleased to partner with Petro-Canada to host this event in a virtual environment again this year.

The theme for the 2021 conference is *Let's Reignite Sport*. For sport to return better and stronger than before, the sport sector must maintain a people-first approach to wellness, apply inclusive practices, and develop sustainable, innovative business strategies.

Register by the end of September 30, 2021 and you will be entered into a draw for a chance to win free gas for a year, courtesy of Petro-Canada. The early bird registration fee is \$40.00.

[Registration is now open.](#)



CANADIAN SPORT
HELpline

1-888-83SPORT (77678)

8 am - 8 pm (ET)
7 days a week

info@abuse-free-sport.ca

www.abuse-free-sport.ca



Concussion Awareness

The [#HeadstrongCanada](#) campaign is based on the Government of Canada's Concussion Framework and the [Concussion Awareness toolkit](#), is designed to give every sport organization the resources they need to show they are concussion smart and to learn the key points in concussion awareness.

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