



Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Branch – SPAR –

April 2024 Newsletter

New Executive Director – Sport, Physical Activity, and Recreation (SPAR) Branch

The Ministry of Tourism and Sport is pleased to announce that Richard Arnold is the new Executive Director of the SPAR Branch!

Richard brings a wealth of leadership, knowledge and experience in the Government of Alberta, with several program and planning roles in Agriculture, Education, and most recently as Advanced Education's Executive Director of International Research and Innovation. Passionate about public service and sport, Richard will play a key leadership role in the Sport, Tourism and Recreation Division as we continue to support and evolve the province's amateur sport, physical activity, and recreation system.

Richard is an Alberta Games Alumni, competed in hockey at the 1994 Alberta Winter Games held in St. Albert. The tradition continues 30 years later when his daughter Kayci competed in female hockey at the 2024 Games in Grande Prairie.

Welcome Richard – we look forward to working with you!

National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) Updates

To celebrate and thank volunteer coaches for leading local sport in Alberta, SPAR is offering DISCOUNTED NCCP Competition Multi-Sport Introduction modules for the month of April. Registration is now open through the [NCCP Multi-Sport Calendar](#).

Register today to take advantage of the lower rates and be sure to thank volunteer coaches in your communities!!

The May NCCP delivery schedule has been added to the [NCCP Multi-Sport Calendar](#). Coaches are asked to register early as many modules fill up fast.

2024 Arctic Winter Games – March 10-16, 2024

The 2024 Arctic Winter Games were a tremendous success! Thank you to Mat-Su Alaska for holding the games and providing an amazing experience to our athletes, coaches and managers.

Team Alberta North finished the games 3rd overall, with a total of 122 Medals – 43 Gold, 42 Silver and 37 Bronze!

13-year-old Speedskater Ola Gawlak was selected as Alberta's Flag bearer to lead Team Alberta North into the Closing Ceremonies. Ola set 3 Arctic Winter Games records for her age group and went on to win 4 gold medals the games.

Please go to the [Team Alberta North website](#) to see the complete results. The next Arctic Winter Games will take place in February 2026.

2025 Canada Games Team Alberta Mission Staff Applications - Now Open!

The Ministry of Tourism and Sport invites you to apply for Team Alberta Mission Staff volunteer positions at the 2025 Canada Summer Games. They will be held August 8-24, 2025, in St John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.

Please go to the [Team Alberta Website](#) for more details on Mission Staff duties and how to apply for this exciting opportunity.

The application deadline is coming up quickly - **May 14, 2024!**

Calling all Presenters - The 2024 Alberta Recreation and Parks Association (ARPA) Conference and Energize Workshop is looking for you!

Are you interested in being a presenter at the 2024 ARPA Conference and Energize Workshop on October 24-26, 2024? If so, the Alberta Recreation and Parks Association invites you to submit a presentation proposal for consideration.

This year, the conference theme is "Community Connections." ARPA believes that fostering strong connections within communities is essential for creating vibrant and inclusive spaces. ARPA is seeking presentations that explore innovative strategies, best practices, and success stories related to parks and recreation planning and operations.

Submit your presentation proposal on the [ARPA submission webpage](#) by **April 28, 2024**.

For more detailed information, visit the [ARPA conference website](#) or contact Caleb Boorse, Events Coordinator, at cboorse@arpaonline.ca or at 780-415-1745 ext. 105.

Concussion Awareness

The #Headstrong Canada 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.

