



# Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Branch – SPAR –

## Summer 2024 Newsletter

### 2023 Alberta Sport Recognition Awards Winners

Congratulations to the 2023 Alberta Sport Recognition Awards winners!

Since 1987, the Alberta Sport Awards have been presented annually to honour the extraordinary athletic accomplishments of our Alberta athletes, teams, coaches, and officials. Past recipients include Olympic champions Catriona LeMay Doan, Kyle Shewfelt, Katelyn Osmond, and Erica Wiebe.

Alberta develops some of the best athletes, coaches, and officials in the world. These high-performance athletes, coaches, and officials have demonstrated great achievements in National and International competitions. They are all well deserving of this acknowledgement.

The 2023 Alberta Sport Awards were presented by Honourable Joseph Schow at the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on May 24, 2024.

- Junior Male Athlete of the Year: Nikita Ciudin – Sprint Canoe
- Junior Female Athlete of the Year: Julia Bartlett – Biathlon
- Junior Team of the Year - Team Tao Curling: Johnson Tao, Jaedon Neuert, Ben Morin, Adam Naugler, Zach Davies
- Open Male Athlete of the Year: Jeremaih Lauzon – Athletics
- Open Female Athlete of the Year: Alex Louitt – Ski Jumping
- Open Team of the Year - Team Canada 3x3 Basketball: Michelle Plouffe, Katherine Plouffe, Paige Crozon, Kacie Bosch, Jamie Scott
- Coaching Recognition Award: Rachel Koroscil – Biathlon
- Coaching Recognition Award: Marty Birky – Basketball
- Technical Official Recognition Award: Barb Bush – Springboard Diving
- Technical Official Recognition Awards: Mathew Kallio – Basketball

Congratulations again to all the award recipients. We wish you continued success as you work toward your goals and dreams!

Check out the [Alberta Sport Awards Website](#) for more information on the award recipient as well as the [2023 Alberta Sport Recognition Awards highlight video](#)

### Every Kid Can Play Grant Program: Keeping sport affordable for children and youth

Alberta non-profit organizations can now apply for funding to support affordable sport, physical activity, and recreation opportunities for children and youth through the *Every Kid Can Play* program.

- Alberta families can apply for up to \$350 per child to offset registration fees through funds directed to KidSport Alberta.
- Provincial Scope Non-Profit Organization Grant and Community-Level Non-Profit Organization Grant.
  - Funding is available to reduce costs associated with the delivery, expansion, or enhancement of existing community-level programs.

Grant applications for the Community-Level and Provincial Scope are open until July 31, 2024. Please go to the [EKCP website](#) for more information on the application process.

## National Coaches Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) Updates

September 16-22, 2024, marks the 10<sup>th</sup> annual National Coaches Week! It is a time to celebrate the positive impact coaches have on athletes and their communities across Canada.

To celebrate National Coaches Week and to show appreciation for Alberta coaches:

- Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Branch is discounting NCCP multi-sport modules up to 50% off throughout September.
- Coaches can view the available courses on the NCCP Multi-Sport Calendar with registration for discounted September modules opening on August 1, 2024.
- Coaches are encouraged to register early as each module has limited availability and will sell out fast.
- Watch for no cost e-learning modules on the Locker September 16-22, 2024.
- Join in the National Coaches Week celebration where local clubs and organizations can refer to the National Coaches Week Participation Guide to access graphic tools and plan their own National Coaches Week events and activities for September 16-22, 2024.

Core Training is the first of the [four step pathway](#) to become a NCCP Coach Developer (Learning Facilitator / Coach Evaluator). All Core Training modules will be offered at a flat rate of \$25 throughout September compared to the regular rate of \$65-\$105.

To access the September Core Training registration links, Provincial Sport Organization (PSO) can request the links by emailing [abcoach@gov.ab.ca](mailto:abcoach@gov.ab.ca) and share it with your identified coaches. Alternatively, coaches can forward a PSO email to [abcoach@gov.ab.ca](mailto:abcoach@gov.ab.ca) and SPAR will email the registration link to them directly.

## Major Sport Event (MSE) Grant: Now Open

The MSE grant program has been fully transitioned to the Ministry of Tourism and Sport and aligned with our ministry's mandate. The SPAR branch is responsible for its administration.

MSE provides financial assistance to enhance the capacity of organizations in their pursuit of, planning for, and hosting of national and international and sport events that support the social and economic well-being of Albertans and the host communities.

Grant intake deadlines are as follows:

- **Intake #1:** Application deadline: July 15, 2024.
- **Intake #2** Application open: August 15 - Application deadline: October 1.

Information and the application form can be found on the [MSE webpage](#).

## ParticipACTION Report Card

The ParticipACTION Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth is the most comprehensive assessment of child and youth physical activity in Canada. The Report Card has been replicated in over 70 cities, provinces, and countries where it has served as a blueprint for collecting and sharing knowledge about the physical activity of young people around the world.

The 2024 ParticipACTION Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth reveals higher grades compared to the 2022 Report Card in some areas, including Overall Physical Activity coming in at a D+, an increase from a D at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please visit the [ParticipACTION](#) website for more details and the complete report.

## Alberta Podium Grant: Now Open

Podium Alberta, Alberta's High-Performance Athlete Assistance Program, is open for applications July 2 to October 7, 2024.

The grant supports Alberta's high performing athletes by:

- helping athletes continue their pursuit of athletic excellence at the highest levels of national and international competition
- encouraging athletes to stay in Alberta to live and train
- enabling athletes to successfully pursue excellence in sport while fulfilling their educational goals
- increasing athlete access to high-performance coaching and sports science practitioners
- enhancing training and competitive opportunities available to athletes.

Please go to the [Podium Alberta webpage](#) for more information and eligibility requirements.

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

This year, the conference theme is “Community Connections”. Fostering strong connections within communities is essential for creating vibrant and inclusive spaces. The conference will be held at the Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge from October 24-26, 2024.

Recreation and Parks are the heartbeat of our communities and spaces with the power to inspire creativity and bring people together in meaningful ways. This conference is a platform for recreation, culture and park professionals, elected officials, and others within the sector to come together and share their experiences, knowledge, and ideas.

The education program will cover the diversity of the recreation and parks sector, art, culture, and community development, and will feature content that connects to a broad range of focus areas.

Registration is now open. Please go to the [ARPA website](#) for more information and receive early bird pricing.

## 2024 Petro-Canada Sport Leadership sportif Conference: November 14-15, 2024, in Regina, Saskatchewan

The Petro-Canada Sport Leadership sportif Conference (#SLS24) is Canada’s largest conference for coaches, researchers, sport executives, and administrators. It consists of learning, professional development, and networking with the top minds and leaders of the Canadian sport, business, and education communities.

The theme of the 2024 Petro-Canada Sport Leadership conference is “Amplifying Voices”. For more details, please visit the [conference website](#).

## Alberta Association of Recreation Facility Personnel (AARFP) Annual Symposium: July 22-27, 2024 in Okotoks, Alberta

The 2024 Annual AARFP Symposium offers **13 courses** in one week at one location. During the Symposium, you will have the chance to participate in a diverse range of courses including pool operation, parks & sport fields management, building maintenance, leadership skills, arena maintenance, arena operations and ball diamond management.

In addition, the [RDP - Management Skills for Supervisors](#) will be offered and is the perfect program for individuals looking at enhancing their leadership skills. Please go to the [AARFP Symposium website](#) for more information and register today.

## Alberta Drought Information

As we move into the warmer months of summer 2024, Alberta is at risk of droughts and water shortages. Alberta is currently in water shortage management stage 4 (out of 5), where multiple water management areas are impacted by water shortage.

Alberta’s government is monitoring conditions and working closely with water users and local governments to help manage and conserve water where possible. Everyone can contribute to making a difference.

To learn about current conditions and what government is doing, please go to the following site: <https://www.alberta.ca/drought>

## 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



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