

2023



Alberta Recreation & Parks Association

ANNUAL REPORT



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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ARPA would like to acknowledge the First Nations, the Métis, the Inuit and all of the people across Alberta who share a history and a deep connection with this land. We dedicate ourselves to moving forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in the spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.



YEAR AT A GLANCE

October 2022 - September 2023

Our Reach



1356

Municipal
Members



45

Individual
Members



157

Business
Members



168

Non-Profit
Group Members



46

Educational Institution
& Student Members

Our Vision

Albertans recognize recreation and parks as essential for enhancing the wellbeing of individuals, communities and our natural and built environments.

Our Purpose

To collaboratively support our members and partners to (re)create healthy citizens, communities and environments, enhancing the wellbeing of all Albertans.

Events



7

Events
Hosted

- 2022 ARPA Conference & Energize Workshop
- 2023 YDRS Symposium
- 2023 Parks School
- 2023 Alberta Healthy Communities Symposium
- 2023 Elders' Capacity Building Camp
- 2023 Leaders Summit
- 2022 SPARC Alberta Summit



868

Total
Attendees

We recognized the hard work of individuals, communities, and organizations by....

Awarding

6

ARPA Awards
and Scholarships

Awarding

3

Lieutenant Governors
Awards

Distributing

50

Queen Elizabeth II's
Platinum Jubilee Medals

ARPA gratefully acknowledges
our funding partner,
the Government of Alberta.

Alberta



Photos: ARPA Staff @ 2022 Conference(left); ARPA Staff Team Building Exercise(right)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



This will be my fifth and final year serving as the President of the Alberta Recreation & Parks Association (ARPA). A lot has changed in the world since I began my Presidency in the fall of 2018. Together, we have embraced change and harnessed the power of collective action to drive progress. Your tireless commitment to our vision and purpose has been the driving force behind our success, and I extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medals – last December we were blessed with the opportunity to celebrate and recognize 50 individuals for their outstanding service in the recreation and parks sector who, like The Queen, have dedicated themselves to family, community and country.

Return of In-Person Professional Development Events – we saw the full return of our Annual Conference in October 2022 and events such as Parks School, Leaders Summit, Alberta Healthy Communities Symposium and the Youth Development through Recreation Services Symposium made their successful return. We are excited to have a new multi-year agreement in place to support our Energize Workshop, which focuses on education for our local elected officials.

Continued Collaboration with the Government of Alberta – we continued to expand our relationships with the provincial government across several Ministries to collaborate on numerous programs including the three-year renewal of the Communities ChooseWell program (Alberta Health), our work on the Provincial Recreation Survey and Return to Play Grant Program (Alberta Tourism and Sport) and our newest venture, the Workforce Strategies project (Alberta Jobs, Economy and Trade). We are proud to work closely with our government elected officials and staff to strive towards shared outcomes.

Indigenous Elders Camp and EKC Project – ARPA is excited to continue its journey of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. Our work included the continuance of the Indigenous Elders' Camp, the oversight of establishing parallel systems of governance for the Elders Knowledge Circle (EKC) organization as well as the development of the Oral Knowledge Hub and the Indigenous Awareness and Engagement Toolkit. In addition to this work, we are also formally recognizing our reconciliation work through the development of a protocol document.

Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation (SPAR) Sector Advocacy – ARPA took on a leadership role with the SPAR Matters campaign during the provincial election that saw success in having influence on campaign platforms including a commitment from the current government to provide \$80 million over the next four years for community infrastructure.

We continue to work closely with our national partner, the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA), on programs that provide benefits to our members and other communities such as Reaching Each and Everyone, the Youth Employment Experience program, Green Jobs initiative as well as the development of a Canadian parks, recreation and sport infrastructure database.

Additionally, we continue to work closely with the Recreation for Life Foundation to secure and grow our support for the recreation and parks sector through endowment building focused on providing bursaries to students and emerging professionals. I would like to thank Jason Simituk for taking on the Chair role after the sudden passing of our friend and colleague Todd Reade last year.

None of our achievements would have been possible without the unwavering dedication of our talented staff, passionate volunteers, and the support of our members, partners and sponsors. I want to extend gratitude to the leadership and guidance provided by my colleagues who serve alongside me on the Board of Directors. As I move to the role of Past President, I am excited for what the future holds for both ARPA and the sector.

Heather Cowie, ARPA President



BOARD MEMBERS

Heather Cowie
ARPA President

Susan Laurin
Past President

Colton Meronyk
Student Representative

Deb Comfort
VP External

Katie Biberdorf
Region 1 Member (North)

Jason Simituk
VP Internal

Travis Kennedy
Region 2 Member (Central)

Graham Jones
Treasurer

Jarret Hoebbers
Region 3 Member (South)

**Julie Boone,
Staci Lattimer,
Suzanne Lobb,
Ryan Poole,
Rachel Szucs**
Directors at Large

STAFF

Steve Allan
Executive Director

Janet Naclia
Director of People
& Programs

Lori Simmonds
Administrative
Coordinator

Caleb Boorse
Education & Events
Coordinator

Julie Venner
Communications &
Marketing Manager

Breanna Morin
Communications &
Marketing Coordinator

Patrick MacQuarrie
Community Compass
Program Manager

Callie Woodley
Community Compass
Program Coordinator

Matt Leung
Communities ChooseWell,
Program Manager

Maddison Drader
Communities ChooseWell,
Program Officer,
Education & Allyship

Emilia Grindlay
Communities ChooseWell,
Program Officer, Healthy
Eating & Partnerships

Mackenzie Golden
Communities ChooseWell,
Program Officer,
Impact & Events

Kayla MacIntosh
Communities ChooseWell,
Program Officer,
Engagement & Storytelling

CJ Blye
SPARC Alberta
Project Coordinator

Jen Goeres
HIGH FIVE®
Coordinator

Karen Snethun
Communities in Bloom
Provincial Coordinator



Photos: ARPA Board (left); ARPA Staff (right)

PARTNERS & COMMITTEES

We continue to build relationships with other associations and institutions with shared goals.

We have formal partnerships with the following organizations:

Associations:

- + Active Living Alliance for Canadians with a Disability
- + Alberta Association of Agriculture Societies
- + Alberta Association of Landscape Architects
- + Alberta Association of Recreation Facilities Personnel
- + Alberta Municipalities (formerly AUMA)
- + Alberta Sport Leadership Association
- + Alberta TrailNet
- + Alberta Therapeutic Recreation Association
- + Canadian Parks and Recreation Association
- + Ever Active Schools
- + Recreation for Life Foundation
- + Rural Municipalities of Alberta Association
- + Siksika Health Services

Post Secondary Institutions:

- + Mount Royal University; Faculty of Health, Community and Education
- + Olds College
- + University of Alberta; Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport and Recreation
- + University of Alberta; Centre for Healthy Communities
- + University of Calgary; School of Architecture, Planning & Landscape
- + University of Calgary; Werklund School of Education

Government:

- + Government of Canada
- + Province of Alberta; Ministry of Arts, Culture and Status of Women
- + Province of Alberta; Ministry of Forestry and Parks
- + Province of Alberta; Ministry of Health
- + Province of Alberta; Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Trade
- + Province of Alberta; Ministry of Tourism and Sport

Committees, networks & task groups:

- + Education and Professional Development Committee
Chair: Deb Comfort
- + ARPA Community of Practice
Co-chairs: Karina Damgaard, Shelley Kwong, & Jen Goeres
- + Parks & Open Space Committee Network
Chair: Doug Evans and Erin Pickard
- + Awards and Scholarships Committee
Chair: Barb McKee
- + SPARC Alberta Leadership Group

We have working relationships with:

- + Active Alberta Coalition
- + Alberta Policy Coalition for Chronic Disease Prevention
- + Calgary Foundation
- + Canadian Red Cross
- + Ever Active Schools
- + Indigenous Sport Council of Alberta
- + Mahegun Tails Inc.
- + Miskanawah
- + Prescription to Get Active
- + United Way of Calgary



Photo: 2023 Alberta Healthy Communities Symposium

RECONCILIATION

Elders Knowledge Circle (EKC)

With funding from the Calgary Foundation, ARPA is now in its final stages of support for the Elders Knowledge Circle (EKC). In March 2023, ARPA hired [Mahegun Tails Inc.](#), an Indigenous-led consulting group, to help the EKC develop into their own, brand new non-profit. This initiative is aimed at creating autonomy and independence for a group of Indigenous Elders in the Treaty 7 area so that they can continue their important work around cultural resurgence and healing in community.

Brand New Resources

In 2023, ARPA released two new resources to accompany its Indigenous Awareness & Engagement Toolkit. The **Embracing Smudge in Recreation Spaces** resource is intended to help our sector understand the cultural significance and historical context of smudge, and provide tips on how to accommodate smudge in recreation spaces, and our **Nature Connection in Recreation** resource helps individuals find ways to move nature from the background to the foreground of their recreation and parks activities. [Click here](#) to check them out!

National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (September 30th)

ARPA featured two online educational opportunities in honour of acknowledging National Day for Truth & Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day. First, the Communities ChooseWell Healthy Communities Framework Webinar Series featured a webinar on the Partnerships Pillar of the Healthy Communities Framework, where we welcomed Mahegun Tails Inc. and Indigenous Sport Council of Alberta to speak on their experiences with building meaningful partnerships with Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations.

We then hosted the **ninth Grandmothers' Circle** since beginning them in 2020. Sponsored by Communities Choosewell and Alberta Blue Cross, this webinar featured a group of multi-nation Elders who came together to showcase a woman's perspective on Tobacco Teachings.

Ongoing Activities

As with past years, we continue to honour Indigenous voices and practices by highlighting them in our events and programming. This included the debut of a Blackfoot Tea Dance Ceremony at the 2022 ARPA Conference, our first-ever in-person Grandmothers' Circle at the Communities ChooseWell Alberta Healthy Communities Symposium, and the continuation of the Elders' Capacity Building Culture Camp. We are also in the midst of creating the **Walking With Indigenous Communities Action Map** that will outline ARPA's own reconciliation journey so that we can share our learnings with our members and our partners. So stay tuned!

Thank you to our funders for Elders' Camp:



Indigenous
Services Canada

POWERED BY



Photos: Grandmothers' Circle © 2023 AHCS (left); 2023 Elders' Camp (right)

PROGRAMS

Communities ChooseWell

Communities ChooseWell is a program that inspires healthy living champions across Alberta to transform their communities into places where eating well and being active are easy choices for everyone. The partnership between the Alberta Recreation & Parks Association, and our funder Alberta Health demonstrates the joint commitment by the recreation and health sectors to improving the health and wellbeing of Albertans and their communities.



Who We Reached



1155

Unique
Champions



197

Unique
Communities



265

Champions working with
Indigenous populations



67

Indigenous
Communities



105

Alberta Healthy Communities
Symposium Delegates

We Celebrated the Hard Work of Communities by...



Recognizing

7

Champions with
ChooseWell Awards



Distributing

\$47,132

through our Healthy
Community Seed Grants

Key Resources Developed



Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
in Recreation Settings eCourse

According to our 2022 Annual Champion Survey...



93%

of highly engaged
Champions formed
new partnerships



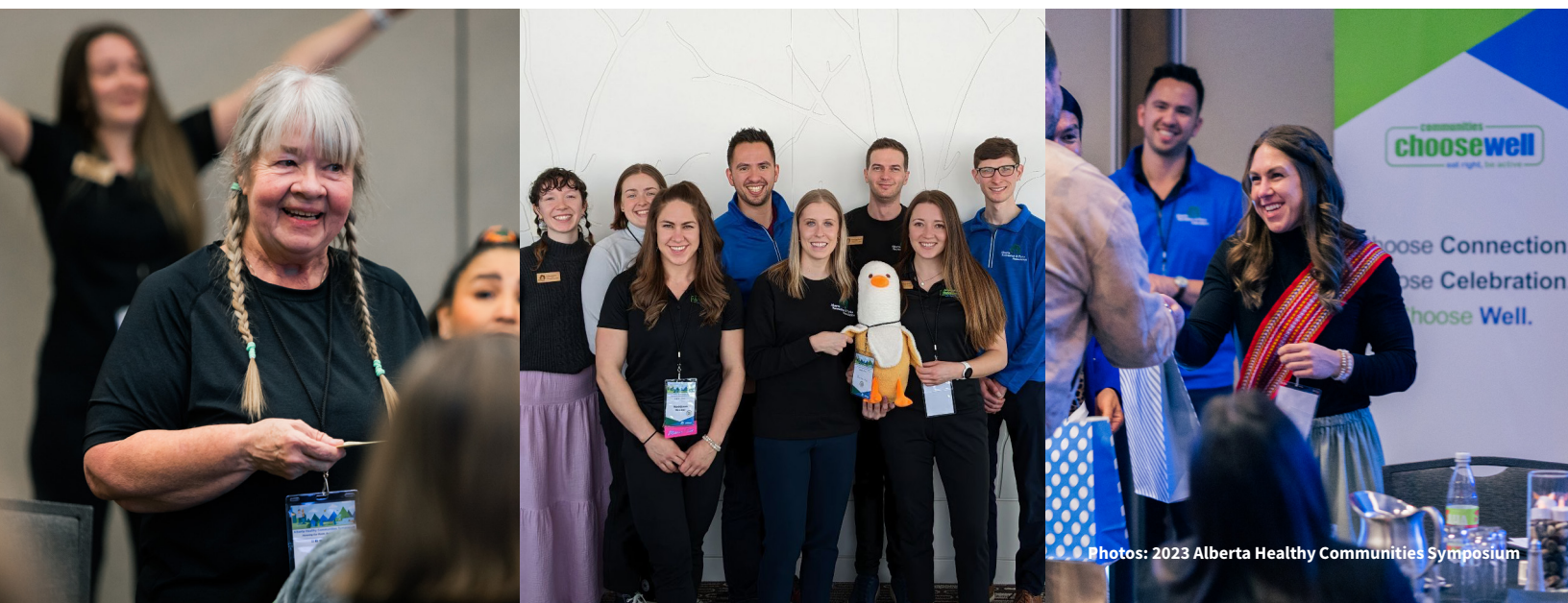
75%

of Champions accessed
new learning opportunities



51%

of Champions improved their
knowledge of Indigenous
communities & reconciliation



Photos: 2023 Alberta Healthy Communities Symposium

SPARC Alberta

SPARC Alberta is a provincial collaborative of leaders across the Sport, Physical Activity, and Recreation (SPAR) sector who have worked together over the past three years to build on the commitment and dedication within the SPAR sector. We have a collective vision of a future where all children and youth have access to quality sport and recreation environments that foster equity, diversity, and inclusion. Through this work we hope to build a more collaborative and resilient system whereby sport, recreation, health, and education sectors are aligned and working together to ensure quality programming is equitably available to all children and youth.

2023 was guided by the following question:

How might we (re)imagine new futures for community grassroots sport in cities and towns across Alberta?

In 2023 across Canada and subsequently Alberta, the sport and recreation sector began to reflect on our environments and calls to 're-imagine' or 'change the game' have (re)emerged. It is in response to these calls that we hosted the SPARC Alberta Leaders Roundtable event. We invited 50 leaders from across Alberta to participate in a collaborative roundtable discussion focused on the future of children and youth sport and recreation in our province. Delegates represented municipalities, provincial and national sports organizations, newcomer and settlement service organizations, libraries, non-profits, educational institutions, health and fitness organizations, and more. Together, we worked to address key issues, establish opportunities, and developed pathways/frameworks for moving forward.

This work led to the Game Plan for SPARC Alberta 2.0, a collaborative path forward for the SPAR sector.

Towards 2028: A Refined Vision & Mission

Using the information gathered over the last three years, SPARC Alberta has refined its vision, mission and principles.

VISION: We envision a future where all children and youth have access to safe and meaningful grassroots recreational sporting environments directly in their communities.

MISSION: We will work towards positioning Alberta as a leader in grassroots sport by developing the most collaborative and well-resourced community sporting movement in the country.

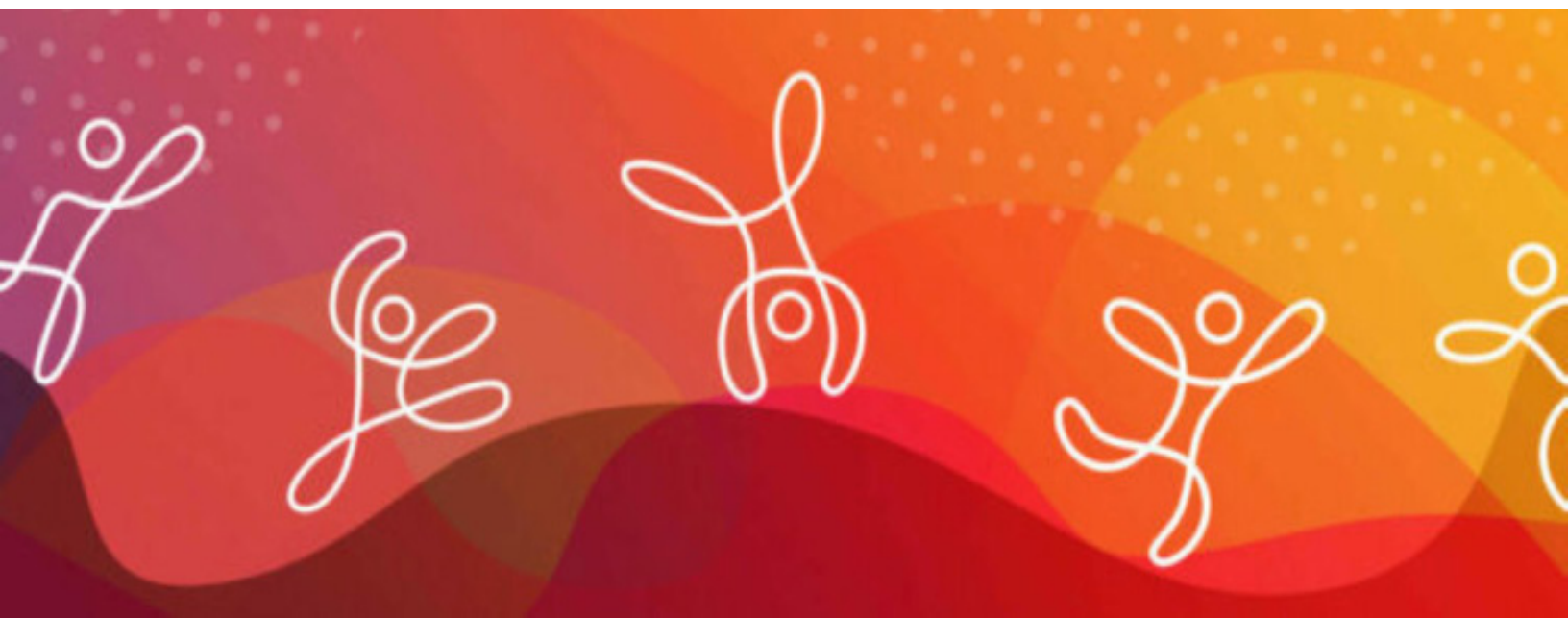
GUIDING PRINCIPLES: We believe that in order to achieve our vision we must keep the following principles front of mind at all times:

- System-oriented
- Equity-focused
- Participant-centered
- Safety-focused
- Evidence-based
- Community-led

Putting the Principles Into Action: The SPARC Alberta Pledge

The purpose of the pledge is to publicly communicate the commitments made by members of the SPARC Alberta sporting movement. Organizations and individuals who sign the pledge are not simply declaring their support of the SPARC Alberta vision. Rather, they are stating their desire to become an active agent in Alberta's grassroots sporting movement and committing to embracing and promoting the SPARC Alberta guiding principles.

You can join the grassroots sporting movement by signing the SPARC ALBERTA PLEDGE here: <https://www.sparcalberta.com>



2022 ALBERTA RECREATION SURVEY

The Alberta Recreation Survey has been conducted every four years since 1981 and has been a key tool for connecting research, policy, and practice across a variety of sectors. As the only activity-based survey in Canada, conducted every four years, the Alberta Recreation & Parks Association (ARPA) was honoured to deliver this survey for the first time this year.

The survey collects information related to participation patterns of Albertans and the factors which influence their participation in sport, recreation, and cultural activities. The survey was a collaborative effort supported by a provincial task force, made up of experts, and leaders in the field of recreation. Albertans were asked questions related to their participation patterns and the factors that influence their recreation activity choices.

The 2022 survey saw 5142 households complete the survey either online or via mail. Over 5000 Albertans responded in 2022 and 98% of Albertans participated in recreation in 2022! To align with our partner in this project, results were released in 2023.

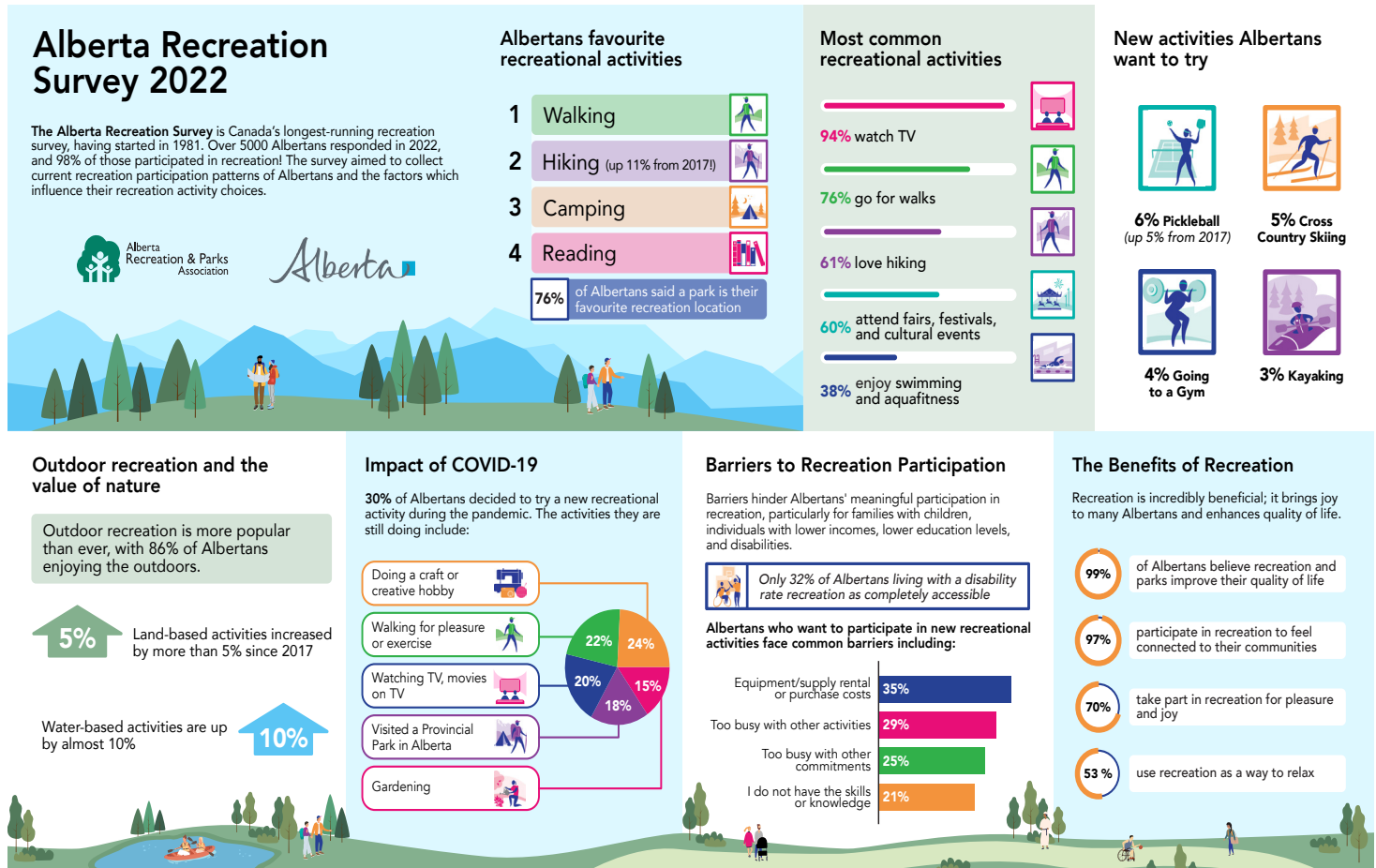


Photo: 2023 Elder Camp Helper Bonding Event - ARPA Calgary Staff with Mahegun Trails Inc. Staff

HIGH FIVE®

The Alberta Recreation & Parks Association (ARPA) is proud to be the provincial provider of Parks and Recreation Ontario's HIGH FIVE® program, Canada's only Quality Assurance Program for recreation and sport programs for children aged 4-12 and more recently, older adults.

HIGH FIVE® provides a range of training, assessment tools and resources to ensure that organizations deliver the highest quality programs possible.

With the support of our amazing HIGH FIVE® Trainers, volunteers with the ARPA HIGH FIVE® Task Force, and organizations across Alberta dedicated to providing quality sport and recreation opportunities, ARPA was proud to provide **92 HIGH FIVE® training opportunities** to learners across Alberta.



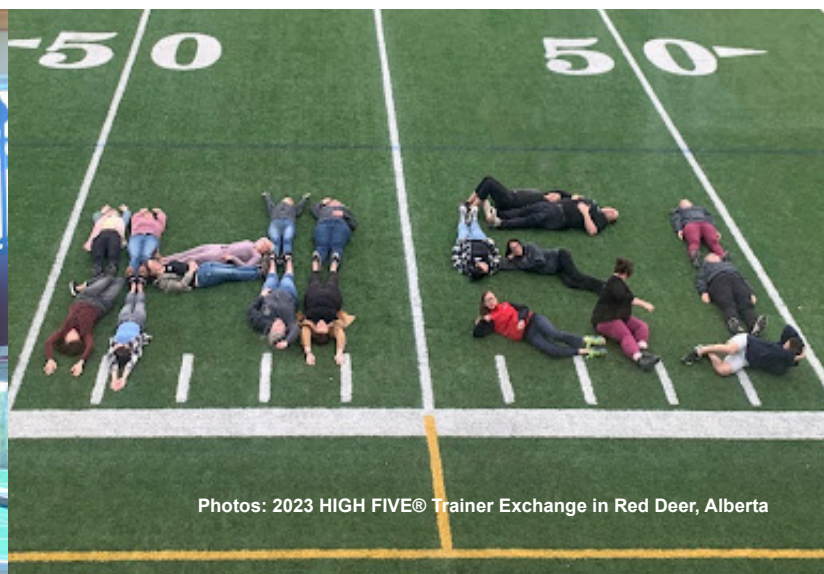
2022-2023 Accomplishments:

- + Certified over **1500 individuals** in HIGH FIVE® across the province (the highest amount of individuals that have been certified since HIGH FIVE® was brought to Alberta in 2007)
- + Welcomed **13 new HIGH FIVE® Trainers** representing the City of Spruce Grove, MNP Centre for Community & Sport Centre, MidSun Community Association, Trellis Society, City of Red Deer, Town of High River, City of Calgary, Town of Vulcan, Strathcona Boys and Girls Club
- + Renewed **23 HIGH FIVE® Registered Organizations** and registered **5 new organizations** with HIGH FIVE® and ARPA
- + Saw the completion of over **117 HIGH FIVE® QUEST 2 program assessments** in children and youth programs across the province
- + Hosted a **HIGH FIVE® Trainer Exchange** in Red Deer, Alberta to **23 HIGH FIVE® Trainers**
- + Announced a new HIGH FIVE® website and database coming soon

Community of Practice:

The Community of Practice is a volunteer group of professionals who are interested in advancing the vision, mission and strategic goals of Alberta Recreation & Parks Association. The network identifies issues and opportunities within the area of interest for the Board and CEO. Thank you to **our co-chairs**: Shelley Kwong, Karina Damgaard, and Jen Goeres.

- + Hosted the **ARPA Summer Camp Collective** which saw **121 members from across Alberta**
- + Held virtual meetings in May and July of 2023
- + Brought together summer camp providers as a way to connect and share ideas and resources
- + Hosted the **ARPA Community of Practice** which saw **80 members from across Alberta**
- + Thank you to our **3 working groups**:
 - + **HIGH FIVE® Task Force/HIGH FIVE® Trainer Exchange Committee** (Julia Soucie, Karina Damgaard, Kristina Del Corro, Rachel Szuc, Tracy Morgan, Amy Erlandson, & Jen Goeres)
 - + **Physical Literacy and You (PLAY) in Alberta** (Nadine Van Wyk & Jen Goeres),
 - + **Summer Camp Collective** (Tracy Morgan & Jen Goeres)
 - + **YDRS Steering Committee** (Jen Smith, Jen Goeres, Kristina Del Corro, Rachel Szuc, Tracy Morgan, Matt Leung, Carlee Schaefer, & Jodi Smith)



Photos: 2023 HIGH FIVE® Trainer Exchange in Red Deer, Alberta

Communities In Bloom

People, Plants & Pride...Growing Together!

ARPA has been successfully coordinating Alberta's Communities in Bloom (CiB) program for 16 years. Hundreds of Alberta communities have participated by enhancing and sustaining the visual appeal of their neighbourhoods, parks, and public spaces – all while building community, economic development, and civic pride.

Twenty-eight Alberta communities engaged with the CiB program in 2023.

Sixteen Alberta communities participated provincially in the 2023 CiB Alberta program, with an additional twelve Alberta communities competing at the national level in the 2023 CiB Canada program.

Ten CiB volunteer judges visited communities for a one-day evaluation and provided verbal and written feedback to the Municipalities on Community Appearance, Environmental Action, Heritage Conservation, Tree Management, Landscape, and Plant and Floral Displays.

The CiB Alberta program will be represented at the 2023 Green Industry Trade Show and continues to focus on marketing and communications with communities.

CiB enhances the quality of life of Albertans.

CiB volunteers take tangible action to promote the mental and physical well-being of their neighbours, whether by organizing community-wide programs, encouraging outdoor activity and engagement, or sharing skills for individuals to use in their own yards or gardens.

Communities in Bloom CiB also advocates for sustainable environmental change.

CiB directly addresses environmental action and natural heritage conservation in its evaluation and philosophy. By collaborating with local businesses, municipalities, and community members, the Communities in Bloom volunteers create foundations for long-term community growth and enhancement.



28

Alberta Communities engaged with the CiB program

16

Alberta communities participated at the **Provincial** level in the CiB Alberta program

12

Alberta communities participated at the **National** level in the 2023 CiB Canada program



10

Volunteer Judges



5

In Person Evaluations



Photos: 2023 Disbury Evaluation (left); Devon Fairy Garden (right)

June is Recreation and Parks Month (JRPM)

At the Alberta Recreation and Parks Association, we recognize the month of June as “June is Recreation and Parks Month” (JRPM). JRPM highlights the many benefits that recreation and parks bring to our communities, and acknowledges the strong foundation of parks and recreation, spaces, facilities & programs in Alberta. This year, JRPM focused on discovering and celebrating the many benefits of recreation and parks. **#CelebrateJRPM**

June is also recognized as National Indigenous History Month, and Pride Month. In our efforts to tie together JRPM, NIHM, and Pride month we were proud to host a webinar in collaboration with the Indigenous Sport Council of Alberta. This webinar focused on the Importance of Indigenous Sport Organizations and Nature Connection in Recreation.



27,143
Impressions on
social media



50
JRPM
Ambassadors



\$500
Worth of contest
prizes given away



Community Compass

Growing Futures in Recreation and Parks

Introducing [Community Compass](#), a new ARPA initiative, funded by the Ministry of Jobs, the Economy, and Trade.

We're aiming to revitalize Alberta's recreation and parks sector by prioritizing both employers and job-seekers by fostering diversity and inclusion by bridging connections between employers in recreation and parks and historically marginalized groups.

By developing equitable policies, empowering job-seekers with skills and career advancements, and helping employers attract and retain diverse staff, Community Compass is creating accessible career pathways for all, ensuring a brighter future for Alberta communities.

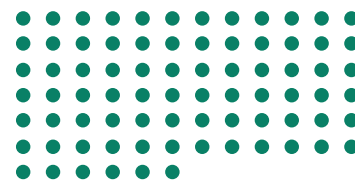
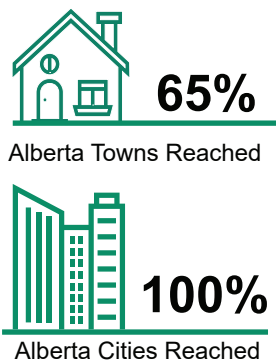


Growing Futures in Recreation & Parks

EVENTS

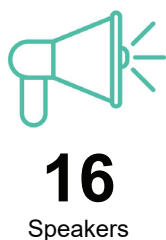
ARPA 2022 Conference

The Alberta Recreation & Parks Association (ARPA) hosted its first full in-person conference in 3 years. This event took place over 3 days both online and in-person at the Jasper Park Lodge. With the theme of “People, Purpose & Passion,” this conference focused on the human side of recreation and parks. With **477 total delegates, 3 keynote speakers, 65 speakers, and 14 sponsors**, there were many opportunities to learn, connect, and network. Notably, this event was significant for ARPA's Reconciliation journey in terms of being able to host a **Blackfoot Tea Dance Ceremony to open the conference in a good way**. This Tea Dance was led by ceremonialist Karli Crowshoe alongside her grandparents, Dr. Reg and Rose Crowshoe – esteemed Blackfoot Elders and Traditional Knowledge Holders.



2023 Leaders Summit

The 2023 Leaders Summit took place at the Kananaskis Mountain Lodge and fostered the discussion of various multifaceted issues in the field of parks and recreation. Designed for senior municipal leaders, the 2023 Leader Summit allowed delegates to indulge in discussion, workshops and peer learning.



Photos: 2022 ARPA Annual Conference & Energize Workshop

2023 Youth Development Through Recreation Services (YDRS)

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 2023 YDRS Symposium, held in Gull Lake, Alberta, attracted delegates from municipal recreation, community service departments, not for profit groups, community sports groups, public health, educational institutions and social service organizations from all over the province. This educational opportunity provided delegates with the opportunity to:

- + Learn first hand about child and youth development and its application in recreation;
- + Hear from colleagues and peers through focused and themed presentations;
- + Enjoy networking opportunities and return home with practical and applicable resources.

Thank you to the YDRS Steering Committee (Jen Smith, Jen Goeres, Kristina Del Corro, Rachel Szuc, Tracy Morgan, Matt Leung, Carlee Schaefer, Jodi Smith) and our sponsor, TBD Architecture and Urban Planning.



72

Total Delegates

Testimonials:

"It was well done. There were enough sessions and people to keep things exciting and new the whole time but enough familiar people and sessions that it doesn't feel like I missed half of it!"

"Amazing, amazing, amazing. I feel like this was the best YDRS yet. I also loved the venue. It was so perfectly fitting for everything we were learning."



Photos: 2023 YDRSS @ Gull Lake, Alberta

2023 Parks School

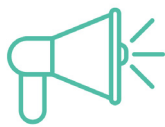
The 2023 Parks School took place in Canmore, Alberta this year. This event is designed for front-line parks operations professionals from municipal recreation and parks, the private sector and non-profit organizations including parks directors, supervisors, arborists, horticulturalists, gardeners, planners, park technicians, turf specialists and others!

Parks School provided 2 days of plenary speakers, education sessions, and networking opportunities on a broad-range of topics related to horticulture, arborist, project maintenance, and staff supervision sessions.



69

Delegates



26

Speakers

54

Number of Total
Municipalities



2

Number of Days

1

Number of
Sponsors

RECREATION FOR LIFE FOUNDATION

The Recreation For Life Foundation had a great year this year. We started off the year with great success at the conference in October with the SOLD OUT 50/50, which raised 2,400 (as the winnings were donated back to the foundation), and the silent auction raised over \$5,000 giving us a total of \$7,400 raised, at this year's conference. Because of the great success of our events this year, we increased our lifetime total endowments to \$140,000.

Later on June 28, we hosted our annual golf tournament, which was a success. We had 102 golfers participate in the tournament, 11 amazing sponsors, and 27 items donated to our silent auction. Our total sponsor revenue was \$14,915.00, and our total silent auction revenue was \$2337.96. Because of our fantastic participants, sponsors, and the help of our golf pro and Olympian golfer, who raised \$1,147.59 combined, we contributed an additional \$20,847.33 to our reserves.

After the tournament, the Recreation For Life Foundation has started to work on many new exciting projects and is taking steps towards having more student involvement within the foundation. We are looking to do this by creating more scholarships for students to aid them in participating in the conferences and events hosted throughout the year. With our current successes and upcoming plans, we are on track to achieving our profit goals for 2023. We can achieve many goals because of our fantastic board members and staff, from municipal members to business owners, non-profit groups, and students.

We are all excited to continue to work on our many new projects throughout the rest of 2023.

If you are interested in being part of this FUNdraising effort, please:

1. Signup for Our Quarterly Newsletter recreationforlife.org
2. Volunteer for the Board chair@recreationforlife.org
3. Donate rebrand.ly/RFLFDonate

Sincerely,

Jason Simituk, BRMCD, Chair



Photos: 2023 RFLF Charity Golf Tournament @ RedTail Landing

FINANCIALS & AUDITS

Treasurer's Report (2022 Fiscal)

This past fiscal year continued to see a return to the diversified mix of revenue streams that ARPA would typically strive for in our annual finances. We saw the end of the COVID support that was made available and we transitioned back to securing our own source revenues through our education services.

While we budgeted to spend some of our reserve funds to support our expanded communications investments, we ended up not requiring this as we ended up recording a small profit (\$1,268).

Our total revenues for 2022 of \$3,327,096, far surpassed our original budget and this was mainly contributed to the Return to Play grant program that ARPA secured with the Government of Alberta.

It was a very strong year from a grants and projects perspective with the continuance of our organizational grant, the continuance of the Communities ChooseWell program, as well as securement of several grants to host the Indigenous Elders Camp.

Here are some of the highlights and impacts for the 2022 fiscal year:

- Government Contracts and Agreements - Return to Play grant program; Alberta Recreation Survey project
- Full return of our major education event offerings
- Reconciliation projects including the Elders Camp and the Elders Knowledge Circle governance
- SPARC AB initiative
- Very strong HIGH FIVE program
- End of World Urban Parks Secretariat contract

As we look forward into 2023 and beyond, we have been successful in securing multi-year grant funding for major projects which will help provide a solid foundation and stability to our financial budgeting. This will allow us to provide some consistency and security for staff and we are looking forward to seeing what we can plan and accomplish.

Over the next year we will put some energy into strengthening our financial policies and procedures as well as begin exploring longer range financial planning and forecasting.

Graham Jones, ARPA Treasurer



SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

REVENUE	2022	2021
Grants & Contracts	2,204,313	1,140,932
Memberships	101,042	51,736
Educations Services	513,804	227,705
Projects	206,333	178,574
Casino	56,181	5,000
Administration	246,037	143,641
Donations	-	15
Interest Income	654	1,243
TOTAL REVENUES	3,328,364	1,748,846
EXPENSES		
Administration - General	50,892	50,884
GST Expenses	23,445	11,922
Salaries and Benefits	394,031	347,093
Board and Executive	21,713	8,829
Liaisons	3,378	2,868
CPRA/Memberships	26,483	23,276
Education Services	416,772	238,199
Casino	6,511	-
Committee and Network Activity	23,376	16,404
Projects	2,360,495	1,023,388
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,327,096	1,722,861
NET GAIN (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR	1,268	25,985
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	488,464	462,479
NET ASSETS, END OF THE YEAR	489,732	488,464

Audited Financial Statements are available from the ARPA office 780-415-1745

SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	2022	2021
Current Assets		
Cash	1,291,837	1,231,581
Short Term Investments	125,108	94,454
Accounts Receivable	149,970	63,920
Prepaid Expenses	32,720	17,772
Advances Receivable	-	5,854
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	1,599,635	1,413,579
Equipment		
Computer	62,140	56,293
Office	32,608	32,608
Subtotal	88,901	88,901
Less accumulated amortization	90,882	86,288
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	4,866	2,613
TOTAL ASSETS	1,604,501	1,416,192
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Bank Indebtedness	-	-
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	361,628	232,474
GST Payable	1,461	809
Long Term Debt	-	30,000
Deferred Contributions	751,680	664,446
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,114,769	927,728
NET ASSETS		
Internally Restricted Funds	185,108	154,761
Unrestricted Fund	299,758	331,089
Equipment Fund	4,866	2,614
TOTAL NET ASSETS	489,732	488,464
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	1,604,501	1,416,192