

Sport Policy in Nunavut

On April 1, 1999, Nunavut became an official territory, implemented with a distinctive decentralized government structure.

1999 - 2008

Paul Okalik Administration

The Okalik government prioritized economic development, public infrastructure, including housing and schools, and the establishment of core territorial institutions following Nunavut's creation.

During this period, sport, recreation, and physical activity in Nunavut were shaped by grassroots, community-based initiatives, a heavy reliance on volunteers, and the gradual development of territorial sport organizations in the absence of a comprehensive policy framework.

Key Points

1999: Sport Nunavut was created.

1999: Sport Nunavut adopted Sport North's **Gender Equity Policy**.

2000: The Government of Yukon supported Team Nunavut to compete at the **Arctic Winter Games** for the first time.

2001: The Government of Yukon supported Team Nunavut to compete at the **Canada Summer Games** for the first time, expanding territorial representation in national multi-sport competition.

2002: The governments of Nunavut and Greenland partnered to **co-host the Arctic Winter Games** in Iqaluit and Nuuk.

2002: Team Nunavut competed at the **North American Indigenous Games** for the first time.

2003: Team Nunavut competed at the **Canada Winter Games** for the first time.

2003: The Government of Nunavut entered into a **bilateral agreement** with the federal government under the Canadian Sport Policy to support sport participation, coaching, and athlete development initiatives across the territory.

Key Points

2010: The Recreation and Parks Association of Nunavut (RPAN), a non-profit organization, was incorporated with the mission of improving the health and well-being of Nunavummiut through recreation.

2011: Canadian Sport Policy Renewal (CSPR) for Nunavut was updated. The CSPR established priorities for sport participation, coach and athlete development, and improved access to community sport programming across the territory.

2012: The Sport and Recreation Code of Conduct Policy was created by the Government of Nunavut. The policy established standards of behaviour, ethical conduct, and procedures for addressing misconduct for athletes, coaches, volunteers, and territorial sport organizations.

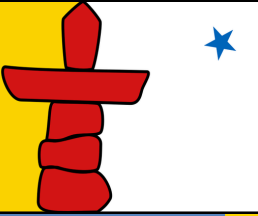


2008 - 2013

Eva Aariak Administration

The Aariak government prioritized economic development alongside social policy focused on education, language, and culture, particularly through strengthening Inuit identity and community well-being.

During this period, Nunavut sport, recreation, and physical activity were shaped by a growing emphasis on inclusion and by continued reliance on community- and volunteer-delivered services without a clear strategic mandate.



Key Points

2013 - 2017

Peter Taptuna Administration

The Taptuna government prioritized economic development through resource extraction and growth towards a sustainable economy.

During this period, systemic gaps were acknowledged in Nunavut's sport, recreation, and physical activity sector, particularly in infrastructure, workforce, and access.

2013: RPAN hosted its first annual **Sport Leader Conference**.

2015: RPAN launched the **Get Happy Summer Camp** pilot program, training and employing youth aged 16-29 to facilitate the camps for children aged 5-12.

2016: The Government of Nunavut pulled out of a plan to host the 2020 Arctic Winter Games, citing a **lack of facilities and inadequate funding**.

2016: The Government of Canada and the Government of Nunavut signed a **bilateral agreement** solidifying funding to increase sport participation and develop athletic programs within the territory.

2016: The Registry of Canadian Businesses identified Nunavut as the only jurisdiction in Canada with **no registered athletic instruction or spectator-sport enterprises**, highlighting a structural absence of a formal sport economy in the territory.

2017: A **new community aquatic centre was opened** in Iqaluit. The previous community pool was closed in 2012 due to maintenance issues.

Paul Quassa was removed from office following a non-confidence motion on June 14, 2018.

The brief Paul Quassa government focused on Inuit self-determination, emphasizing Inuit language, culture, and community governance.

During this period, there was growing momentum toward developing a territorial sport, recreation, and physical activity framework.

2017 - 2018

Paul Quassa Administration

Key Points

2108: Recreation and Parks Association of Nunavut received **funding from Makigiaqta Inuit Training Corporation** for the Leading the Way Youth Recreation Strategy.

2018: The Taloyoak **community swimming pool was reopened** after a five-year closure due to maintenance issues.

2019: Nunavut endorsed the **Red Deer Declaration for the Prevention of Harassment, Abuse, and Discrimination in Sport**.

2019: The **Sport and Recreation Grants and Contributions Policy 2019-2023** outlined funding distribution for sport and recreation organizations, athlete development initiatives, and community programming within the territory.

2020: Nunavut MLAs called for **safety and increased female participation** in sport within the territory.

2020: Nunaliit Aulajut: Nunavut's Sport, Physical Activity, and Recreation Framework was released by the government's Sport and Recreation Division to provide guidance for the next 10 years of Sport, Physical Activity, and Recreation in the territory. The framework emphasized Inuit societal values, community wellness, increased access in remote communities, physical literacy, athlete and coach development, and culturally relevant programming across Nunavut.

2020: The Government of Nunavut Sport and Recreation Division Action Plan 2020-2030 was released as a commitment to Nunaliit Aulajut.

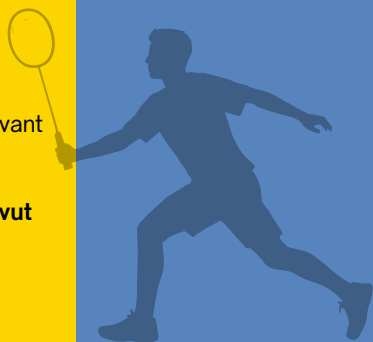


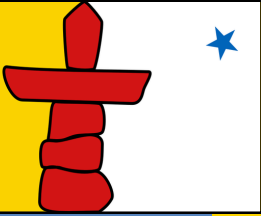
2018 - 2021

Joe Savikataaq Administration

The Savikataaq government focused on economic development through support for mining and regional economic opportunities.

During this period, Nunavut's sport, recreation, and physical activity sector was shaped by the development and release of the territory's first comprehensive sport, physical activity, and recreation framework, alongside significant disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.





Key Points

2021 - 2025

P.J. Akeegok Administration

The Akeegok government focused on sustainable growth tied to Inuit self-determination and strengthening partnerships between Inuit organizations and the federal government.

During this period, sport, recreation, and physical activity in Nunavut were shaped by the ongoing implementation of the Nunaliit Aulajut (2020-2030) framework, alongside increased emphasis on safe sport and community capacity building.

2022: The **Arctic Sports Organization** was officially incorporated.

2022: The Revised **Sport and Recreation Grants and Contributions Policy** was released, outlining funding distribution for sport and recreation within the territory.

2024: The community arena in Whale Cove reopened after a **four-year closure** due to facility maintenance issues.

2024: The Department of Community and Government Services Sport and Recreation Division introduced **This Girl Can**, a territory-specific campaign promoting physical activity for girls in Nunavut.

2025: Sporting organizations in Nunavut were required to adopt the **Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS)**.

2025: Sport Nunavut was rebranded as **NU Sport Federation**. The organization plays a central role in Nunavut's sport system, strengthening coordinated delivery of sport programming across the territory in partnership with the Government of Nunavut and Territorial Sport Organizations, with a focus on participation, athlete development, and community-based access.

