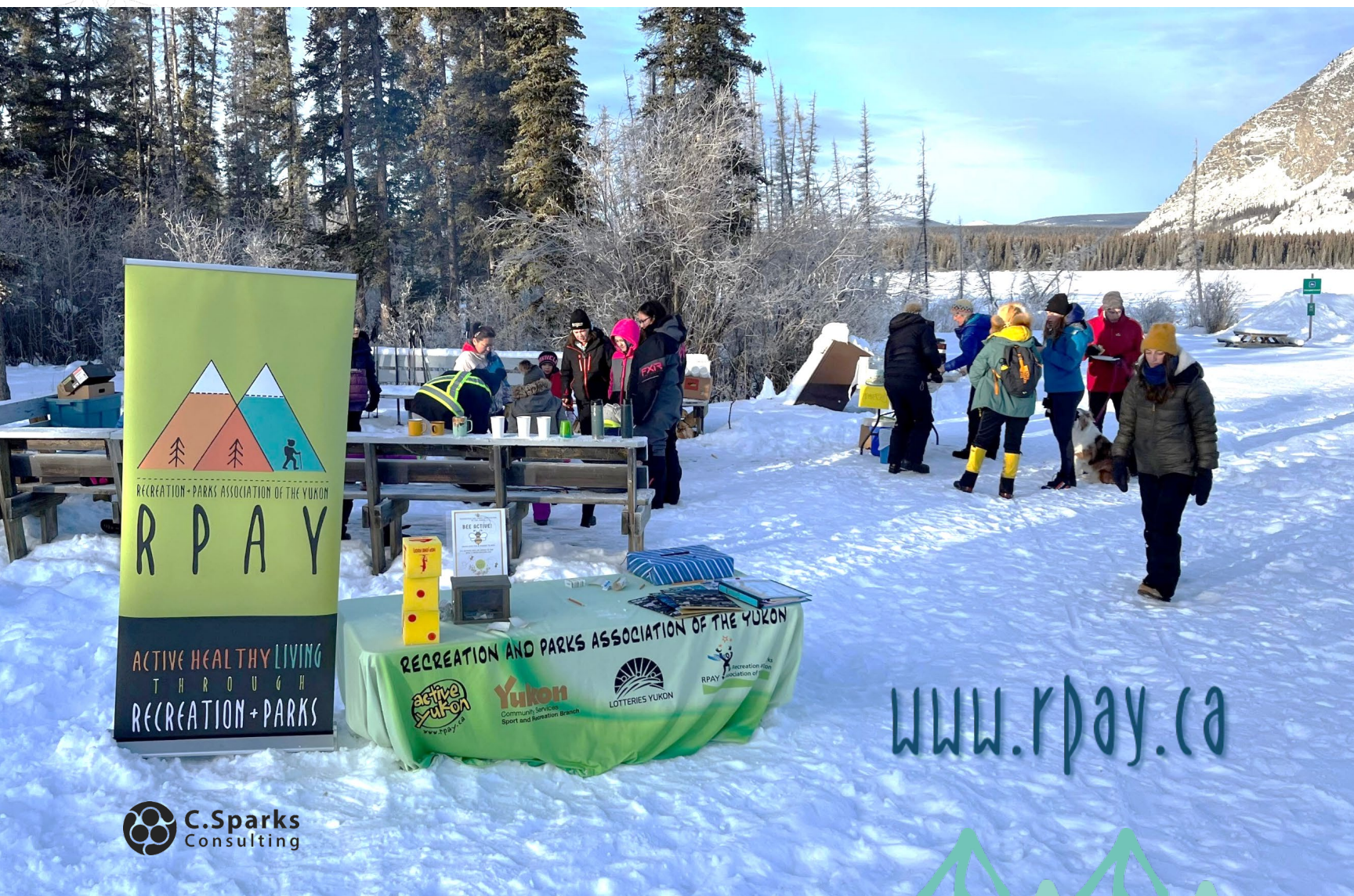


2022-23 Annual Report



www.rpay.ca



The Recreation and Parks Association of the Yukon
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Reflections

from the
Executive Director

Looking back, I realize how action-packed the past 12 months have been. For a small, non-profit organization, we had several staff changes, delivered a number of special projects, and got several governance initiatives underway. Last summer, we congratulated Kelsey Gammel on the birth of her LO (little one) and welcomed Peter Jacob who has stepped up to bat as the Active Living Coordinate during Kelsey's maternity leave. After coordinating "the best ever" recreation gathering last fall in Dawson City, we were sad to have to say farewell to Roger Bower who moved to Nova Scotia this spring. Fortunately, we have several contractors who continue to support our programming: Fran, our Winter Active For Life (WAFL) Coordinator, Alycia, who delivers our Active Play Experiences (APE) program, Dan and his crew who deliver Cycle Smart, and Caroline who helps with planning and evaluation and delivers the Recreation North Training Program. Perhaps the biggest highlight this past year was that, over 12 months, our staff and contractors connected with every Yukon community, visiting all in-person except for Old Crow and Keno.

RPAY tackled a number of special projects over the past year. There were a couple of "must-do" projects that added to our workload; we renewed our strategic plan and updated our Bylaws in accordance with the new Yukon Societies Act. Other projects were more inspiring! In April 2023, about 100 Yukoners joined us at the Transportation Museum to celebrate RPAY's 30th anniversary. During the event, we showed the premiere of *The Recreation Effect*, a film produced by Midnight Light that showcases several of RPAY's programs and the benefits of recreation.

Pandemic Impacts on Rural Recreation was one of our bigger projects. With financial support from the Government of Yukon Office of the Science Advisor, and team lead Caroline Sparks, we partnered on research with a team from the World Leisure Centre of Excellence at Vancouver Island University. Our research findings point to what we have known all along; less structured, less organized recreation that takes place outdoors is more resilient and contributes to stronger, healthier communities during challenging times.

I am so proud of the many people who work and volunteer in recreation and parks and who make our territory a better place to live. In 2022, we presented the well-deserved RPAY Recognition Award to Cathie Findlay-Brook and Alex Brook (Dawson City) as well as to Alyshia Van Kannel (Teacher), Heather, Emilia, Katrina, Nossa, Dominic, Ariya, Gavin, Makelia, Grayson, Sophia, and Tyran (Grade 3 students) at Johnson Elementary School (Watson Lake). And, over the past year, we awarded 10 leaders their Certificate in Northern Recreation Leadership and another 5, their Certificate in Northern Recreation Management (leaders from Faro, Teslin and Whitehorse).

At RPAY, we are grateful for our volunteers and supportive partnerships. We have a dedicated board of individuals from across the territory who provide guidance to our organization. And, we know we can rely on our partners, especially Yukon Government's Sport and Recreation Branch for their continued encouragement and financial support for the work we do. Together, we foster a territory that is active and healthy through recreation and parks.

We support Yukon communities to engage their citizens in active, healthy lifestyles through recreation and parks and carry out this mission through four strategic goals.

#1: We promote the benefits of active living, recreation and parks for health and wellbeing.

#2: We foster active, accessible, inclusive, and culturally-relevant recreation.

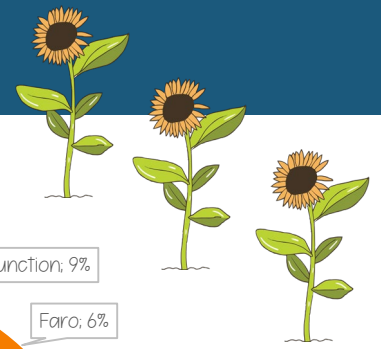
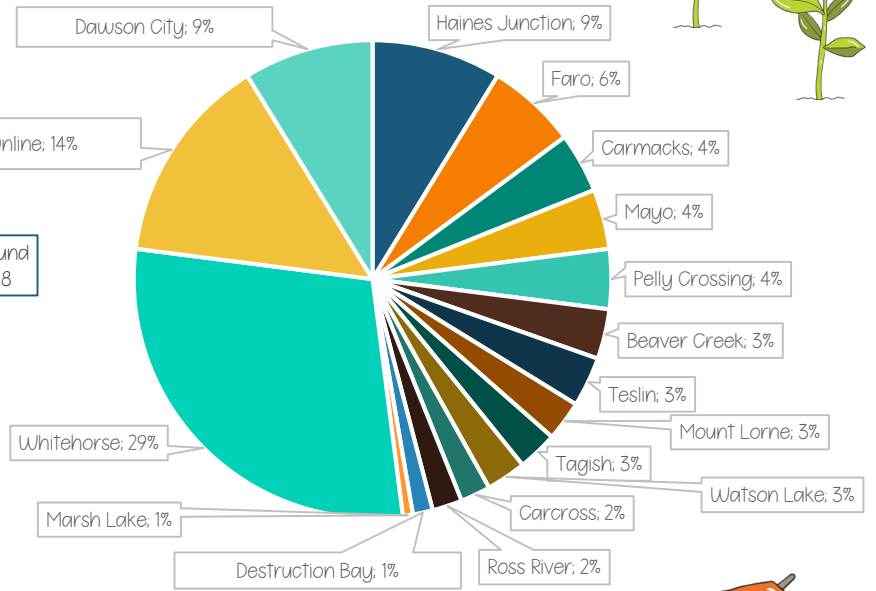
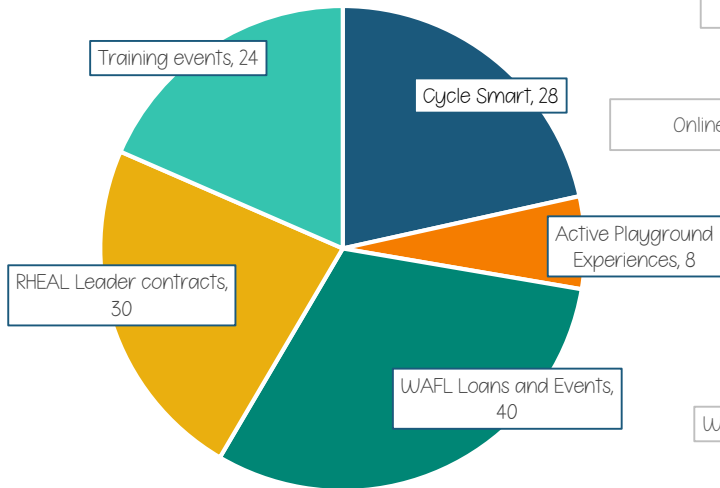
#3: We strengthen recreation capacity and leadership (prioritizing support for rural and First Nations communities).

#4: We operate effectively, efficiently and sustainably.

Annual Highlights

This year, we focused on...

...and delivered programs in:



Recreation is fundamental for happiness, physical activity, a healthy lifestyle, and being able to get back to it has been a very, very fundamental in healing.

Special Projects



The Recreation Effect, produced by Midnight Light, illustrates the benefits of recreation on the health and wellbeing of people and communities.



Experience the power of recreation through stories from Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Faro Archery Club, Climb Higher Initiative, Takhini Elementary School, Yukon Home Education Society, and White River First Nation.

rpay.ca/rec-effect

We wanted to understand the impacts of the pandemic on recreation in rural Yukon. This knowledge can be used to assist people and communities to recover from the impacts of the pandemic. It will also help us re-build recreation in a way that is more resilient in the future.

We learned how the pandemic impacted rural recreation...

- Public health restrictions led to
- Facility closures
 - Reduced or cancelled programs
 - People feeling socially isolated

Recreation participation became more...

- Family-oriented
- Unstructured
- Outdoors and on-the-land

Youth Employment Experiences

Youth Employment Experiences (YEE) was accessed by:

- Town of Faro
- Liard First Nation
- Village of Teslin
- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation
- The Recreation & Parks Association of the Yukon

YEE is offered through the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association

cpra.ca/funding/youth-employment-experience

Research

Pandemic Impacts on Rural Recreation in the Yukon Territory was conducted in 2022 in collaboration with a team from the World Leisure Centre of Excellence at Vancouver Island University. The research was funded under the Yukon COVID-19 Recovery Research Program.

viurrspace.ca/handle/10613/27224

We understand that resilient recreation needs to...

Focus less on...

- Seasonal facilities
- Facilities that are costly to maintain and operate
- Programming exclusively for children and youth

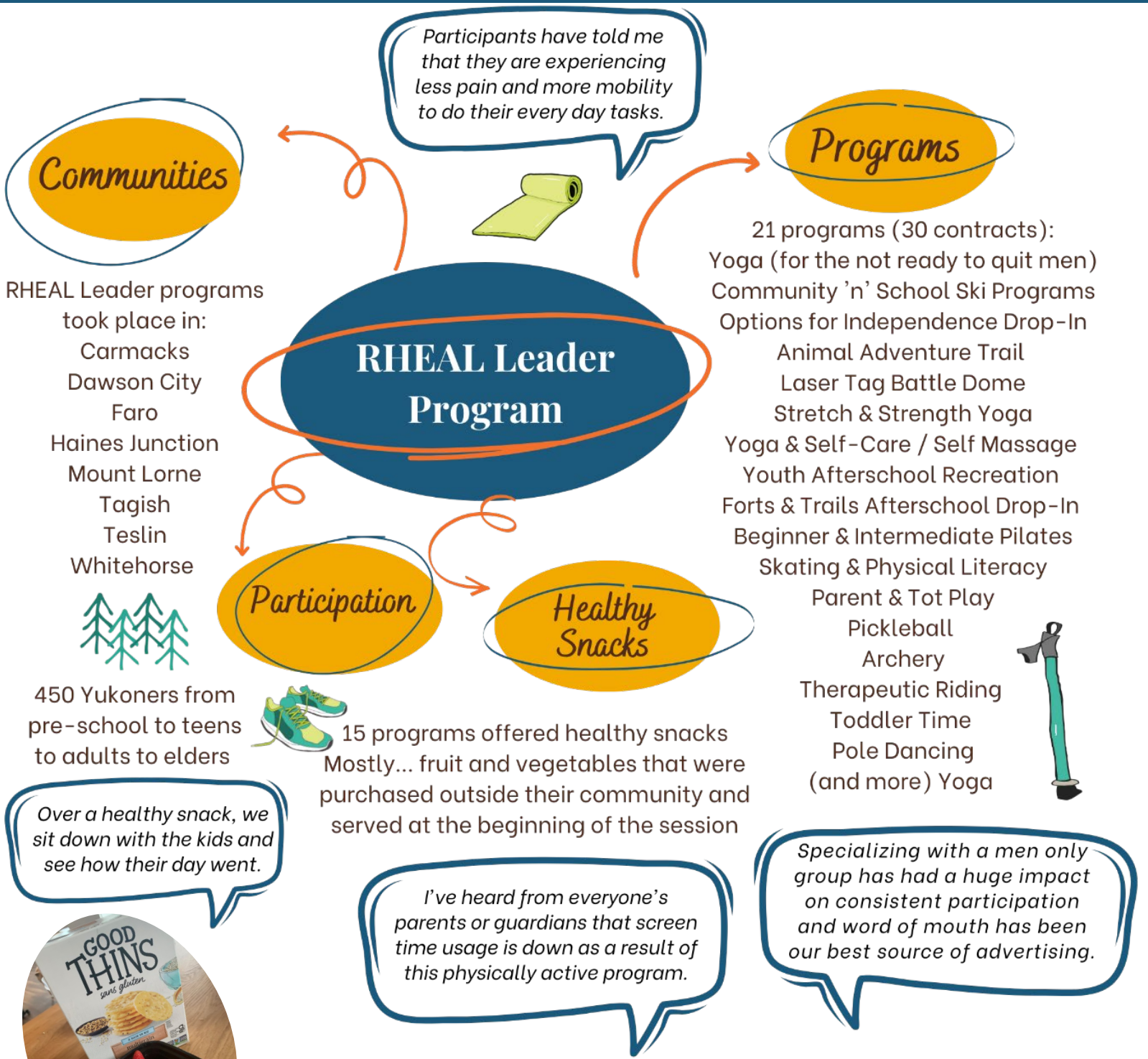
Focus more on...

- Outdoor recreation infrastructure
- Unstructured, self-led recreation
- Recreation that builds social connections





Rural Healthy Eating Active Living Program



RHEAL Leader programs offer activities that are of interest to, and led by, each community.

Winter Active for Life Program & Equipment Library

Communities

27 groups, schools or First Nations borrowed WAFL equipment:

- Beaver Creek
- Dawson City
- Faro
- Haines Junction
- Kwanlin Dun First Nation
- Marsh Lake
- Mayo
- Mount Lorne
- Pelly Crossing
- Ross River
- Teslin
- Whitehorse

WAFL Program visited 5 rural communities



Kicksleds were loaned out 202 times a 910% increase over 6 years!

Kicksleds



XC Skis

Loaned out this year:

- 258 sets of skis
- 328 pairs of boots
- 206 sets of poles

WAFL Program & Equipment Library

Snowshoes



Snowshoes were loaned out 161 times

Impact

1,165 Yukoners got winter active for life



What I liked best was... kick sledding. I liked it because it was fun. Pushing a kick sled makes me stronger. It is also good exercise. I also like the skis and snow shoes. I had a lot of fun, thank you!
My school is: Teslin

What I liked best was... Down hill going we got to have hot chocolate. Next winter, I would like to... try going on a kick sled.
My school is: Teslin

What I liked best was... that we had fun! We also were skiing in a circle. Every time we would fall we would always have fun getting back up.
My school is: Ross River school I'm in grade: 3
Thank you for giving this to us we enjoyed it!

Students really loved learning to ski, getting outdoor, and doing something physical. There was lots of laughter and they were proud of their development.

Cycle Smart

Delivered by Terra Riders in partnership with RPAY



Every spring, RPAY takes its Cycle Smart Program throughout the Yukon. Cycle Smart teaches important bicycle safety and maintenance skills through hands-on programs.



Cycle Smart

Kids get REALLY pumped about riding their bikes

6 schools (33% rural)

259 students (22% rural)

Bike Repair sessions

Road Ride sessions

17 schools (59% rural)

651 students (21% rural)

In-Class and On-Playground sessions

Kids are excited to be back on the bikes again. Students want to practice their biking skills and try ramps and narrow bike bridges.

9 schools (22% rural)

393 students (15% rural)

Bike Service Stations



Deluxe Bike Repair Stations have been set up in Dawson City, Faro, Haines Junction, Mayo, Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Teslin

APE - Active Play Experiences

"The younger students came to find us at recess when we weren't outside so we would come play with them... it made me realize they like playing with us."

Active Play Experiences

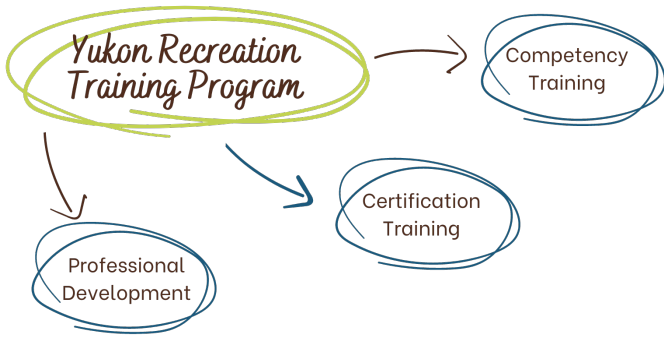
Schools

140 students in grades 5-7 participated in APE training

APE Leaders

Christ the King Elementary School
École Whitehorse Elementary School
Johnson Elementary School
Selkirk Elementary School
St. Elias Community School





Recreation Leadership



After many years of working, Rec North training hit the mark! Content and conversations were well planned, activities were informative and timely, and take-aways were practical and unique. Previous college diplomas and certificates didn't cover the essentials that this training did!

The APE workshop provided space for professional development, and also team building.

Recreation staff and leaders from Beaver Creek, Burwash Landing, Carmacks, Dawson City, Faro, Haines Junction, Kwanlin Dun First Nation, Marsh Lake, Mt. Lorne, Pelly Crossing, Tagish, Teslin, Upper Liard, Watson Lake and Whitehorse participated in PD & training .



Come and visit RPAY at Suite 201-C
170 Titanium Way, Whitehorse, YT Y1A 0G1



Reach RPAY by phone: 867-668-2389
Or through our website: www.rpay.ca

RPAY values the support of leaders, communities, recreation authorities, schools, Yukon First Nations, governments and non-profit organizations across the Yukon, the North and nationally.



Public Health
Agency of Canada

Agence de la santé
publique du Canada



Active Living Alliance for
Canadians with a Disability
Arctic Inspiration Prize
Association of Yukon Communities
BC Coastal Health
Bringing Youth Towards Equality
Canadian Parks and Recreation
Association
Canadian Playground Safety
Institute
Canadian Trails Federation
City of Whitehorse - Canada
Games Centre
Coast Mountain Sports
Communities Building Youth
Futures
Cycling Association Yukon
ElderActive Recreation Association
Fireweed Community Market
Society
Grant Dunham

Health Promotion Unit (YG)
Kicksled Revolution
Klondike Active Trails and
Transportation Society
Kwanlin Dun First Nation
Recreation Department
Learning Disabilities Association
of the Yukon
Lifesaving Society
Local Authorities for Recreation
Lotteries Yukon
Municipalities and unincorporated
communities
National Trails Coalition
NWT Recreation and Parks
Association
Office of the Science Advisor (YG)
ParticipACTION
Physical Literacy Education
Coordinator for Yukon Schools
Play Systems North

Public Health Agency of Canada
Recreation and Parks Association of
Nunavut
Recreation Departments and staff
Recreation North partners
Sean Healy
Sport and Recreation Branch (YG)
Sport Yukon
Terra Riders
U Kon Echelon
Vancouver Island University (VIU)
Whitehorse Cross Country Ski Club
World Leisure Centre of Excellence
Yukon Schools
Yukon University
Yukon First Nations
Yukon Literacy Coalition
Yukon Parks
Yukon Volunteer Bureau



We deliver our programs across the Yukon based out of our office on the traditional territories of
Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.