

# SPORT, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND RECREATION BRANCH - SPAR -



November 27, 2020

## COVID-19 updates for Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Organizations

As the community transmission and positivity rates of COVID-19 continue to increase in Alberta, the Government of Alberta has declared a province wide Public Health Emergency and has implemented new mandatory restrictions for [enhanced communities](#). These restrictions will have a direct impact on our SPAR stakeholders

As per the measures announced on Tuesday, November 24, please find below a summary of the restrictions that will be in place for Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation organizations and programs from Friday, November 27 to Tuesday December 15. These measures will be reassessed in December.

### **1. Businesses that are closed for in-person service include:**

- All levels of sport (professional, semi-professional, junior, collegiate/universities and amateur). Exemptions may be considered and will be approved by the CMOH.
- Some entertainment and event services may remain open with capacity limited to 25% of the occupancy set under the Alberta Fire Code.

### **2. Indoor fitness, recreation, sports and physical activity centers, including dance and yoga studios, martial arts, gymnastics and private or public swimming pools.**

- Facilities can be open for individual studio time, training or exercise only.

- There can be no group (3 or more) fitness, group classes, group training, team practices or competition.
- Instructors can use facility to broadcast virtual fitness classes from, but there can be no group class.
- One on one training/coaching is permitted provided physical distancing is permitted.

*Please note this is for enhanced areas only; all other areas must follow provincial COVID-19 Stage 2 Guidance.*

### **3. Outdoor Sports:**

- Outdoor gatherings are still in place for up to 10 people.
- Outdoor sport, recreation and physical activity is permitted, as long as they are physically distanced, follow guidance and abide by the outdoor gathering limit.
- Anyone playing hockey at an outdoor rink should observe physical distancing and abide by all public health measures.
- Ski hills can be open to the public

### **4. Exemptions:**

Given the seriousness of Alberta's current COVID-19 situation and the proposed duration of the measures (to be reviewed by December 15), exemption applications for sport will only be considered for those entities that can demonstrate adherence to the Guidance for Professional Sporting Events. This includes:

- Enforcing a mandatory 14-day "quarantine-in" procedure before any practice or play occurs and using a bubble model for the duration of the event.
- Access to dedicated facilities and transportation that are not open to the general public.
- Conducting daily health checks on all members of the team, and private testing team members upon entry into the bubble and every five days throughout events.
- Conducting a comprehensive risk assessment plan and implementing risk mitigation and controls before play begins.
- Completed plans can be sent to Alberta Health via Biz Connect at [BizConnect@gov.ab.ca](mailto:BizConnect@gov.ab.ca).

Please visit the following documents for more information:

<https://www.alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.aspx>

Please contact the [SPAR Branch](#) or contact your respective SPAR consultant with any further questions.

Alberta Health continues to review best practices and emerging research on sport, physical activity and recreation in the COVID-19 context.

## Alberta Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant

Alberta Jobs, Economy and Innovation's Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant offers financial assistance to Alberta businesses, cooperatives, and non-profit organizations that were ordered to close or curtail operations, and that experienced a revenue reduction of at least 40%, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eligible organizations can apply for 15% of their pre-COVID-19 monthly revenue, up to a maximum of \$5,000 in funding.

Businesses, cooperatives and non-profits can use these funds as they see fit to help offset a portion of their relaunch costs, such as implementing measures to minimize the risk of virus transmission, which could include:

- physical barriers
- purchasing personal protective equipment and disinfecting supplies
- paying rent and employee wages
- replacing inventory and more

Businesses, cooperatives and non-profit organizations that were ordered to close or curtail operations as a result of public health orders issued by Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health may be eligible.

Applications will be open until March 31, 2021 unless otherwise communicated.

Please visit [www.alberta.ca/sme-relaunch-grant.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/sme-relaunch-grant.aspx) for more information.

## Federal Support Programs

The following programs are available from the Government of Canada for those organizations affected by the recent Covid 19 restrictions and shut down.

### **1. Rent Subsidy**

- Eligible organizations include not for profits, and registered Canadian amateur athletic associations.
- The eligible expenses include rent, taxes, property insurance and interest on commercial mortgages.
- The maximum funding per period is \$75,000 per location, up to \$300,000 which is based on their loss of revenue they have experienced.
- Organizations are eligible for receive a % of their eligible expenses based on % of revenue they have lost.
- The time frame for calculation is Sept 27 2020 to June 2021, and does allow organizations to apply for retroactive expenses.

### **2. Lockdown Support**

- Qualifying organizations that are subject to a lockdown and must shut their doors or significantly limit their activities under a public health order may be eligible for additional Lockdown Support of 25 per cent of eligible expenses.

For more Information and application - [www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/2020/11/canada-emergency-rent-subsidy.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/2020/11/canada-emergency-rent-subsidy.html)

## **Canada Summer Games 2022**

The Canada Games Council (CGC) and Niagara Host Society have announced that the Canada Summer Games in Niagara have been officially rescheduled for August 6-21, 2022. These new dates were identified after consultation with each provincial/territorial team, National Sport Organizations (NSOs), sport/non-sport venues and all levels of government.

The new dates mean Niagara 2022's Opening Ceremony will now take place on Saturday, August 6th, 2022 at Meridian Centre in St. Catharines, while the Games' Closing Ceremony will fall on Sunday, August 21st, 2022 at Queen Victoria Park in Niagara Falls.

For more information on Team Alberta and the Canada Games go to

[albertasport.ca/team-alberta/canada-summer-games/](https://albertasport.ca/team-alberta/canada-summer-games/)

## Partnership with Nordiq Alberta to Groom Alberta Ski Trails

Nordiq Alberta and the Government of Alberta have partnered together for a one year pilot to create a program so Albertans are able to enjoy cross-country skiing on groomed trails this winter at Peter Lougheed Provincial Park, Evan-Thomas Provincial Recreation Area, Spray Valley Provincial Park and Sheep River Provincial Park. Winter trail grooming will begin December 1 or sooner, depending on snow conditions.

To support grooming operations, Nordiq Alberta is selling day and season passes to park at trail head parking lots in Kananaskis Country. Revenue from sales will pay for grooming costs.

Please visit the Nordiq Alberta website page for passes and volunteer recruitment:

[www.kananaskisgrooming.ca/](http://www.kananaskisgrooming.ca/)

## Positive Youth Development Through Sport and Physical Activity

SPARC Alberta is a three-year collaborative project with key leaders in the sport, physical activity, and recreation (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 envisions a future where all children and youth in Alberta have access to a sport environment that fosters equity, diversity, inclusion, and builds positive youth development in their own communities, to learn life-long skills, and to create healthy lifestyles.

To achieve their goal, SPARC Alberta plans to host a variety of engagement events with communities, organizations, governments, sector and industry leaders, parents and guardians, youth, and more.

Here is the recent video about the project: [www.sparcalberta.com/projects](http://www.sparcalberta.com/projects)

## North American Indigenous Games Council name new council President

Shannon Dunfield, Indigenous Sport Council Alberta Chair living in Grande Prairie, Alta., [was named to lead the NAIG Council](#) at its annual general meeting held virtually on October 28.

Dunfield is believed to be the first Métis to serve as council president in the organization's 30-year history.

## Register Today for the 2020 YDRS Online Series

The *Youth Development Through Recreation Services* (YDRS) Symposium is a bi-annual forum for advancing the knowledge about the contributions of recreation programs and services. It aims to provide information about children and youth development by promoting the delivery and expansion of positive development through sport, recreation, physical activity, education and general health promotion.

The YDRS Symposium attracts delegates from municipal recreation, community service departments, not for profit groups, community sports groups, public health, educational institutions and social service organizations. Presenters range from front line staff to youth policy makers.

Due to the current measures in place to ensure the public remains healthy, the YDRS Symposium will be done as an online series this year consisting of monthly presentations starting in November 2020 and going until March 2021.

The presentations will be on the following topics:

- Successes and Learnings from Reopening Programs
- Change Management: Recreation and Your Role
- Returning to Activities and Accessibility

[Register Today](#)

## Upcoming SPAR Events.

- Winter Walk Day - February 3, 2021
- 2021 Alberta Summer Games – July 21-25, 2021 - Lethbridge
- 2022 Arctic Winter Games – March 6-12, 2022 - Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo
- 2022 Canada Summer Games – August 6-21, 2022 – Niagara Region



## 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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