



Government of Yukon

MODULE 2

YUKON SPORT AND RECREATION SYSTEM



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MODULE 2 OUTCOME:

Leaders support community recreation within the context of the Yukon Sport and Recreation System.

MODULE 2 – YUKON SPORT AND RECREATION SYSTEM

- 2.1 Introduction
- 2.2 National
- 2.3 Territorial
- 2.4 Community (Local) Recreation
- 2.5 Role of Recreation Leaders
- 2.6 Becoming Oriented to Yukon Communities

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Understand the Yukon Sport and Recreation System and the components related to recreation, sport and special events.
- Understand the roles and relationships between the local recreation boards, the Yukon Government and governing bodies (nonprofit sector).
- Identify the role of a community leader in the system.
- Recognize the importance of becoming oriented to a community's culture, people and local resources.

2.1 INTRODUCTION

As a recreation leader, you are part of a sport and recreation system that has many different elements. Although components such as leaders, facilities, government funding and participants can be added or removed, it is the interaction between these elements that result in recreation programs, community facilities, special events, healthy people, quality of life, etc.

The strength of the sport and recreation system does not come from a single element, but from the way the parts connect and work together. This module describes some of the components of Yukon's Sport and Recreation System.

Just how well this arrangement works for Yukoners ultimately depends on the type of relationships formed between the different parts of the system and how they are sustained. Recreation leaders are an important element in this system because they play the key role of using other features to foster personal, social, environmental and economic benefits for Yukon people and communities.

The Yukon's Sport and Recreation System is complex. Interaction takes place between citizens, leaders and coaches, recreation directors, community groups, local authorities for recreation, nonprofit societies, territorial governing bodies for sport and recreation, local and territorial governments, etc. Interaction results in participation in recreation and sport, funding, programs, equipment purchases, coaching a team or developing a facility. There are also rules about how the system works. Some of these (e.g. Yukon Recreation Act) are put in place by Yukon Government or by a local government (municipal or First Nation).



This Leaders Guide considers that the Yukon Sport and Recreation System encompasses recreation, sport and active living. The System can be explored individually by sector and level, but the value of a system comes when elements work together.

SECTOR	LEVEL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public (all levels of government) • Nonprofit (from local groups to representation on national boards) • Private (including businesses and corporations) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community • Neighbourhood • Territorial • National

Here are some examples of elements that could be considered part of the Yukon Sport and Recreation System. Can you think of others?

	PUBLIC SECTOR	NONPROFIT SECTOR	PRIVATE SECTOR
National	Sport Canada	Canadian Parks and Recreation Association	Program Sponsors (e.g. Canadian Tire Jumpstart)
Territorial	Yukon Government Sport and Recreation Branch	Governing Bodies (e.g. Sport Yukon, ElderActive Recreation Association, Yukon Aboriginal Sport Circle)	Sponsors (e.g. Northwestel)
Community	Local governments (e.g. Yukon First Nations, municipalities) Local Authorities for Recreation	Committees (e.g. Recreation Boards) Clubs and Groups (e.g. Watson Lake Ski Club, Junction Arts and Music)	Private Business (e.g. Peak Fitness, Coast Mountain Sports)
Neighborhood	Community associations (e.g. Hillcrest)	Local groups and affiliates (e.g. Kwanlin Koyotes)	Individual businesses, local artists

2.2 NATIONAL

There are several national strategies and policies that provide direction to Yukon's Sport and Recreation System. These include:

- A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015; Pathways to Wellbeing
- Active Canada 20/20
- Canadian Sport Policy 2012
- The Pan-Canadian Healthy Living Strategy
- Connecting Canadians with Nature. An Investment in the Well-Being of our Citizens
- Healthy Aging in Canada: A New Vision, A Vital Investment



2.3 TERRITORIAL

In Yukon, the strategies and policies providing direction to recreation and sport include:

- Active Yukon: Enriching Lives through Physical Activity, Recreation and Sport ([pdf2](#)), the *Yukon Active Living Strategy* renewed in 2012
- *Pathways to Wellness* ([pdf8](#))
- *A Better Yukon for All* ([pdf9](#)); Government of Yukon's Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Strategy
- *Yukon Sport Action Plan 2015-2020* for implementing the Canadian Sport Policy ([url4](#))

Yukon Government's Department of Community Services houses the Sport and Recreation Branch and Public Libraries. The Sport and Recreation Branch has the responsibility to facilitate the development and delivery of sport, recreation and active living programs in Yukon. The Branch works with many partners to improve the health and quality of life of Yukoners through implementation of the Yukon Active Living Strategy and the Yukon Sport Action Plan.

Through the Sport and Recreation Branch, Yukon Government supports recreational facilities in communities throughout the Yukon. Recreational infrastructure in Yukon communities may include facilities such as community halls, skating rinks, swimming pools, gymnasiums, playgrounds, playing fields, etc. For more information on facilities in each Yukon community, please contact the Sport and Recreation Branch for Yukon's Community Recreation Facilities Inventory and Assessment.

Public Libraries is a branch of the Department of Community Services. They provide services through a central library in Whitehorse and 14 branches in communities. Each community library may offer services (e.g. toy lending library) and programs (e.g. story time) that complement other community recreation opportunities and provide an important leisure-time activity for local residents.



Yukon Government's (YG) Sport and Recreation Branch carries out its mandate by:

- providing funding for communities, sport, recreation and active living groups, as well as elite and high performance athletes;
- offering consultative services and leadership to sport, recreation and active living organizations as well as communities;
- working with partner organizations, other levels of government and Yukon Government departments;
- supporting Yukon's participation in Major Games including:
 - Arctic Winter Games (AWG),
 - Canada Games,
 - Western Canada Games,
 - North American Indigenous Games ,
 - Canada 55+ Games,
 - Special Olympics Games,
- supporting families through the Kids Recreation Fund (administered by Sport Yukon); and
- delivering National Coaching Certification Program in the territory.

As recreation encompasses a broad range of activities and services, it is helpful to understand the services of several other YG departments.

The Department of Tourism and Culture is responsible for arts, tourism, culture, heritage, museums and archives. The Museums Unit provides a variety of services related to Yukon's collective heritage while the Arts Section supports and encourages development of the visual, literary and performing arts in Yukon. The main page offers links to a variety of arts and culture funds.

Environment Yukon provides quality outdoor recreation opportunities in territorial parks and campgrounds. It also offers a Conservation Action Team, which is an outdoor adventure summer camp program for Yukon youth, and several other outdoor educational opportunities (e.g. Swan Haven).

The Youth Directorate supports youth leadership and encourages youth engagement in social, economic and cultural activities. Resources for Yukon youth and youth service providers can be found on their [Youth Directory \(url5\)](#).



Yukon Special Recreation Groups

A Yukon Special Recreation Group is the territorial governing body (organization) for an activity or target group. In order to be recognized as a special recreation group, and to receive funding from Yukon Government, these nonprofit organizations must be actively working in Yukon communities and affiliated with a national nonprofit organization. For example, the Recreation and Parks Association of the Yukon is a member of and affiliated with the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association.

There are currently six organizations considered as eligible *Yukon Special Recreation Groups* ([url6](#)):

- ElderActive Recreation Association (ERA)
- Guides Canada – Yukon Council (GC)
- Recreation and Parks Association of Yukon (RPAY)
- Skookum Jim Friendship Centre (SJFC)
- Special Olympics Yukon (SOY)
- Yukon Scout Council (YSC)

Sport Yukon and Sport Governing Bodies

Sport Yukon is a nonprofit society run by a volunteer board of directors. Its member organizations are territorial sport governing bodies, clubs and associations who offer a variety of sport, recreation and community based programs. In addition to administrative services and office/meeting space, Sport Yukon's main programs include:

- ***Kids Recreation Fund (url7)***,
- Yukon Sports Hall of Fame,
- Sport Yukon Awards,
- Physical Literacy,
- Coordination of the Klondike Trail of '98 Road Relay, and
- Supporting Team Yukon's involvement with major games (e.g. Arctic Winter Games, Western Canada Games and Canada's Summer and Winter Games).

The Arctic Winter Games play a unique role in Yukon's Sport and Recreation System. These Games, occurring once every two years, provide a special opportunity for young people from all Yukon communities and across the North. The Arctic Winter Games is a circumpolar sport competition for Northern and Arctic athletes celebrating sport, social exchange and cultures. The Games are an opportunity for developing athletes and emerging artists to compete in friendly competition and to showcase each others' talents while sharing cultural values from Northern regions around the world.

Special Events

The Yukon has a strong reputation for hosting special events that attract local residents and tourists. Some of these events can be found on Sport Yukon's website, while others can be found through sources such as local papers and radios. Look for events such as:

- Klondike Trail of '98 International Road Relay
- Kluane to Chilkat International Bike Relay
- Mayo Midnight Marathon
- Yukon Native Hockey Tournament
- Dawson City International Dome Run
- Yukon River Quest
- Sourdough Rendezvous
- Music Festivals
- Theatre

2.4 COMMUNITY (LOCAL) RECREATION

Community recreation in Yukon is supported through annual funding legislated by the Municipal Act and the Recreation Act. A variety of recreation funding programs and sources ([url8](#)) for local recreation are provided through Yukon Government. These are described in more detail in [Module 3 - Funding and Budgeting \(mod3\)](#).

The Association of Yukon Communities ([url9](#)) assists communities to achieve and sustain strong and effective local government with the intention of improving the quality of life for all Yukoners.

Municipalities receive a block funding package, support and services for recreation from Yukon Government's Community Affairs Branch. Yukon municipalities include:

- Village of Carmacks
- Town of Dawson
- Town of Faro
- Village of Haines Junction
- Village of Mayo
- Village of Teslin
- Town of Watson Lake
- City of Whitehorse

In unincorporated communities, funding and support goes to the Local Authority for Recreation. Depending on the community, this might be an association or community club, or a First Nation government.

Local recreation boards, committees and community clubs typically act as an advisory board made up of a cross section of community members that help advise elected officials and staff regarding community needs and issues, and direction for recreation programs, services and facilities. The local board or committee may also administer the annual Community Lotteries Program grant that helps support sports, arts, culture and recreation projects in Yukon communities.



Local authorities for recreation in Yukon are:

- Beaver Creek Community Club, Beaver Creek
- Kluane First Nation, Burwash Landing
- Carcross Recreation Committee, Carcross
- Kluane Lake Athletic Association, Destruction Bay
- Keno Community Club, Keno City
- Marsh Lake Community Society, Marsh Lake
- Lorne Mountain Community Association, Mount Lorne
- Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Old Crow
- Selkirk First Nation, Pelly Crossing
- Ross River Recreation Society, Ross River
- Tagish Community Association, Tagish
- Liard First Nation, Upper Liard

2.5 ROLE OF RECREATION LEADERS

Recreation leaders are an essential element of Yukon's Sport and Recreation System. They include all those who take on roles related to opportunities for Yukon citizens to participate in recreation (e.g. planning, coordinating, delivering, coaching, facilitating, supporting, etc.).

A recreation leader may be hired staff, a casual contractor or a volunteer. They are the local recreation directors and programmers, community coaches, fitness leaders offering aerobics, after school program leaders, youth program facilitators, special events volunteers, trail builders, the person offering a pottery class, etc. They are all the people in our communities who contribute time and energy to community-based recreation, allowing residents to experience and enjoy the benefits recreation has to offer. *Module 12 (mod12)* includes information related to processes of recreation staffing and volunteer management.

2.6 BECOMING ORIENTED TO YUKON COMMUNITIES

Recreation leaders, particularly those who are new to a community and/or to Yukon, will want to take some time to learn about their local environment. Community-based recreation reflects the uniqueness of each individual community; its people, culture, assets, values, interests, landscape, etc. Regardless of size, communities differ for many reasons; the local economy, local First Nations culture and heritage, age of residents, facilities, distance from a regional centre, etc. When recreation leaders understand their local community context, they can be more effective in their work.

Yukon Community Profiles ([url10](#)) provides detailed information about each Yukon community.

The best source of information is the people in your community. Take time to get to know them. Ask them what is important in their community, what residents like to do, and what encourages them to come together. As a new recreation leader, do not expect the locals to come to you. Trusting relationships take time to build. Go into the community and chat with people at the local school, grocery store, seniors centre, First Nation's offices, etc. Food brings people together. Get to know your community over coffee, during community potlucks and at special events.

In Yukon, it is important to understand First Nations culture and traditions. There are 14 First Nations, most of whom are self-governing. This is very different to other jurisdictions in Canada. Familiarize yourself with the local First Nation government and community. Find out who works in what roles and who has a mandate for recreation.

The Council of Yukon First Nations ([url11](#)) provides links to individual First Nations and a history of First Nations and land claims in Yukon. CYFN has a printed resource, the Yukon First Nations Cultural and Orientations Protocol, available to borrow. This resource is designed to help orient people to Yukon First Nations communities. It provides protocols and outlines information about cultural practices and beliefs. In 2016, this content was launched as Yukon First Nations 101, a one-day course available online through Yukon College.

A Handbook of Yukon First Nations Education Resources for Public Schools 2013/2014 is another source for introductory information about Yukon First Nations. Although it was designed to foster the integration of Yukon First Nations' culture, history and languages into the classroom, [Section 2](#) ([pdf10-1](#) and [pdf10-2](#)) provides valuable information for recreation leaders.

