

Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Branch (SPAR)

September 2025 Newsletter

2025 Canada Summer Games

The 2025 Canada Summer Games were held from August 8-25 in St. John's Newfoundland and Labrador. Alberta sent 495 athletes, coaches and managers with 26 teams competing in 18 different sports.

Thank you to the host city of St. John's for hosting a great games and providing an amazing experience for Team Alberta.

Team Alberta men's soccer player Jaxon Marchant (Calgary) won the prestigious Pat Lechelt Award. A recognition given across provinces and territories to athletes who embody leadership, respect, and the spirit of True Sport. This is the first time an Alberta athlete has won the award.

Team Alberta finished in 4th place in the medal standing earning 81 medals: 22 Gold, 30 Silver and 29 Bronze. Visit the [Team Alberta website](#) for complete results and list of medal winners.

The next games for Team Alberta will be the 2027 Canada Winter Games from February 27 to March 14, 2027, in Quebec City. Visit the [Team Alberta website](#) for more information.

Go Team Alberta!!!

National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) Updates

September 15-21, 2025, is National Coaches Week. It's a time to celebrate the positive impact coaches have on athletes and communities across Canada. To help celebrate, Alberta coaches can take advantage of 50 per cent discounts on all NCCP Multi-Sport modules from September 1-30, 2025, and take FREE eLearning training on [the Locker](#) on the following dates:

- Monday, September 15, 2025: NCCP Coach Initiation in Sport.
- Tuesday, September 16, 2025: NCCP Creating Positive Sport Environment.
- Wednesday, September 17, 2025: NCCP Sport Nutrition.
- Thursday, September 18, 2025: NCCP Coaching Athletes with Disability.

Coaches are encouraged to register early for multi-sport modules and access the free eLearning's when they become available on the above noted dates. Refer to the [Participant Guide](#) and join the celebration to say #ThanksCoach!

The October NCCP Multi-Sport Calendar has been posted to the website. Coaches are encouraged to register early, as many modules fill up quickly.

Guidelines for the 2027 Canada Winter Games Women in Coaching (WiC) Apprenticeship Program are now available, the WiC program is open to all women meeting the eligibility requirements. Alberta coaches can apply directly to their Provincial Sport Organization, or they can complete the expression of interest form found on the Coaching Association of Canada's website. Complete applications for Alberta coaches must be submitted by November 24, 2025. Two WiC apprentice coaches will be selected and notified by February 2026.

For more information on the Canada Games Apprenticeship Program and a complete list of guidelines, please click [here](#).

Alberta Concussion Awareness Day – September 24, 2025

A concussion is a mild traumatic brain injury affecting approximately 400,000 Canadians annually. Concussions are common across all ages and can result from a variety of causes, including falls, sport injuries, workplace accidents, motor vehicle collisions, and intimate partner violence.

A study conducted by the Injury Prevention Centre determined 41 Albertans sustain a concussion each day. That is approximately 15,000 concussions per year being diagnosed in Alberta's emergency departments. This number does not include concussions diagnosed in physicians' offices or walk-in clinics, as these are outside of the standard hospital reporting data collection surveillance process. Concussions often go ignored or unreported, largely due to a lack of public education and awareness. As a result, the true burden of this "invisible injury" is greatly underestimated.

In recognition of this important issue, the Ministry of Tourism and Sport is partnering with the Alberta Sport Medicine Council to recognize September 24 as Alberta Concussion Awareness Day, which falls within National Concussion Awareness Week of September 22-28, 2025.

To better prepare Albertans with the knowledge, we encourage everyone involved in sport, physical activity, and recreation to join us in creating greater public awareness about the tools available for prevention, detection, management, and support for those who have sustained a concussion.

For further information and resources on concussion recognition, management, and recovery, please visit [Sports Medicine Council of Alberta](#) or the [SPAR Concussion and Injury Prevention Page](#).

ParticipACTION – Alberta's Most Active Community

Congratulations to Red Deer for being named the Most Active Community in Alberta in the ParticipACTION Community Better Challenge! This is Red Deer's fourth year in a row winning this challenge.

The ParticipACTION Community Better Challenge is an annual month-long, national physical activity initiative that encourages Canadians to get active in search of Canada's Most Active Community. This year over 846,000 people (over 250,000 more than the 2024 Challenge) and 672 communities across Canada participated in the challenge and competed for the title of Canada's Most Active Community. Richmond, B.C. has earned this year's title of Canada's Most Active Community!

For a complete list of Canada's most active communities please visit the [ParticipACTION website](#).

Major Sport Event (MSE) Grant Program

The MSE grant program builds on Alberta's reputation as an attractive destination with proven capacity for hosting a wide range of national and international caliber sport events. It recognizes the network of strong sport organizations who demonstrate the ability to collaborate and deliver high quality events.

The program provides an opportunity to build on Alberta's strengths that include diverse natural landscapes; existing sport and tourism-related facilities; and vibrant communities with quality services and amenities.

Please visit the [Major Sport Event Grant Program webpage](#) for grant guidelines and application information.

Alberta Sport Exchange Program

In 2025, Alberta's Ministry of Tourism and Sport resumed our international sport exchange programs with Gangwon, South Korea and Hokkaido, Japan. The sport exchange programs are intended to provide sport development and cultural awareness opportunities for Alberta's youth athletes, officials, and coaches, including friendly sport training and competitions. The sport exchanges consist of a two-year exchange between the provinces.

Alberta's Sport Exchange Program with Gangwon, South Korea dates to 1974, when Alberta established a sister province relationship with the signing of a Protocol of Friendship. Alberta's sport exchange program with Hokkaido, Japan goes back to 1979, and Alberta established a sister province relationship with Hokkaido in 1980 with the signing of the Proclamation of Friendship and Affiliation.

Recently, Alberta sent two curling teams to Gangwon, South Korea from July 16-24, 2025. Gangwon hosted the 15-member delegation and provided an unforgettable sport and cultural experience for the Alberta contingent. Thank you to Curling Alberta and Team Androschuk and Team Duncan for representing Alberta so well.

Alberta will be hosting Judo athletes from Hokkaido, Japan in December 2025 and curlers from Gangwon, South Korea in the fall of 2026.

2025 - 2035 Canadian Sport Policy - Now Available

The “Canadian Sport Policy 2025-2035” charts the course for sport in Canada. It is the third generation of a pan-Canadian sport policy and the product of comprehensive coast-to-coast-to-coast engagement with the people and communities of Canada.

The purpose of this policy is to guide and inspire everyone to work together to create sport environments that focus on people, reflect shared values, and enhance the health and culture of Canada and its communities.

At the heart of this policy is the idea that everyone has the chance to participate in sport in a way that is positive, safe, and personally meaningful. This means that everyone, regardless of their role in sport has access to inclusive and welcoming environments. Sport offers opportunities for growth and enjoyment.

The Policy sets the direction for the period 2025-2035 for all governments, institutions, and organizations that are committed to working together toward a shared vision for sport in Canada.

For more information or to read the full policy, please go to the [Canadian Sport Policy webpage](#).

Alberta Recreation and Parks Association (ARPA) Conference and Energize Workshop

The 2025 ARPA Annual Conference and Energize Workshop will be held at the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise from October 23-25, 2025. This year, the conference theme is “Beyond the Backyard” and will explore how recreation and parks can inspire local tourism, foster community pride, and strengthen connections to the places we call home.

Parks, trails, and recreational spaces are more than just places to visit – they are catalysts for exploration, connection, and well-being. This year’s conference highlights how recreation and parks professionals can create meaningful local experiences, from uncovering hidden gems and enhancing outdoor adventures to fostering cultural appreciation and environmental stewardship. Through innovative programming, strategic partnerships, sustainable development, and community engagement, we aim to spark new ideas and explore how local tourism can drive community vitality and growth.

Explore, engage, and celebrate the power of local tourism in shaping thriving, resilient communities. Reimagine how recreation and parks can invite people to discover, appreciate, and invest in the incredible experiences waiting just beyond the backyard.

Registration is now open. Please visit the [ARPA website](#) for more information.

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