



Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Branch – SPAR –

May 2024 Newsletter

Active Communities Initiative

Physical activity has many benefits for people of all ages and in communities throughout the province, where the local hockey, curling rink or recreation centre is the hub.

The Active Communities Initiative (ACI) aims to fund capital projects that generate sport and recreation opportunities for Albertans. The ACI, formerly referred to as the Community Recreation Centre Infrastructure Fund, will direct \$30 million to support projects across the province over the next three years.

ACI is open to eligible community groups, non-profit organizations and societies, and First Nations and Métis Settlements that wish to build or enhance spaces that support sport and recreation in their communities. The grant is intended for small and mid-sized projects, including indoor and outdoor skating rinks, community pools, indoor turf centres, pickle ball courts, and other sport and recreational facilities.

Please go to the [Active Communities Initiative webpage](#) for guidelines and application deadlines.

2023 Alberta Sport Recognition Awards Winners

Congratulations to the 2023 Alberta Sports Recognition Awards winners!

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

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

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 Weibe. Alberta develops some of the best athletes, coaches, and officials in the world as demonstrated by this year's winners.

- 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 – Jeremiah Lauzon – Athletics
- Open Female Athlete of the Year – Alex Loutitt – 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 recipients.

National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) Updates

The June [NCCP Multi-Sport Calendar](#) has been updated. Early registration is encouraged as most modules sell out quickly.

Congratulations to the following Provincial Sport Organizations and Apprentice Coaches selected to participate in the [2025 Canada Summer Games Coach Apprenticeship Program](#):

Women in Coaching Apprenticeship Program:

- Athletics Alberta – Apprentice Coach: Roxanne Skoreyko
- Wrestling Alberta – Apprentice Coach: Jazmyne Barker

Aboriginal Apprentice Coach Program:

- Basketball Alberta – Apprentice Coach: Lauren Cardinal
- Volleyball Alberta – Apprentice Coach: Waylon Auger

The Canada Games Coach Apprenticeship Program provides under-represented populations with a practical and integrated major national multi-sport Games experience. Apprentice Coaches will be provided with a Mentor Coach and will have direct involvement in preparation and competition throughout the duration of the program. Additional support is provided to the Apprentice Coaches to attain their Competition Development Certification.

Applications for 2027 Canada Winter Games Coach Apprenticeship Program will be available in 2025.

ParticipACTION Community Challenge

The ParticipACTION Community Challenge is a national physical activity and sport initiative. It encourages all Canadians to get active in the month of June as it searches for Canada's Most Active Community. The challenge is open to everyone, and all minutes tracked on the app and website from June 1 – 30 counts toward a community's total score.

After June 30, 50 finalist communities will be invited to submit an application to be named Canada's Most Active Community. Please visit the ParticipACTION website for more details.

Stars of Alberta Volunteer Nominations: Deadline September 15, 2023

The [Stars of Alberta Volunteer Awards](#) recognizes the outstanding contributions of volunteers in helping to make life better for Albertans. You are invited to shine a spotlight on the contributions of the volunteers that benefit your community and the province.

You can recognize those remarkable individuals by submitting nominations for the 2024 [Stars of Alberta Volunteer Awards](#). Awards will be presented this year on or around [International Volunteer Day](#), December 5.

Full information, including the online nomination form, requirements, and reference letters, can be found on the Stars of Alberta [website](#). Deadline for nominations is June 30, 2024.

June is Recreation and Parks Month

Get ready and start your planning! The month of June is Recreation and Parks month and provides the opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of parks and recreation and the role they play in the quality of life for all Albertans.

This June, we encourage you to visit parks, recreation centers, and open spaces in your area to celebrate. Our outdoor spaces and places have been recognized for the important role they play in providing venues for physical and mental health, respite and for providing an additional backdrop for our social connections.

Visit your local municipal or community league website and check out what is happening in your community!

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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