

MOVE | PLAY | COMPETE



I·SPARC  
Move | Play | Compete

Indigenous Sport,  
Physical Activity &  
Recreation Council



# 21,426 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



**ENHANCING THE WAYS IN WHICH SPORT,  
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, RECREATION,  
AND HEALTHY LIVING PROGRAMS ARE  
DESIGNED AND DELIVERED WITHIN  
INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES.**



# COLLABORATION, INNOVATION, EXCELLENCE

**FOR 15 YEARS, THE INDIGENOUS SPORT, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & RECREATION COUNCIL (I-SPARC) HAS BEEN DEDICATED TO MAKING PARTICIPATION IN SPORT, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIVING A PRIORITY FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES.**

**C**ollaboration is a key component of I-SPARC's Provincial Strategy and in 2023/24, I-SPARC used the fortified foundations of 2022/23's successful return to regular programming to strengthen its existing partnerships within the mainstream and Indigenous systems and laid the groundwork for new positive relationships. Creative and innovative solutions were applied to expand the scope of existing programs while introducing new opportunities that contribute to the improved health and well-being of Indigenous peoples throughout the province. This was also a year to celebrate. Team BC's outstanding performance at the 2023 NAIG in Kijipuktuk (Halifax) July 15-23 was a testament to the talent, dedication, and months of hard work of the athletes, coaches, families, and mission staff. Spectators and participants alike experienced impressive displays of skill, sportsmanship, and unity—and memories to last a lifetime.

I-SPARC had a number of successful collaborations in 2023/24, including the expansion of the already successful Food Systems Program (FSP). After assuming stewardship in 2022/23, I-SPARC worked with FNHA to adapt the program into an Indigenous-led initiative nimble enough to respond to community needs. Innovative decisions such as adding a virtual education series to FSP and involving local knowledge-keepers and Elders in workshop presentations are perfect examples of the kind of responsive and enduring programs I-SPARC envisioned developing and delivering when creating the Provincial Strategy.

*Continued on Page 3*

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## WHAT IS I-SPARC?

*The Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity & Recreation Council (I-SPARC) is a provincial organization dedicated to improving the health outcomes of Indigenous peoples by supporting and encouraging physically active individuals, families, and communities. The programs and services are designed to build capacity and increase access to sport, recreation, and physical activity in First Nations communities, Métis Chartered Communities, Friendship Centres, schools, and other delivery agencies throughout the province.*

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## THE STRATEGY

*I-SPARC's Provincial Strategy, organized and supported by Four Pillars—Healthy Living, Sport, Engagement, and Sustainability, provides a long-term road map for responsive and enduring programs that have a transformative impact on the health and well-being of Indigenous individuals, families, and communities throughout BC.*

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## EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED

*The Strategy is based on a holistic approach to health and wellness, a common thread across our diverse cultures, and acknowledges the interconnectedness of the physical, mental (intellectual and emotional), cultural, and spiritual facets of life.*

# COMPETE WITH SPIRIT



*Continued from Page 1*

Work also continued with the Schools Physical Activity and Physical Literacy program and the response has been enormously positive. Increased financial support remains an important part of I-SPARC's successful delivery of programming. In cooperation with the Canadian Cancer Society, I-SPARC submitted a proposal to secure funding to reduce commercial tobacco use within Indigenous communities. And RISE, I-SPARC's grant program dedicated to children and youth in care introduced last year with a commitment from the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, continues to have a tangible and positive impact on reducing barriers to participation.

Highlights of new initiatives include the piloting of I-SPARC's Cultural Safety Training program, designed to provide an understanding of the historical and current realities of Indigenous Peoples and the ongoing racism within the sports and physical activity systems. Digital innovation played a big part in 2023/24, with the development of an interactive online map that tracks the progress of participants of the Indigenous RunWalkWheel (IRWW) program and, in collaboration with the BC Sports Hall of Fame, the launch of the Digital Indigenous Sport Gallery, making the existing gallery celebrating Indigenous athletes, teams, and builders who have made an impact on British Columbia's sport history accessible across the province and worldwide.

In 2023/24, by strengthening relationships and continuing to respond to the needs of Indigenous youth and their communities with creativity and flexibility, I-SPARC delivered a total of 603 events reaching 21,426 participants, an increase of 21% from 2022/23.

# COMPETE WITH WINDSET



## NAIG 2023

THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS GAMES (NAIG) ARE THE LARGEST CONTINENTAL SPORT AND CULTURAL GATHERING OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES. IN 2023, THEY WERE HELD ON THE TERRITORY OF THE MI'KMAQ FROM JULY 15 TO 23 IN KJIPIKTUK (HALIFAX), NOVA SCOTIA.

With the support and oversight of Provincial Sport Committees, I-SPARC's Team BC Mission Staff developed a comprehensive selection process. Over 500 Indigenous athletes and coaches were chosen to represent BC in the following 14 sports: 3D Archery, Athletics (Track & Field, Cross-Country), Badminton, Basketball, Beach Volleyball, Canoe/Kayak, Golf, Lacrosse (Box), Rifle Shooting, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Volleyball, and Wrestling.

NAIG 2023 was a busy week of competition, full of euphoric wins and heartbreaking losses. Exciting experiences were shared and new friendships forged. Team BC returned home with heads held high. Throughout the Games, team members proudly showcased the exceptional talent of Indigenous athletes from across BC, securing an impressive total of 159 medals (53 gold, 62 silver, 44 bronze) across 14 sports. Team BC's outstanding performances earned them second place in the overall team standings—just 17 medals behind Team Saskatchewan, and 31 medals ahead of Team Ontario.

NAIG 2023 was a transformative experience, providing participants with a unique opportunity to witness and experience cultural pride while fostering team spirit. Athletes travelled across the country, gaining new perspectives and increased self-esteem. An impressive 94% of Team BC members surveyed agreed that the experience had a positive influence regarding their involvement in sport in the future, and 93% indicated they felt a deeper sense of pride and unity as a result of participating in the Games.

# COMPETE WITH VALUE



## TEAM BC MEDAL STANDINGS

GOLD



53

SILVER



62

BRONZE



44

2023 JEUX  
AUTOCHTONES  
de l'Amérique du Nord  
HALIFAX - NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE



North American  
INDIGENOUS  
GAMES 2023  
HALIFAX - NOVA SCOTIA



“

OUR SON PLAYED WITH TEAM BC AT THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS GAMES IN HALIFAX IN LACROSSE THIS PAST SUMMER. THE TEAM BC NAIG EXPERIENCE WAS BY FAR THE BEST SPORTING EXPERIENCE OUR SON, AND OUR FAMILY, HAS EVER HAD.

PARENT OF TEAM BC NAIG ATHLETE

# MOVE WITH DIGNITY

“ THIS WAS AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE. I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD BE ABLE TO RUN 5K, LET ALONE 10K. I FEEL LIKE I’VE FOUND A PHYSICAL OUTLET THAT SUPPORTS MY MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH, AND I WANT TO KEEP GOING!

IRWW PARTICIPANT FROM PRINCE GEORGE



## HEALTHY LIVING

AS THE FIRST PILLAR OF I-SPARC’S PROVINCIAL STRATEGY, HEALTHY LIVING PROGRAMS ARE DESIGNED TO INSPIRE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN IMPROVING THEIR INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING. THIS YEAR, 311 PROGRAMS WERE DELIVERED THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE, INVOLVING 5,431 PARTICIPANTS.

### SCHOOLS PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND PHYSICAL LITERACY PROGRAM

The Schools Physical Activity and Physical Literacy Program (SPA-PL) focuses on empowering BC educators to improve their student’s physical and mental wellness. The In-School Support program (ISS), a critical component of SPA-PL, was developed to provide the tools and training to promote physical literacy in K-7 classrooms across the province. Training for facilitators includes discussions on cultural safety and the holistic approach to health and wellness. In 2023/24, 15 five-day workshops were delivered to First Nation schools and public schools with high Indigenous populations. A total of 54 teachers and 586 students participated. Teachers were also provided with a variety of resources, including over 1000, Métis Jigging folder and colouring pages, and a PLAYBuilder Indigenous Games and Activities printout. An additional 583 copies of these resources were downloaded after the workshops ended. While it is difficult to quantify the total amount, as they continue to be downloaded and shared, according to participants, the ISS resources have been the most popular of all the Indigenous and mainstream resources made available to them to date. In addition, the first three-day, in-person Physical Activity and Physical Literacy training forum for Indigenous educators working in First Nations Schools Association, Independent, and District schools across the province was offered in 2024. The demand for physical literacy programming in schools continues to grow.



### INDIGENOUS RUN/WALK/WHEEL

The Indigenous RunWalkWheel (IRWW) program, now in its seventeenth year, supports leaders in delivering an 8-13 week program that prepares community members to walk, run, or wheel in a 5k or 10k event. In 2023/24, an interactive online map, This Land We Walk On, was developed to chart participants’ virtual progress. Collectively, over a 13-week period, 491 participants from 31 communities travelled an impressive 2,348 kilometres involving communities spanning from Port Hardy to Burns Lake.

### REDUCTION OF COMMERCIAL TOBACCO USE

I-SPARC partnered with the Canadian Cancer Society to submit a proposal to the Public Health Agency of Canada for funding to develop a project aimed at reducing commercial tobacco use within Indigenous communities through participation in culturally relevant land- or water-based group physical activities. The proposal was accepted, and funding awarded in February 2024. The goal of this project is to complement and enhance the commercial tobacco reduction component of the IRWW, HYHC and FitNation programming.



# MOVE WITH WELLNESS



“  
AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT WUJINUXV  
NATION, I HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF  
WITNESSING THE TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT  
OF THIS PROGRAM ON THE HEALTH AND WELL-  
BEING OF OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

IN-SCHOOL SUPPORT EDUCATOR PARTICIPANT  
IN ISS WORKSHOP

## CULTURAL SAFETY TRAINING

In 2023/24, I-SPARC successfully piloted its new Cultural Safety Training program. Designed to provide an understanding of the historical and current realities of Indigenous Peoples, the program examines topics such as the impact and inequities created by the residential school system and systemic racism, power, and privilege, as well as the ongoing racism within the sports system today. The first of three pilot programs was held in April 2023 with the BC Games Society. The second took place in October 2023 with the BC Sport Branch of the Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture, and the third in January 2024 with ViaSport staff. A total of 61 participants completed the training. I-SPARC plans to officially launch the program in 2024 with a select group of organizations and leaders within the Sport, Physical Activity, and Recreation sectors.



# MOVE WITH TRADITION



## REGIONAL LEADER TRAINING

The Regional Leader Training Sessions (RTS) held across the province every fall are key to I-SPARC's Healthy Living programs. These sessions allow community champions to train in facilitating either the Indigenous RunWalkWheel (IRWW) or Honour Your Health Challenge (HYHC) program. Each leader leaves the session equipped with the tools and resources needed to deliver their own community program, and a deeper knowledge in the areas of physical activity, healthy eating, mental wellness, respecting tobacco, healthy communities, and cultural celebration. In 2023/24 all five RTS were successfully delivered. This involved coordinating 28 different types of workshops involving 45 facilitators in addition to the managing of logistics and resources to deliver 5 distinct sessions. Topics on the RTS agenda included a holistic wellness workshop, a traditional healing ceremony, and traditional foods and preservation discussions. In response to requests from the previous year's surveys, there were also multiple hands-on cultural activities offered, such as beading, medicine pouch making and traditional dancing. In addition, there were active sessions in FitNation, Pound Fitness, Powwow Dancing, Nordic Walking, Yoga, and Traditional Games, including Lacrosse and Lahal, a traditional stick or bone game played in many Indigenous communities. A total of 287 leaders were trained, representing a 10% increase in participation over last fiscal year. Subsequently, those trained leaders ran 199 multi-week healthy living programs in their respective communities (115 HYHC, 65 IRWW and 19 FitNation). Overall, the number of community-based programs delivered by Healthy Living leaders increased by 11%.

## FOOD SYSTEMS PROGRAM

This year, its second under I-SPARC's stewardship, the Food Systems Program (FSP), which supports food sovereignty and food security efforts in First Nations and Indigenous populations throughout BC, held the first open call for applications for the \$5000 activity grant. In 2023/24, 81 applicants were awarded a grant. The variety in the requests for funding was a strong indicator of the benefit of the community-led approach—44% of the proposals were for the revitalization of Indigenous food-related practices, 34.5% had a focus on preserving foods (including traditional foods), 24.6% involved traditional activities such as fishing, hunting, or foraging, and 12% included a focus on growing, foraging for and processing traditional medicines. In February 2024, the second in-person gathering was held in Musqueam territory and featured local projects, experts, and Community Food Champions running food-related programs or implementing food-related infrastructure within their community. A total of 60 participants were in attendance, including 13 Indigenous Knowledge Holders, Elders, and experts, who delivered workshops, knowledge-sharing opportunities, and presentations. FSP also hosted a virtual education series to support Community Food Champions throughout the province on the following topics: Integrated Pest Management, Seed Saving, and Clam Gardens. These webinars are available on I-SPARC's YouTube channel for Community Food Champions to access.



**WE HAD A WONDERFUL YEAR ADDING TO OUR CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND FOOD SYSTEMS REVITALIZATION. WE INITIATED SEVERAL NEW MEDICINE AND FOOD GARDEN PROJECTS AROUND AREAS FREQUENTED BY CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND ELDER.**

SHISHALH NATION MEMBER

# PLAY WITH PASSION

“

THE REWARDS AREN'T INSTANT, BUT THE DIFFERENCE YOU [I-SPARC] MAKE WITH YOUTH IS AMAZING.

DR. PETER NEWBERY



## SPORT

### COMMUNITY SPORT DEVELOPMENT

Providing sport development opportunities based on the individual needs and priorities of communities is one of I-SPARC central sport initiatives. In 2023/24, there was a high level of community engagement and participation throughout the six regions. A total of 160 development camps were delivered across the province, resulting in the engagement of over 10,000 youth. In its ongoing objective to continue to build leadership capacity, I-SPARC also delivered 57 coaching and officiating courses in various communities, with a total of 456 participants.

I-SPARC's collaboration with various professional sport franchises continued in 2023/24. A successful grant application to Basketball Canada was made in partnership with the Vancouver Bandits to enhance basketball coaching and officials training. To date, 2 Coach Development Clinics and 1 Officials Training Clinic have been completed. Work with the Vancouver Whitecaps (VWFC) to create opportunities for leadership development and soccer participation for children and youth continued, with a focus on multi-year special events and regional camps. At the Gathering Our Voices youth conference in March 2024, VWFC delivered 2 workshops to 87 participants. The collaboration with the BC Lions continued with the Indigenous Youth Flag Football Leadership Program. For the second year, four-week skills development camps and life-skills workshops were delivered in 4 communities. There was also a flag football tournament hosted and multiple single-game ticket giveaways.



### COMMUNITY ULTIMATE SPIRIT PROGRAM

For the past five years, I-SPARC has partnered with BC Ultimate in the delivery of the Community Ultimate Spirit Program (CUSP), a long-term initiative with the goal of giving youth not only the opportunity to play and learn from the sport of ultimate, but also to connect with other communities, Indigenous and non-Indigenous alike, and create a network throughout the province. In 2023/24, there were 7 multi-week CUSP programs delivered in 5 communities as well as engagement opportunities at events such as National Indigenous People's Day and the Gathering Our Voices conference.

### ILTPD

The Indigenous Long Term Participant Development Pathway (ILTPD) document developed by Sport for Life is a guide on how to address the needs of Indigenous participants as they navigate the transition between Indigenous and mainstream sport. I-SPARC works with Provincial Sport Organizations to facilitate an understanding and appreciation for these unique needs and take long-term action to implement the ILTPD.

# PLAY WITH PRIDE



## REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS

These annual gatherings are important forums designed for anyone involved in Indigenous sport, recreation, physical activity, and health promotion. The aim is to engage key interest groups committed to building healthy, active communities in sharing successes and lessons learned. In 2023/24 the meetings were delivered virtually in the Northwest, Vancouver Island, and Interior regions and in person in the Fraser, Vancouver Coastal, and Northeast regions. Agenda items included exploring the Safe Sport/Safe Participation movement from an Indigenous lens and discussing strategies to support the rebuilding of coach and leader capacity post pandemic.

## PERFORMANCE SPORT

Fostering and increasing performance-based opportunities for Indigenous athletes and coaches to allow them to better prepare for competition is a central component of ISPARC's Provincial Strategy. Through the delivery of Athlete Development Camps and Team BC programs, I-SPARC continues to provide a foundation for participants to enhance their development and follow a competitive, performance-based pathway. Guided by its Provincial Sport Committees, I-SPARC actively works towards strengthening relationships with the mainstream sport system to support collaborations with host communities and key sport interest groups.

## NATIONAL ABORIGINAL HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2023 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships (NAHC) were hosted in Winnipeg, Manitoba, from May 7-13. The Team BC Selection Camp, held in Kamloops March 31-April 2, had a total of 139 athletes (85 men and 54 women) participating. Forty (40) athletes—20 for U18 women's team and 20 for the U18 men's team—were chosen to compete in the championships, along with 12 coaching and support staff. Both teams competed in the bronze medal rounds and performed exceptionally well—the women's team finished fourth and the men's finished third. This is the ninth consecutive year that Team BC's men's team has won a medal at the NAHC.



“  
THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING. WE JUST WISH WE HAD ONE MORE YEAR TO PLAY. IT HAS BEEN FANTASTIC, YOUR TEAM [I-SPARC] IS AMAZING, AND WE ARE SO GLAD WE WERE LUCKY TO BE A PART OF IT!

PARENT OF TEAM BC ATHLETE FOLLOWING 2023 NAHC

# PLAY WITH BELIEF



## BC INDIGENOUS PROVINCIAL ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT CAMPS

After the conclusion of the 2023 NAIG in July, I-SPARC resumed the series of BC Indigenous Provincial Athlete Development Camps. These camps provide a unique opportunity for Indigenous athletes and coaches throughout the province to gather and participate in athlete development events while celebrating sport excellence. A total of 11 athlete camps were delivered to continue supporting athlete and coach development pathways for several NAIG sports. High performance was the focus of the basketball and volleyball camps, whereas the archery, athletics, badminton, rifle shooting, swimming, and wrestling camps focused on development.

## SPORT FOR LIFE

In partnership with PacificSport Fraser Valley, I-SPARC successfully delivered a 2-day *Indigenous Long Term Participant Development Pathway* (ILTPD) workshop for 18 members of the BC Regional Sport Alliance, as well as 2 staff from Aboriginal Sport Circle and 1 from Sport for Life Society. I-SPARC also teamed up with Sport for Life in their 2024 Summit as a host partner. The summit included the presentation of four real-life “case studies” focused on Indigenous participation and scenarios. The subsequent round-table discussions were facilitated and led by I-SPARC staff. There were 121 delegates in attendance. In partnership with the Aboriginal Sport Circle and Sport for Life, I-SPARC also hosted several *Indigenous Communities: Active for Life* workshops, which are designed to support community leaders in delivering programs that will inspire community members to lead active and healthy lifestyles. In 2023/24, 9 of these workshops were delivered with a total of 71 participants.

## HOCKEY DAY IN CANADA

Every January, Hockey Night in Canada transforms into Hockey Day in Canada held in a select Canadian city and this year Victoria, BC, was the host. I-SPARC supported the planning and delivery of a number of activities, including the Salish Storm Hockey Association’s participation in on-ice sessions at Inner Harbour, the Welcome Ceremony for the Stanley Cup at the Songhees Wellness Centre (where legendary sports commentator Ron MacLean introduced NAHC alumni to the audience), and the participation of Team BC in the NHL Alumni game.

# MOVE | PLAY | COMPETE WITH CAPACITY

“  
THE STUDENTS ARE EXCITED ABOUT THE FLOOR  
CURLING SETS, AND EVEN THOSE WHO AREN'T  
TYPICALLY EXCITED ABOUT P.E. ARE HAVING  
FUN WITH THIS NEW EQUIPMENT.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION TEACHER, SILVER CREEK ELEMENTARY



## GRANTS

**IT TAKES RESOURCES TO BUILD CAPACITY AND SUSTAIN PROGRAM DELIVERY. BUILDING ON THE SUCCESS OF EXISTING GRANT INITIATIVES, I-SPARC HAS BEEN INTRODUCING NEW PROGRAMS WHILE ENSURING THE LONGEVITY OF ITS CURRENT ONES.**

Specifically designed to promote healthy, active lifestyles by reducing barriers and enhancing access to sport, recreation, and physical activity programs, I-SPARC's grant program continues to expand in response to the growing need for financial support in Indigenous communities across the province. Funds are distributed through the Equipment Grant Program, the Healthy Living Community Grants, the FSP Community Grants, and RISE Grants.

In 2023/24 a total of 1065 grants were distributed across I-SPARC grant programs:

- 112 Equipment Grants
- 200 Healthy Living Grants (inclusive of FitNation, HYHC and IRWW)
- 672 RISE Grants (652 individual, 20 organizational)
- 81 Food Systems Grants

### THE RISE GRANT PROGRAM

In 2022, the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport announced a \$3.6M, 5-year commitment to I-SPARC to support the RISE (Resilient, Inspire, Strength, and Engage) Grant Program, I-SPARC's first program dedicated to children and youth in care. The grants reduce financial barriers faced by children and youth in or transitioning from care, allowing them greater accessibility to sport, physical activity, recreation, and cultural programs. This collaborative initiative encompasses both individual and organizational grants to empower young individuals to connect with their communities, explore their cultural heritage, and experience the momentous power of sport and physical activity. The program continues to exceed expectations, averaging 80 applications per month. In 2023/24, a total of 652 Individual grants were distributed (571 grants for children/youth under 18 years and 81 grants for youth over 18 years). In addition, 20 communities and organizations received an Organizational grant to support programming design to engage children and youth in care.



### EQUIPMENT GRANT PROGRAM

*Designed specifically to respond to the need for access to equipment to reduce barriers to participation, I-SPARC's Equipment Grant Program continues to thrive. In 2023/24, 112 applicants received grants ranging from \$500 to \$3000 to purchase equipment needed to deliver programming in their respective communities.*

### SILVER CREEK ELEMENTARY

*Silver Creek Elementary, located in Hope, BC, has a significant Indigenous student population. The equipment grant from I-SPARC allowed the school to purchase starter sets for floor curling and begin the process of introducing the entire school to a new sport.*

# PREMIER'S AWARDS



**CHEYENNE SIMICAK**  
Softball ; Baseball,  
Gitksan Nation - Gitanmaax



**LINCOLN WALL**  
Lacrosse,  
Métis Nation BC



**GRANT REID**  
Hockey,  
Métis Nation (Surrey)



**MEADOW  
ARCAND-SQUAKIN**  
Lacrosse, Syilx and Nehiyaw



**DANICA MAYNARD**  
Hockey,  
Métis Nation BC



**NICHOLAS LAFONTAINE**  
Basketball,  
Métis



**CONNER LEWIS**  
Soccer,  
Métis Nation BC



**TYMEKO COLLINSON**  
Volleyball,  
Skidegate - Haida Nation



**BEN BRANT**  
Hockey,  
Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte



**ALEXANDRA NELSON**  
Hockey ; Lacrosse,  
Snuneymuxw First Nation

## AWARDS 2023

The Premier's Awards for Indigenous Youth Excellence in Sport recognizes athletes who have achieved excellence in performance sport and demonstrate a commitment to their education, culture, and promoting healthy and active lifestyles.

For 2023, 36 regional award winners were chosen for their achievements (from a total of 126 nominations). A new feature of the selection process was added this year. The newly formed Sport Technical Panel oversaw the scoring of the athletic achievements of the candidates and passed the results on to the Regional Selection Committees. Regional recipients of the Premier's Awards were announced in January 2024.

The 10 Premier's Award recipients received a framed print from renowned Indigenous artist Carey Newman. They will also be commemorated in the BC Sports Hall of Fame with their photos and bios displayed in a dedicated wing for the Premiers' Awards.



“

IT IS AMAZING TO FOLLOW THE LEGACY OF THESE AWARDS. MANY PAST RECIPIENTS HAVE GONE ON TO COMPETE WITH CANADIAN NATIONAL TEAMS, RECEIVED UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS, AND EVEN GONE ON TO PLAY PROFESSIONALLY!

MANAGER, I-SPARC RECOGNITION PROGRAMS

# MOVE | PLAY | COMPETE

## WITH COLLABORATION, INNOVATION, EXCELLENCE



### DIGITAL INDIGENOUS SPORT GALLERY

*The Indigenous Sport Gallery is the largest known permanent gallery in the world dedicated to Indigenous sport and it can now be experienced by visitors from across British Columbia and the world. One of the most comprehensive digitization projects in sports history, the Digital Indigenous Sport Gallery was designed to increase the accessibility of the Indigenous Sport Gallery and highlight the accomplishments and contributions of Indigenous athletes, coaches and builders who have had a profound impact on sport history and culture. Throughout 2023/24, I-SPARC continued its collaboration with the BC Sports Hall of Fame to advance the TRC's Call to Action #87 in the creation and promotion of this state-of-the-art virtual reality experience, which also provides a platform to spotlight emerging Indigenous athletes, including the annual recipients of the Premier's Awards for Indigenous Youth Excellence in Sport.*

### COLLABORATION IS THE SECRET TO SUCCESS

I-SPARC would like to thank the following Partners, whose collaboration and support has been essential to the organization's continued growth in delivering successful programs that have a positive impact on the health and well-being of Indigenous individuals, families, and communities across BC.

- First Nations Health Authority (FNHA)
- Métis Nation BC (MNBC)
- BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCA AFC)
- Province of BC
- Government of Canada



**I-SPARC CONTINUES TO COLLABORATE WITH ITS PARTNERS TO DELIVER PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO EMPOWER PARTICIPANTS TO MAKE LIFELONG HEALTHY CHOICES AND IMPROVE THE HEALTH OUTCOMES OF INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE.**



Supported by the Province of British Columbia

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture and the Ministry of Health.



We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada.



# I-SPARC

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Indigenous Sport,  
Physical Activity &  
Recreation Council



## I-SPARC Board of Directors

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