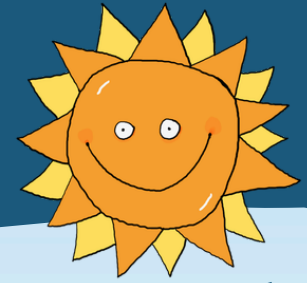
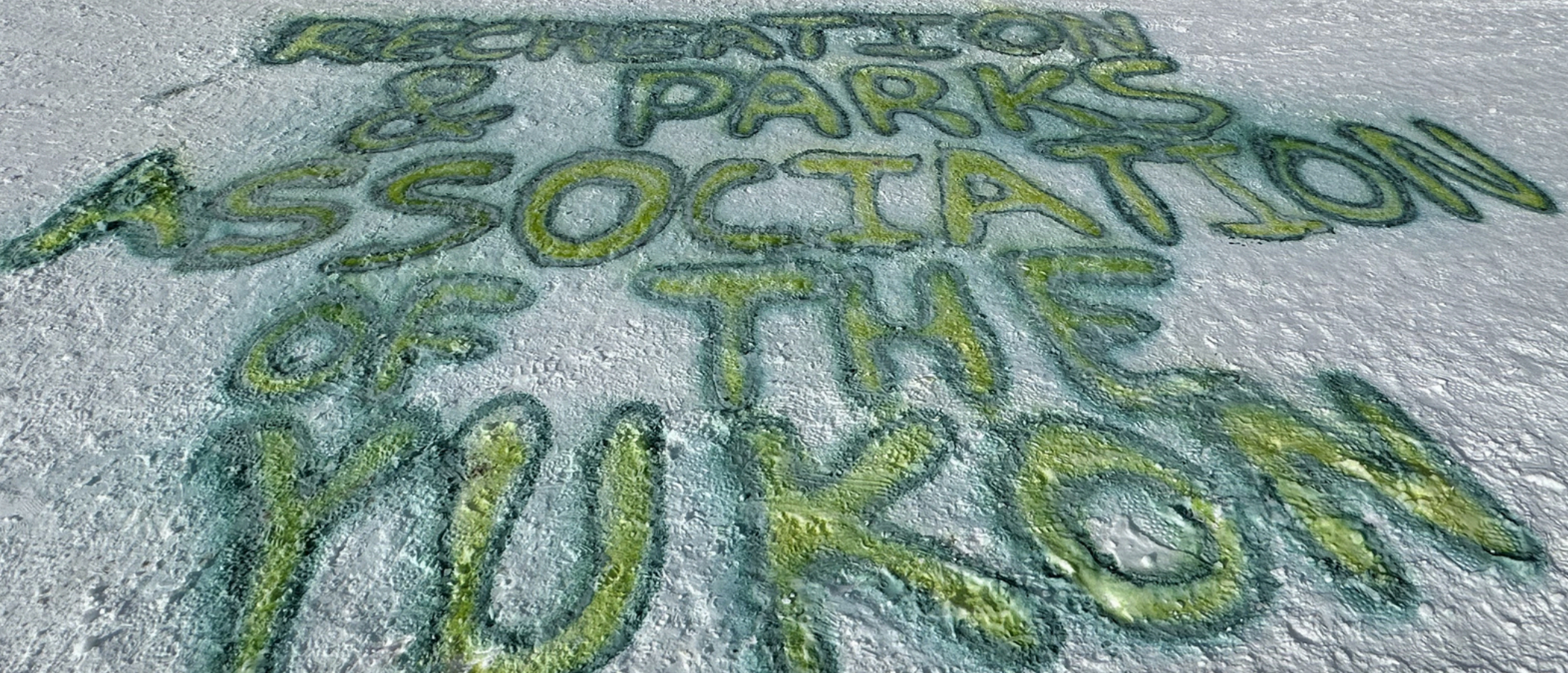


RPAY  RECREATION + PARKS ASSOCIATION OF THE YUKON



2027 Calendar





established c. 1993

We believe that recreation and parks enhance mental, physical and social well-being, build strong families and communities, enable connections with nature, and contribute economically. This is why we support Yukon communities to engage their citizens in active, healthy lifestyles through recreation and parks.

We do this by:

- Promoting the benefits of active living, recreation and parks.
- Fostering active, accessible, inclusive, and culturally-relevant recreation.
- Strengthening recreation capacity and leadership; prioritizing support for rural and First Nation communities.
- Operating effectively, efficiently and sustainably.

It is an honour to serve people and communities across the Yukon from the traditional territories of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

RPAY recognizes and values the leadership of all Yukon First Nations, whose stewardship, knowledge, and vision inspires meaningful connections to parks, recreation, culture, and community.

At RPAY, we are proud of the way we achieve our mandate.
Our 2027 calendar showcases our programs and some of the highlights from the 2025-26 fiscal year.

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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October 2026

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November 2026

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December 2026

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170 Titanium Way
Suite 201 C
Whitehorse, YT

Please reach out to us for more information.
www.rpay.ca

tel: (867) 668-3010
Fax: (867) 668-2455
Toll free: 1-866-961-WALK (9255)



Executive Director's Message

Over the past year, the Recreation & Parks Association of the Yukon (RPAY) has focused on strengthening community connections and recreation leadership. We believe that recreation is essential; to physical and mental health, to social wellbeing, and to the unique characteristics of each Yukon community.

Through a small but dedicated team of three full-time staff and four program contractors, we reach communities across the territory. We prioritize recreation that is accessible and inclusive so more people can participate. Most of our programming takes place in rural Yukon. In the last fiscal year, we recorded almost 3,200 counts of participation in our programs of which 45% were delivered in rural Yukon and another 22% remotely.

We collect and share information that can be used to make decisions about recreation and parks. In 2025, the fourth collection of the Yukon Healthy Living Study was completed through a partnership with the Yukon Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research at Yukon University. Since 2009, this Study has provided valuable insight into recreation and active living patterns across the territory and has helped to determine priorities and guide future programming.

As we approach our 35th Anniversary, we are grateful for the strong relationships, locally, across the territory, and nationally, that allow all of us to contribute to healthy people, strong communities, and an active Yukon.

On behalf of RPAY, I wish you all an active, fun, and healthy year!

Anne

January 2027

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"This year's successes reflect the dedication of our staff. I am deeply grateful for their commitment, teamwork, and continued support."



www.rpay.ca



Community Outreach

RPAY plays a key role in strengthening recreation across the territory by providing in-person support that reflects the realities of rural living. Through outreach, programs, grants, training, and loans of equipment, we help recreation and parks thrive.

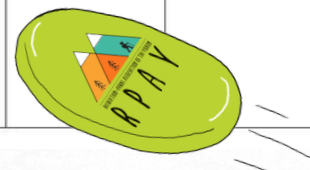
Community visits are one of our favorite ways to support Yukon communities. Being physically present allows staff and contractors to build trust, deepen our engagement, and strengthen relationships with recreation staff, educators, youth, and partner organizations. By showing up, listening, and working alongside local leaders, we gain a better understanding of each community's distinct strengths and challenges. These visits often lead to new partnerships, programming, and enduring relationships.

Last year, RPAY was honoured to enable programs in 18 communities! We were also invited to community events in Beaver Creek, Burwash Landing, Dawson City, Haines Junction, Mayo, Ross River, Teslin, and Whitehorse.

Twelve Yukon communities received free promotional items for 27 events. Bike repair stations, bike racks, benches, and Toy Sheds have been gifted to rural communities through the GO Yukon Equipment Grant program. Although this program has ended, the equipment will continue to make recreation more accessible for years to come.

February 2027

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"During our visit, children of all ages were excited to participate and try new activities. Many showed increased confidence, teamwork, and enthusiasm for being active."





Rural Healthy Eating Active Living

The Rural Healthy Eating Active Living (RHEAL) Program encourages people in Yukon's rural and First Nation communities to get active, have fun, and feel their best!

With RPAY's support, local leaders develop and offer accessible, inclusive recreation activities, many of which take place outdoors. Whether it's trying a new activity, connecting with others, or getting outside, the RHEAL Program helps to foster healthier, happier communities.

In the past year...

- 578 Yukoners were more active because of the RHEAL program.
- 8 programs were hosted in Dawson City, Faro, Haines Junction, Mendenhall, Mount Lorne, Teslin, Watson Lake, and Whitehorse.
- 17 leaders offered programs, such as Youth Drop-in, Cross Country Skiing, Yoga, Group Fitness, Kids in the Kitchen, Mini and Mighty Movers, and Archery.

Peter Kazda, a RHEAL Leader, recently retired from running Faro's Archery program where everyone, young and old, would participate. As Peter explained, "Lots of participants took up archery as their hobby after attending the program; some even purchased their own equipment."

To learn more about Peter's impact, watch *The Recreation Effect* on RPAY's website.

March 2027

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"People of all ages and mobility ranges would join our Stretch 'n' Strengthen program. They would always leave glowing happily and saying "thank you sooooo much."



Active Play Experience

Yukon children spend more than half of their day at school, making it an important setting for developing lifelong habits of physical activity.

The Active Play Experience (APE) program helps create positive school environments where students develop leadership skills and experience the benefits of active play. Through classroom activities, recess programming, and leadership training, APE supports schools to foster a culture of physical activity and inclusion through play.

Last year, 160 intermediate students gained the skills to lead play during recess through APE Leadership. Another 233 students from schools in Beaver Creek, Dawson City, Haines Junction, Pelly Crossing, Teslin, and Whitehorse were introduced to games and activities through APE Classroom.

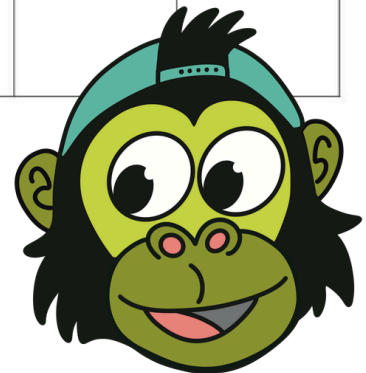
Play Activation Kits (PAKs) have recently been added to the APE program. PAKs are collections of loose parts that encourage outdoor, creative, and imaginative play. By supporting free play, exploration, and experiential learning, PAKs help make recess more engaging, inclusive, and fun while encouraging students to create their own games, adventures, and opportunities for active play.

In the first year, PAKs were introduced to 528 elementary students in two schools. Students love pretending with spoons, buckets, balls, and pool noodles; playing hotel; and scooping up snow, piling it together, and jumping into it.

April 2027

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"My students are so excited to come see their big buddies—it's like the energy of a special day like Hallowe'en or Valentine's Day."





May 2027

Cycle Smart

Cycling is an active mode of transportation that fosters independence and supports lifelong habits of being physically active.

Through RPAY's Cycle Smart program, Yukon children develop the knowledge, skills, and confidence to ride safely and learn that cycling is a healthy, independent, and sustainable way to get places. Cycle Smart, delivered in partnership with Terra Riders, combines classroom learning, bike handling skills, on-road riding, and basic maintenance.

Recently, the national HopOn program has been added to Cycle Smart and is delivered in partnership with the Cycling Association of the Yukon. HopOn is a games-based cycling program that teaches school-aged kids across Canada the joys of cycling safely.

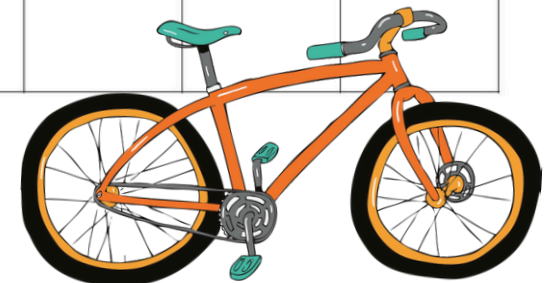
Through both programs, children learn everything from balance, gear selection, braking, and signaling to repairing a flat tire and adjusting bike controls. Strong support from school staff and volunteers contributes to a positive experience.

In 2025, Cycle Smart ran for six weeks. Among the 631 participants, 182 were from rural schools in 8 communities and 449 were from 8 Whitehorse schools. Each year, students challenge themselves, improve their bike handling and road safety awareness, and often exceed their own expectations riding safely and independently.



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"One girl learnt to ride a bike today!
And, many kids remembered the road rules
and signaling we taught last year."



Village of Mingo

POOL RULES

1. ONE LONG WHISTLE BLAST MEANS CLEAR POOL
2. NO RUNNING ON THE POOL DECK
3. SHOWER WITH SOAP BEFORE SWIMMING
4. NO DIVING IN SHALLOW END
5. CHILDREN UNDER 6 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED
6. NO POLLUTING POOL-REPORT FOULINGS TO
7. NO OPEN WOUNDS OR COMMUNICABLE DISEASE



Spring Aquatics Workshop

The Spring Aquatics Workshop (SAW) plays an important role in preparing rural Yukon communities for a successful summer swim season. Hosted annually by RPAY and the Government of Yukon Sport and Recreation Branch, SAW provides training, networking, and orientation for staff who manage, operate, and maintain rural community swimming pools.

Classroom instruction, hands-on pool training, re-certification opportunities, and discussions with experienced aquatic leaders encourage knowledge and skill development in safe pool operations, facility opening and shutdown procedures, troubleshooting, environmental health regulations, risk management, and emergency response.

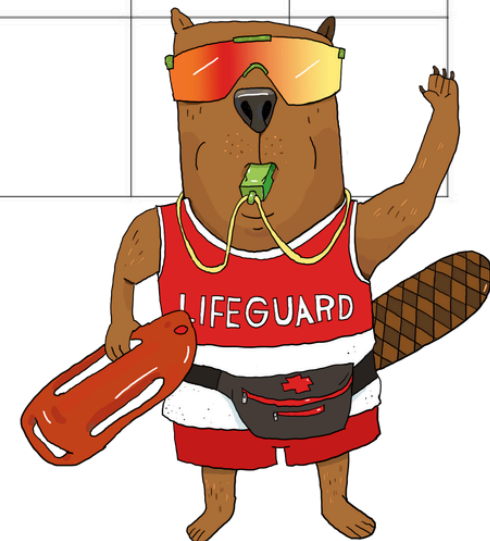
SAW brings together participants from across the territory. In 2025, 16 pool staff attended the workshop hosted in Dawson City and in 2026, 11 pool staff attended the workshop jointly hosted in Whitehorse and Carcross.

One of the workshop's greatest strengths is the opportunity it provides for aquatic staff to connect with peers and build a supportive network that extends beyond the training itself. By helping staff gain confidence and practical skills before pools open, this workshop supports safe operations, strengthens local capacity, and helps communities welcome residents back to the pool for a safe summer season.

June 2027

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"The pool school is incredibly important for anybody going to work in community pools, I would have been significantly worse off without it."





Swim Camps

Active and safe outdoor recreation is a priority. Outdoor recreation can be low-cost, accessible, and sustainable while encouraging people to engage in ways that suit their interests and schedules.

From the 2025 Yukon Healthy Living Study, we learned that more people in rural Yukon use lakes and rivers than community pools. RPAY's Swim Camp programs respond to this fact by teaching children water safety skills so they can safely recreate in and around water-based environments.

In 2025, 85 children, from communities without a seasonal pool, participated in Swim Camps in Old Crow, Ross River and Teslin. Another Swim Camp involved bussing children from Haines Junction into Whitehorse for lessons. Although teaching in cold water conditions comes with challenges, leaders observed strong participation and noticeable gains in confidence and water safety skills.

A partnership with Swim Yukon and the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association's Green Jobs program focused on building the confidence and knowledge needed to stay safe when exploring nature around lakes, rivers, and other open water. Through events that followed the Lifesaving Society Junior Lifeguard Club program, 53 children were able to participate in swim camps held in Mayo, Carmacks, Faro, and Pelly Crossing and in a Swim Meet hosted in Watson Lake.

July 2027

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"There was an outstanding turnout of 26 children at Swim Camp in Old Crow. Great weather, community enthusiasm, and adult engagement made this year an absolute home run!"





Active Play Leadership Workshop

The Active Play Leadership Workshop fosters the skills, confidence, and knowledge needed to create positive, inclusive, and active experiences for children and youth. Delivered by RPAY's APE Programmer and Government of Yukon's Physical Literacy Coordinator, this training is typically offered in the spring helping prepare staff to lead summer camps, after-school programs, and other community recreation programs.

Each workshop focuses on topics such as group dynamics, physical literacy, inclusion, leadership, and active games. Through hands-on activities and practical learning, participants gain valuable tools to engage children and foster positive, active environments where everyone takes part and has fun.

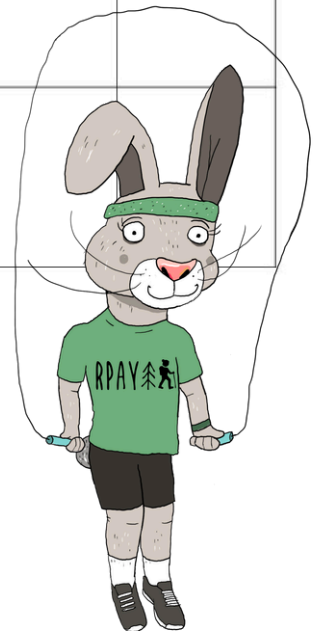
In 2025, three Active Play Leadership Workshops were held in Faro and Whitehorse with 31 registered. In 2026, there were 10 registered in one workshop held in Whitehorse. Participants come from a variety of organizations and communities and leave with increased confidence, new ideas, and practical strategies they can immediately implement in their programs.

By investing in recreation leadership, RPAY helps strengthen local capacity and create high-quality recreation experiences for Yukon children and youth.

August 2027

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"This was a great active play workshop! The WONDERFUL session leaders created a safe space for growth and reflection. I left with some new games and ways to approach play that I can apply as a recreation programmer."





Annual Recreation Gathering

The Annual Recreation Gathering brings together recreation leaders from across the Yukon to connect, learn, share ideas, and celebrate the important role recreation plays in healthy communities. The event provides valuable opportunities for networking, professional development, and peer support, helping participants feel inspired, motivated, and better equipped for the year ahead.

In 2025, the Gathering was hosted in Faro and Ross River. Twenty-five participants from 7 Yukon communities took part in workshops, discussions, local recreation and cultural activities, and visited Old Ross (photo above).

The Gathering is consistently described as a place for recreation leaders to reconnect and recharge and from which they return home with fresh ideas, renewed energy, and a stronger sense of community.

At each Gathering, an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to recreation is recognized. In 2025, Sophia Flather of Old Crow was presented with the RPAY Recognition Award. Sophia lives a traditional, healthy lifestyle, leading her community by example. From maintaining ski trails to organizing annual bush camps, Sophia encourages everyone to get active out on the land. Her kindness, strength, and dedication to Gwich'in culture make her a true role model for her community.

September 2027

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"I love the Rec Gathering. The RPAY team does a phenomenal job. Rebecca is AMAZING!!! She should feel really proud of her efforts to coordinate this event and to foster a familial atmosphere, even between strangers."







The Recreation North Training Program strengthens recreation leadership and management capacity in northern, rural, and remote communities. Delivered by RPAY and the recreation and parks associations of NWT and Nunavut, the program provides accessible online learning that helps staff and volunteers develop the skills needed to support recreation in their communities. Training is offered through two streams which can result in leadership and/or management certification.

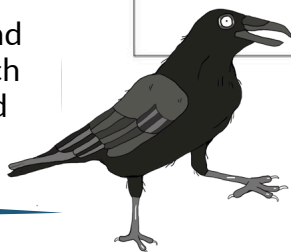
In 2025, 19 Yukon recreation leaders from ten Yukon communities took part in a variety of learning events (mini-courses). They learned about leadership; how to plan and budget for programs and events, and to manage risk. They learned how to write proposals and reports, and how to create an annual plan.

At the 2025 Recreation Gathering, Certificates in Northern Recreation Leadership were presented to individuals from Pelly Crossing and Ross River while Certificates in Northern Recreation Management were presented to individuals from Marsh Lake and Whitehorse.

Since the program began in 2018, 36 Yukon leaders have earned a leadership certificate and 13 have earned a management certificate. Such achievements reflect the growing strength and professionalism of Yukon's recreation sector.

October 2027

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"Leadership training inspired me to shape our recreation programs with purpose while management training expanded my ability to do my job well. Above all, I learned that recreation is more than games; it is the most impactful thing you can do to grow healthy, happy, supportive, and safe communities."



Winter Active for Life

The Winter Active for Life (WAFL) Program encourages Yukoners of all ages to embrace winter and enjoy the many benefits of being active outdoors. The program includes an equipment library and support for winter programming and events.

Through the WAFL Library housed at the Whitehorse Nordic Centre, eligible schools, community groups, and organizations can borrow cross-country ski equipment, snowshoes, and kick sleds. Since 2009, WAFL equipment has removed barriers to being active in winter for families, schools, elders, newcomers, and other community groups.

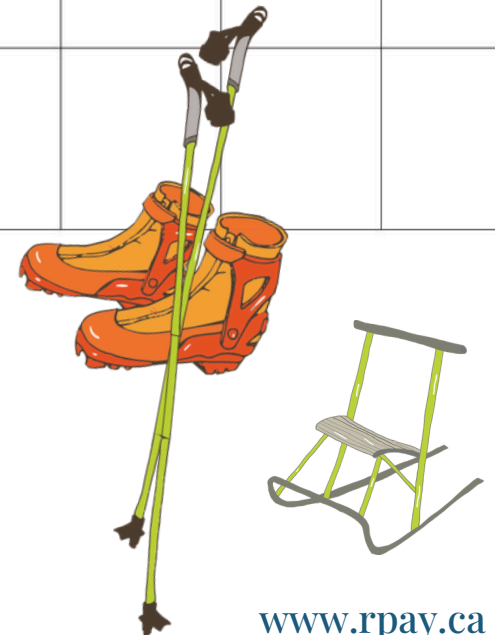
Last winter, 22 organizations and groups accessed the WAFL Library. In total, 301 sets of skis, 319 pairs of boots, 192 sets of poles, and 131 pairs of snowshoes were borrowed. Kick sleds were loaned out 106 times. Overall, WAFL equipment helped 1,174 individuals from Beaver Creek, Carcross, Dawson City, Faro, Haines Junction, Mayo, Mount Lorne, Tagish, and Whitehorse be more winter active.

As a Dawson City leader explained, "We had many folks who were new to the North participate in our ski lessons. We introduced movement on skis and infected them with the joy of being outside even on the coldest days. Having a program like WAFL really fosters appreciation for getting outside and choosing healthy lifestyles in our northern climate."

November 2027

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"The biggest impact of the WAFL Library for us (the Yukon Literacy Coalition) is getting families outside and moving together."





Gratitude

As another year draws to a close, we at the Recreation & Parks Association of the Yukon would like to express our gratitude. We are grateful for many things, but most of all we are grateful to the people who share our passion for the powerful impact that recreation and parks can have on us all; on our individual health and our collective well-being.

During December, take the time to reflect on the influence of recreation and parks on the lives of the people around you. Look for the benefits and remember, community recreation happens because of you!

Thank you to our dedicated Board for your many years of guidance.

Thank you to our committed funders, we certainly couldn't do what we do without your support!

Thank you to our partners and stakeholders - communities, schools, non-profit organizations, First Nations, and governments - across the territory and beyond.

Thank you to the recreation practitioners, leaders, and volunteers; you put your heart and soul into making your community a welcoming, fun, active, and healthy place.

Please come and celebrate the season with the RPAY Board, Staff, and Contractors at our Open House this month!

December 2027

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"Recreation and parks are more than programs and places—they are catalysts for connection, well-being, and community."



Thank you - Mähsi' cho - Shähw níthän - Gunatchîsh - Sógá sénlá' - Merci



Public Health
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Active Living Alliance for Canadians with a Disability
Association of Yukon Communities
BC Coastal Health
Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society
Canadian Parks and Recreation Association
Canadian Playground Safety Institute
Canadian Trails Federation
City of Whitehorse - Canada Games Centre



Coast Mountain Sports
Cycling Association Yukon
ElderActive Recreation Association
EverActive Schools
Fireweed Market Society
Government of Yukon Sport and Recreation Branch
Grant Dunham
Lifesaving Society
Local Authorities for Recreation
Lotteries Yukon
NWT Recreation and Parks Association
ParticipACTION
Public Health Agency of Canada
Recreation and Parks Association of Nunavut
Recreation Facilities Network
Rural Yukon communities
Sean Healy
Sport Yukon
Swim Yukon
Whitehorse Nordic Centre
YSPOR Unit, Yukon Research Centre at YukonU
Yukon Physical Literacy Education Coordinator
Yukon Schools