

Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Branch – SPAR –

December 2024 Newsletter

2024 Alberta Sport Recognition Awards

Do you know an outstanding athlete, team, coach, technical official, or sport volunteer? Nominate them today for an Alberta Sport Recognition Award.

Since 1987, the Alberta Sport Recognition Awards have been presented to honor the extraordinary athletic accomplishments of our high-performance Alberta athletes, teams, coaches, and officials.

Nominations close **January 15, 2025**. Please visit the [Alberta Sport Recognition Awards webpage](#) for a list of awards and nomination guidelines.

National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) Updates

The [NCCP Multi-Sport Calendar](#) has been updated to February 28, 2025. SPAR recommends registering in advance as many modules fill up quickly.

NCCP is empowering coaches with the Advanced Coaching Diploma. The Advanced Coaching Diploma (ACD) program draws on the expertise of leading sports scientists, sports industry leaders, as well as expert NCCP coaches and mentors. This program encourages NCCP Competition-Development Certified coaches to progress to the next level in their coaching pathway and will help to raise the standard of excellence in sport. Applications are currently being accepted until January 31 for the April program at [Canadian Sport Institute Alberta](#)

Congratulations to the following Alberta Coaches for receiving Coaching Awards at the Petro Canada Awards Gala. These awards honour the coaches who exemplify the values and competencies of the National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) and their positive impact within the sport system in Canada.

- 2024 Coach of the Year – Joe Ceccie (Calgary) – Skeleton
- 2024 Coaching Excellence Award
 - Christopher Woods- Athletics
 - Ron Thompson - Athletics
 - Alexander Martin Fencing
 - Don Bartlett – Curling
 - Michael Lizmore, Curling
 - Dan Proulx, Cycling
 - Philippe Abbott, Cycling
 - Trish Quinney, Gymnastics
 - Heather Fidyk, Karate
 - Rimmelt Eldering, Speed Skating
 - William Dutton -Speed Skating
 - Dave Johnson,- Swimming
 - Haley Bennett -Swimming Nicole Ban - Volleyball

The SPAR staff would like to wish all our coaches and facilitators a happy and healthy holiday and look forward to working with everyone in 2025.

Percy Page Annual Christmas Auction – December 11, 2024

The annual Percy Page Christmas silent Auction will take place on December 11 in the lobby of the Percy Page Center. All proceeds go to the Christmas Bureau of Edmonton whose mandate is to provide a festive meal and coordination of Christmas giving to Edmontonians in need.

The silent auction began in 1983 as an opportunity for the groups at the Percy Page Center to get together to celebrate the holidays. The event has grown steadily over the years and since 2010 the event has raised over \$100,000 for the Christmas Bureau.

Congratulations to Karen Harmen and Tammy Lyseng for all the hard work and dedication to make this event possible. Karen and Tammy were both honored by the Christmas Bureau this past month for their continued work with the charity.

Sport Participation Support Program - Applications Now Open

The Sport Participation Support Program provides financial assistance to not-for-profit organizations towards the development and operation of projects or programs that:

- Increase sport opportunities for athletes, coaches, officials and volunteer leaders from under-represented and marginalized populations.
 - this would include groups such as girls and women, Indigenous populations, children and youth from economically disadvantaged families, persons with a disability, and new Canadians.
- Support projects strengthening physical literacy in children and youth participation that are compatible with the first 3 stages of the long-term development framework

Please go to the [Sport Participation Support Program website](#) for program guidelines and appl

Winter Walk Day – February 5, 2025

Winter Walk Day is just around the corner, mark your calendars – Wednesday, February 5. All Albertans can embrace the Winter Walk Day spirit by putting on their walking boots and enjoying a 15-minute walk, or outdoor activity on Wednesday, February 5. Winter Walk Day is a great opportunity to be active and have fun with your family, friends, and colleagues.

Albertans do not have to wait until February to get active outside. Any day can be an active day, you can just open the door and go for it. Staying active during the winter is important to maintaining a healthy lifestyle. In fact, research shows that spending time outdoors and being active benefits mental and physical well-being. Remember, you do not have to wait for Winter Walk Day to be active.

Outdoor physical activity is a great social opportunity. Join a group of friends, co-workers, or students, and register for 2025 Winter Walk Day with [Safe Healthy Active People Everywhere \(SHAPE\)](#).

Get outside and enjoy the fresh air, celebrate your mental and physical well-being by taking time for an enjoyable winter walk!

Podium Alberta Grant 2024 Recipients

This year, 242 Alberta-based athletes in 41 different sports have been awarded a Podium Alberta grant to help them pursue athletic excellence at the highest levels of national and international competition.

Since 2008, Podium Alberta has provided over 3950 grants to 1067 athletes, worth over \$14.6 million. We are proud of the funding committed to date, and proud of our athletes.

Please go to the [Podium Alberta Website](#) for a complete list recipients.

Sport Canada Community Sport for All Initiative 2024–2026 funding

The Community Sport for All Initiative (CSAI) is intended to remove barriers to participating in sport and increase sport participation rates through support for community sport initiatives for under-represented groups, in particular Black, Indigenous, racialized communities, 2SLGBTQI+, low-income people, persons with a disability, newcomers and seniors.

The Government of Canada will invest \$15 million over two years through Community Sports for Everyone to help support community sport programming and help reduce barriers to sport participation.

To be eligible to apply to Sport Canada for this funding, organizations must be federally or provincially incorporated as a not-for-profit. Applicants must demonstrate their scope and capacity to reach the targeted under-represented group(s) in multiple jurisdictions and to administer and disburse project funding to community organizations to deliver community sport initiatives.

Please visit the [CSAI website](#) for application information. The deadline to apply is December 23, 2024, 11:59EST.

Ever Active Schools Shaping the Future Conference - January 30 – February 1, 2025

Shaping the Future is an annual conference that brings together educators, health and wellness professionals and researchers to explore aspects of comprehensive school health through a variety of interactive learning formats.

The 2025 conference will take place in Lake Louise for three days of learning, wellness, and connection. Registration is now open. Please go to the [conference website](#) for more information.

Sport Events Congress 2025 (SEC 25) March 18-20, 2025

The 2025 Sport Events Congress (SEC) is taking place in Calgary March 18-20. This is Canada's largest gathering of organizations connected to the \$7.4 billion+ sport tourism industry in Canada.

The SEC25 program is interactive, educational, offers opportunities for business-to-business networking, and evening social events.

Register today for this exciting event where all of Canada's sport tourism stakeholders will gather to learn, network, and develop new business partnerships.

Please go to the conference website for more information.

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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