



NWT
**RECREATION
& PARKS**
ASSOCIATION

2016 • 2017
Annual Report

The NWTRPA's mission is to promote the inclusion of recreation and parks as key to our way of life. We do this by supporting leaders, communities, and partners through training, advocacy, and networking.



Strategic Goals

The NWT Recreation and Parks Association's 2014-2017 strategic priorities are: increase the skills, knowledge and connection of members; increase community-sustained recreation and parks programs; be recognized and valued as leaders on recreation and parks issues; be more relevant to every community through strategic partnerships; and grow and more effectively engage our membership.

2016 – 2017 Activities

Goal #1 – Increase the skills, knowledge, and connection of members:

- 605 people were trained at 48 NWTRPA training events held in 15 communities.
- Training focused on Elders in Motion, On the Land Programs, Fitness Leadership, HIGH FIVE®, and Recreation Leadership.
- The 2016 Annual Conference saw our strategic training partnership with SideDoor continue, with the inclusion, once again, of a Youth Centre stream. We also added an On the Land Programs stream and an Elders in Motion stream, merging the event with our popular Elders in Motion Training Gathering. The 2016 Annual Conference was the largest event that the organization has ever hosted with over 160 attendees!
- Our partnership with recreation and parks associations in Yukon and Nunavut continued as we launched the Recreation North brand in support of the Community Recreation Leadership Program (see page 5).

Goal #2 – Increase community-sustained recreation and parks programs:

- NWTRPA training, financial, and program support enabled the successful execution of 14 Elders in Motion, On the Land, and Aquatics programs.
- Partnerships continued with Transport Canada, University of Ottawa, Délı̄ne Got'ı̄ne Government, Town of Inuvik, and Village of Fort Simpson to conduct boating safety research and develop community-based resources (see page 5).
- Through a partnership with the Department of Health and Social Services, we delivered 18 grants to community organizations to host Lifesaving Society Swim to Survive events.
- Walk to Tuk 2017 boasted over 3,600 participants forming 257 teams from 29 communities. This year's Walk to Tuk was our largest to date showing that the popular activity challenge continues to get more NWT residents outside and active during the winter months!

Cover photo: Doreen Nitsiza picking spruce gum during the 2016 NWTRPA & Youth Centres Conference. (Photo: Tara Marchiori)

3. Gerry Kisoun from Inuvik promoting safe boating practices. (Photo: Ethan Allen)

4. The 2016 NWTRPA Board of Directors (L – R): Nathan McPherson, Jill Gilday, Cynthia White, Tim Van Dam, Tony Devlin, Caren Burke, Doreen Nitsiza, Mike Scott. (Photo: Tara Marchiori)

Goal #3 – Be recognized and valued as leaders on recreation and parks issues:

- The NWTRPA has advocated to:
 - » Increase support for after-school programs;
 - » Update the Public Pool Regulations;
 - » Prioritize active elders programming;
 - » Build awareness of the Framework for Recreation in Canada.
- The NWTRPA has worked with a number of committees that advance recreation and parks programs and services. These committees include:
 - » NWT On the Land Collaborative;
 - » Health & Social Services Injury Prevention Committee;
 - » School of Community Government Recreation Leader Certificate Program Steering Committee;
 - » Department of Lands Recreation Management Plan for the Yellowknife Periphery Area Advisory Committee;
 - » Recreation North Leadership Team.
- The NWTRPA has been a leader while working with the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association and the Canadian Recreation Facilities Council, through Board and staff time investments.

Goal #4 – Be more relevant to every community through strategic partnerships:

- The NWTRPA worked with 14 organizations from 8 communities to support aquatics staff recruitment, aquatics training, Elders in Motion programs, and On the Land programs.
- Get Active provided funding to 164 groups from 32 communities. Over 11,000 NWT residents participated in over 307 Get Active-funded events in 2016/17. That means, 25% of the NWT population participated in a Get Active sponsored event!
- The NWTRPA's work was supported by 27 funders and sponsors. Thank you all for your support!

Goal #5 – Grow and more effectively engage our membership:

- Changes to the NWTRPA Bylaws that will improve the governance and management of the Association were approved by the membership in 2015.
- The Board of Directors have approved a membership plan to attract new members, improve membership service, and better engage with our membership.
- Membership fees were lowered in 2016 and our membership grew by 75% in 2016. Watch out for our new membership portal launching in 2017.

5. Tim Van Dam and Doreen Nitsiza during the 2016 Annual General Meeting.
(Photo: Tara Marchiori)

6. The NWTRPA staff at the 2016 NWTRPA Conference. (L – R): Sheena Tremblay, Rose Johnson, Karen Johnson, Geoff Ray, Robin Young, Natasha McCagg, Peyton Straker, Jess Dunkin. (Photo: Tara Marchiori)

2016–2017 Highlights

NWTRPA Begins Decolonization Work

In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) released a comprehensive report detailing the policies, operations, and legacies of residential schools in Canada based on the testimony of more than 6,750 survivors and witnesses. The report was accompanied by 94 Calls to Action, addressing everything from child welfare, language and culture, justice, the media, business, and museums and archives.

While the term “recreation” does not appear in the Calls to Action, the six-volume final report reveals how recreation was one of a number of tools used by school administrators to “kill the Indian in the child.” At the same time, Indigenous children and youth turned to recreational activities to survive the many difficulties and in some cases horrors of residential school life.

In January 2016, the NWTRPA Board of Directors formed a working group to explore how the organization might best engage the TRC’s findings and Calls to Action. Based on the committee’s recommendations, the membership voted at the 2016 AGM to endorse the TRC Calls to Action and adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as

a framework for future activities. UNDRIP is a document which affirms the right of Indigenous peoples to self-determination, self-government, equality, language, and land.

In January 2017, the NWTRPA contracted Dene Nahjo, a local Indigenous leadership organization, to facilitate decolonization training for the Board and staff. Based on that training, we understand decolonization as the related processes of revealing and owning the harms of the past, raising awareness about inequities in the present, but most importantly, remaking social and political systems in order to truly respect the rights and well-being of Indigenous peoples. In particular, the NWTRPA is interested in understanding how recreation and colonialism are intertwined, but also how recreation might contribute to unlearning colonialism and nurturing vibrant Indigenous communities in the NWT.

The 2017 NWTRPA and Youth Centres Conference is an opportunity to put some of our learning and reflection from the past year into action. To this end, we have invited speakers and presenters who can help us on this decolonization journey. We will continue to explore how we might best advance decolonization in the recreation sector and in the NWT over the coming months and years.



2016 NWTRPA Award Winners (L - R): Natasha Kulikowski, Tamara Jovic, Allie McDonald, Rita Matla (standing in for Bella Nitsiza) and Tim Van Dam (NWTRPA Board President).

2016 NWTRPA Award Winners

In September 2016, the NWTRPA celebrated excellence in recreation with our Annual Awards Banquet in Yellowknife. The award winners were:

- 2016 Award of Excellence – Natasha Kulikowski (Inuvik)
- 2016 Innovation Award – Allie McDonald (Fort Smith)
- 2016 Scott McAdam Youth Leadership Award – Tamara Jovic (Yellowknife)
- 2016 Active Elder – Bella Nitsiza (Whati)

Boating Safety Research Project

In 2014, the NWTRPA received a two-year grant from Transport Canada's Office for Boating Safety to do research about men and boating safety and to develop community-based resources to help reduce the number of drownings.

Dr. Audrey Giles, a long-time member of the NWTRPA Aquatics Committee, and her team met with citizens and organizations in three NWT communities (Délne, Fort Simpson, and Inuvik). Each community had different views of what was important to them and what resource they thought would best reach men in their area.

In 2017, the last of those resources was completed and delivered to the communities, bringing the project to a close. In all, five kinds of resources were created, including a boating safety app, travel plan, posters, waterfront signs, and a video PSA.



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Recreation North

Recreation North is a partnership between the NWTRPA and the two other territorial recreation and parks associations with the goal of strengthening recreation capacity across the North.

The partnership has worked over the past two years to develop a meaningful and relevant recreation training program in collaboration with government and communities, and with generous funding from the Arctic Inspiration Prize. This recreation training program, called the Community Recreation Leadership Program, was designed based on 13 core competencies for community recreation leaders who live in Yukon, NWT, or Nunavut, and work or would like to work or volunteer in recreation, but have little or no formal training or education.

A Pilot of the Program will run from October 2017 to May 2018, after which the full program will be launched.



Communities where the NWTRPA held events in 2016/2017

THANK YOU!

We owe our successful year to the dedication of our Board of Directors, volunteers, staff and our members. Thank you to our funders and sponsors who make our work possible. We look forward to another great year ahead!

2016-2017 Board of Directors:

- Tim Van Dam (Fort Smith) – President
- Tony Devlin (Inuvik) – Member-at-Large
- Cynthia White (Fort Smith) – South Slave Regional Director
- Nathan McPherson (Fort Simpson) – Dehcho Regional Director
- Doreen Nitsiza (Whati) – North Slave Regional Director
- Jill Gilday (Yellowknife) – Yellowknife Regional Director
- Caren Burke (Norman Wells) – Sahtú Regional Director
- Mike Scott (Inuvik) – Beaufort-Delta Regional Director

2016-2017 Aquatics Committee:

- Mike Scott (Chair)
- Tim Van Dam
- Johanna Elliot
- Ashley Coombs
- Emmanuel Belgrave
- Mary Gordon
- Jackie Thompson
- Colin MacPherson
- Audrey Giles
- Jeff Schwartzenberger

2016-2017 Staff:

- Robin Young – Membership & Communications Manager
- Sheena Tremblay – Director, Active Communities
- Natasha McCagg – Recreation Consultant
- Jessica Dunkin – Director, On the Land Programs
- Rose Johnson – Aquatics Coordinator
- Geoff Ray – Executive Director



NWT Recreation and Parks Association – Statement of Operations

For the year ended March 31,

	Budget 2017	Actual 2017	Actual 2016
Revenues			
Corporate contributions	11,500	24,925	17,139
GNWT - Health and Social Services	22,900	57,636	29,302
GNWT - Industry, Tourism and Investment	-	4,800	-
GNWT - Municipal and Community Affairs	161,600	161,842	184,996
NWT Ski Division	-	30,341	-
NWT Sport and Recreation Council	872,630	694,534	918,839
Transport Canada	4,818	4,818	40,390
Fees	17,000	70,388	21,454
Membership income	5,000	2,896	3,964
Other income and interest income	-	2,679	8,143
	1,095,448	1,054,859	1,224,227
Add: Transfer from deferred revenue - prior year	319,797	364,423	366,846
Less: Transfer to deferred revenue - current year	(228,598)	(57,821)	(364,423)
	1,186,647	1,361,461	1,226,650
Expenditures			
Accounting and legal	32,500	36,131	35,658
Advertising and promotion	55,983	60,347	47,856
Amortization	-	1,886	2,365
Bad debts	-	79	520
Conferences and workshops	160,600	154,195	138,693
Dues and fees	6,500	7,814	5,812
Equipment	4,246	3,047	2,181
Grants and contributions	135,000	145,416	115,000
Insurance	8,000	10,360	6,415
Interest and bank charges	1,500	1,946	2,998
Office	23,888	14,106	14,571
Program contractors	28,123	43,243	41,071
Program materials and supplies	93,086	89,801	86,205
Rent	-	21,000	21,375
Telephone and internet	9,000	9,471	8,302
Travel	163,500	191,184	215,184
Wages and benefits	464,721	465,174	447,239
	1,186,647	1,255,200	1,191,445
Excess revenue before other items	-	106,261	35,205
Transfer from Tangible Capital Asset Fund	-	3,047	2,181
Refundable portion of contributions received	-	(52,188)	-
Excess revenue	\$ -	\$ 57,120	\$ 37,386

Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31,

	2017	2016
Assets		
Current		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 427,437	\$ 451,990
Accounts receivable (Note 3)	219,230	87,317
Prepaid expenses	3,005	902
	869,229	835,458
Tangible capital assets (Note 4)	12,255	11,094
Restricted investments - Legacy and Contingency Funds (Note 5)	219,557	295,249
	\$ 881,484	\$ 846,552
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 61,686	\$ 24,232
Payroll liabilities (Note 6)	33,473	30,386
Contributions repayable (Note 7)	52,188	-
Deferred revenue (Note 8)	57,821	172,738
	205,168	227,356
Unrestricted net assets	280,382	285,218
Tangible capital asset fund	12,255	11,094
Legacy fund	302,679	251,884
Rona Williams Taj Chi fund	11,000	10,000
Contingency fund	70,000	61,000
	\$ 676,316	\$ 619,196
	\$ 881,484	\$ 846,552



NWT Recreation and Parks Association

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Recreation for Life!



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