



May 24th, 2024

ED Report - Sport North Annual General Meeting
Submitted by: Bill Othmer

The Theme of the 2024 Sport North Annual General Meeting is *Celebrating our Volunteers – Together we are Stronger than ever!* The effort and energy our TSO's demonstrate throughout the year is a tribute to their dedication and commitment to Sport. To the Sport North Board and TSO's, Thank You for your Service!

Please find below a summary of the Federation's progress this year.

WCLC Funding Agreement and Financial Management

We are currently in year two of our three-year contribution agreement for the 2023 - 2026 annual contribution of \$800,000.00 of PASR – Physical Activity, Sport and Recreation Fund. The SNF accountability is due June 30th, so we will be experiencing the same duties your TSO faced last month with your submissions. Considering the challenges of the year end last year, we worked on improving our internal controls such as online reporting. This meant moving SNF's Variance Report, Visa Credit Card Statement reporting and Kidsport NWT Applications on to Google Sheets. This created efficiency in receiving timely reporting and improved the quality of reports as well. We updated the process for purchase requisitions to ensure internal and external purchase requests had a two-step approval process with necessary backup. Creating these new internal controls improved our year end close time by more than a month to ensure our auditors had ample time to review our books in preparation for the AGM. Thank You to Tyler for his leadership in this area. Tyler, and Alex, our Finance Chair will be providing a financial report at the meeting.



Active Living Framework (formally known as SPAR)

I participated in the first of what I believe will be many Active Living Framework (ALF) Implementation Advisory Committee meetings on April 25th. Sport North sits alongside the other Partners in this area. The ALF is included in your package.

As a reminder, the NWT Active Living Framework (formally known as SPAR), sets out the GNWT’s vision, principles, and goals to promote physical activity, recreation, and sport for NWT residents over the next decade.

The Framework reflects input from a public engagement process that involved territorial and regional recreation and sport organizations, Indigenous governments and organizations, non-government organizations that support underserved populations, and community active living champions.

This Framework will guide the allocation of revenues from the Western Canada Lottery Program and will also inform GNWT policy and funding decisions related to active living.

Although it is a GNWT Framework, MACA’s goal is that all partners will embrace the vision, principles, and goals so that we can work in collaboration to ensure that every resident of the NWT has access to opportunities for physical activity, sport, and recreation.

Sport North Development Grant

The SNF Development Grant program has been very popular. We anticipate more applications as the TSO’s plan their seasons, and access the resources required to operate.



SNF worked diligently to create grant programs with the deferred revenue from the last Contribution cycle to help with TSO project requirements. Since the grant program was initiated in December, we received 19 applications from 8 different sports, and a total of \$83k has been distributed.

One highlight was providing funding for the development of the Arcan Multisport Training Centre. This facility is managed by NWT Softball, NWT Hockey, and the Aboriginal Sport Circle. As a result, SNF will have our programs supported and advertised at the facility to improve exposure and hopefully increase our numbers in applications moving forward. I hope that you take advantage of the Arcan Open House being held the weekend of June 8 & 9.

It's important to note that the SNF Development Program is open to 2026 to ensure all TSO's can access. Tyler will be providing an update this weekend.

2024 Arctic Winter Games - Matsu-Borough, Alaska

Congratulations to Rita Mercredi and her Mission Staff for doing a tremendous job at the 2024 AWGs in Alaska. Sometimes it's forgotten that two sets of Games are held prior to the actual event. The 2024 AWG Territorial Trials selection events were held in November and December '23. This endeavor takes a great amount of volunteer time and for some participants, is their AWG experience. Ensuring fair and equitable selections that are open to all communities is significant for SNF.

I would like to thank the TSO's and sport/host committees for their efforts throughout the AWG's process.

The 2026 AWG's will be held in Whitehorse Yukon, and we will begin planning for the event soon. As mentioned previously, we always learn



something new with these events and continue to look at ways to ensure the preparation, selection and delivery of Team NT is successful and Athlete Centered. The AWG TSO's will have the opportunity to discuss AWG's items during the Partner showcase Saturday afternoon.

Coaching

Spider has taken over from Rita to lead the Coaching Program. The transfer of knowledge is seamless since Rita is still around to assist when required. Spider has jumped right into the program with his energy and efficiency.

The Coaching Assoc of Canada Comp. Intro Coach facilitation upgrade training with a mental health lens, was capitalized upon by Melanie Thompson, (YK) Holly Jones, (Inuvik) and Thorsten Gohl, (Fort Providence). This will benefit TSO's in planning Coach training. We are always seeking Learning Facilitators to deliver clinics. If you or anyone from your membership is interested, please contact Spider.

Numerous AWG's coaches were supported to meet their Safe Sport and MED Certified status enabling them to attend 2024 AWGs in Alaska. including in person and virtual NWT facilitated MED offerings.

Master Learning Facilitator training is ongoing for Spider. One of many qualities I admire of Spider is his devotion of being a "Lifelong Learner".

Coming up this 2024-25 season:

- Targeted select NCCP Comp Intro and Comp Dev modules in concert with upcoming Multi-Sport Games, to match TSO coach preparation needs.
- Liaising with Pacific Sport Vancouver Island to secure NWT seats in their eight-month virtual program providing coaches with NCCP courses, applied coaching workshops, and mentorship!



Special Projects

Sport North takes on Special Projects with the objective of ensuring that there is a direct OR indirect benefit to the TSO. Spider takes the lead on most of Sport North's Special Projects and his work in this area is to be commended. Below is a summary of what's transpired in this area over the year.

- Common Vision – Breaking the Cycle (PHAC funded) Version 3 concluded, with a final investment in partnering with Aurora College to produce a Northern Resource (video and manual) supporting Early Years Early Childhood Educators with a strong physical literacy lens – formal release May 2024.
- National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21st) – light standard banners ongoing display by the City of Yellowknife, promoting the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action for Sport.
- Canadian Women in Sport – Gender Equity poster campaign to clarify gender equity challenges faced within NWT Sport, to be followed up this season with action to address determined priorities.
- Strategies to Build Self Esteem and Engage Young Females in Sport hosted by Girls in the Game combined with Coach James Leath's Forging Young Men of Character's virtual call to action webinar was offered.
- Inspire Through Sport's leadership and mentor development program targeting teenage female athletes looking to develop their skills in life and sport, was embraced by 4 self-directed girls from Volleyball, Badminton, Soccer, and Fastball.



- Reaching Each and Everyone - Delivering Muslim sensitive sport programming, Creating welcoming and inclusive LGBTQ sports environments. Working with newcomer communities in creating strategies to grow recreational sport participation. Collaborating with individuals from underrepresented and marginalized communities, Sport North, with guided facilitation by industry leaders Sarah Galsworthy and Carolyn Trono, will plan and host an interactive gatherings and discussion panels, combined with strategic next steps planning and execution.

Themed professional development offerings are poised to begin as an added annual Sport North emphasis:

- Year of the Sport Parent (2024-25)
- Year of the Official
- Year of the Athlete
- Year of the Coach
- Year of the Sport Administrator
- Year of the Volunteer

Communication & Marketing

Whitney is responsible for the Sport North Social Media platforms. Below is a summary of how we're performing. If you have any ideas how we can further promote the Federation, please contact Whitney.

- The Sport North Facebook has
 - 1,886 followers up to 1,919
- The Team NT Facebook
 - 5,038 followers up to 5,917
- The Sport North Instagram has
 - 701 followers up to 722
- The Team NT Instagram
 - 2,284 followers up to 2,572
- The Sport North Twitter



- 933 Followers stayed at 933.
- The Team NT Twitter
 - 1,197 Followers down to 1,188

2026 Sport North 50th Anniversary

- Currently communicating with museums to see if they would be interested in setting up a display for Sport North in 2026.
- Working on getting funding for a book to be published

SNF Promotion

Thank You Videos

Sport North initiated the release of a series of Thank You videos on the Sport North Facebook page/Instagram. We thanked Lotteries/MACA (on January 15th, 2024), which received some good reception. On January 29th we launched the second video thanking the TSO's for their contribution. On March 15th we released a video highlighting and promoting the HOF and SNF Awards, with the intent of motivating people to submit applications.

Regarding Sponsorships, we have renewed our agreements with Canadian North, NorthwTel and Nova Hotels. We hope that you take advantage of the benefits from the Travel and accommodations rates provided.

KidSport

Tyler manages the KidSport program and will be providing an update over the weekend. We've seen a resurgence in registrations since Covid. In the last year, we received 68 successful applications from 27 different teams/organizations and 12 different sports. We also received 27 successful applications for Community Equipment Grants, 8 from communities who haven't received grants in the last 4 years, showing our communication to the remote areas of the Territory has improved. Kidsport NWT set a record this year for most grants provided since its inception – with \$88k in grants. We also plan to work with the GNWT department ECE



this coming year to advertise our grants to eligible candidates of ECE's Income Assistance program to increase our individual grant applications.

Friendly reminder to register for the 3rd Annual Roger Walker Memorial Golf Tournament with proceeds going to KidSport. The event is on July 5th at the Yellowknife Golf Club.

I would like to thank the KidSport Committee members; Sheena Jensen, Kim Poulter, Dolphus Nitsiza, Dianne Beck, and Thorsten Gohl. Your work on the committee is appreciated and respected.

Closing Remarks

With warm weather in the future, my hope is that the summer sports have a successful season, and the winter sports find time to convalesce and plan.

These days it appears that most TSO's are operating for 12 months of the year. Please remember to recharge your batteries and find some time with Family and Friends to enjoy the summer!

Thank You for Volunteering!

Yours in Sport,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Othmer", written in a cursive style.

Bill Othmer- Executive Director
Sport North Federation