2022



Alberta Recreation and Parks Association

ANNUAL REPORT



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ARPA would like to acknowledge the First Nations, the Métis, and all of the people across Alberta who share a history and a deep connection with this land. We dedicate ourselves to moving forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in the spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

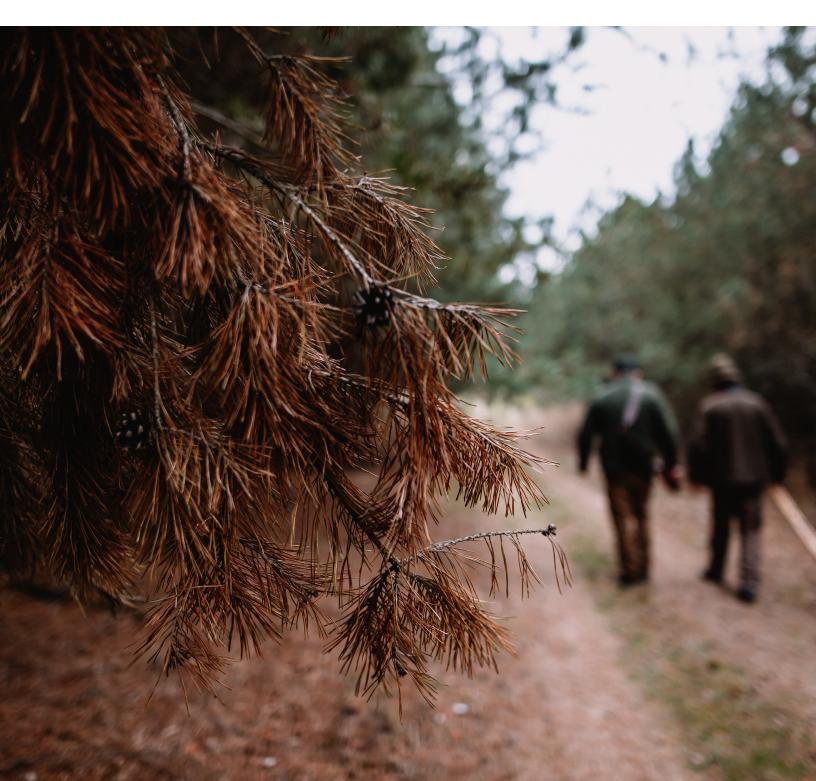


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YEAR AT A GLANCE

September 2021 - October 2022

Our Reach



1123 Municipal

Members



Individual Members



Business Members



Non-Profit Group Members



Educational Institution & Student Members

Our Vision

Albertans recognize recreation and parks as essential for enhancing the wellbeing of individuals,communities and our natural and built environments.

Our Purpose

To collaboratively support our members and partners to (re) create healthy citizens, communities and environments, enhancing the wellbeing of all Albertans.

Events



4

Events Hosted

- 2021 ARPA Conference & Energize Workshop
- 2022 Alberta Healthy Communities Symposium
- · 2022 Leaders Summit
- SPARC Alberta Summit



721

lotal Attendees

We recognized the hard work of individuals, communities, and organizations by.....

Awarding

6

ARPA Awards and Scholarships Awarding

3

Lieutenant Governors Awards Distrubuting

\$850k

through the Return To Play Grant



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This Annual Report (October 2021 – September 2022) covers a period of time when the recreation and parks sector was still being significantly impacted by the pandemic as well as taking on the challenges of meeting demands as restrictions began to be removed. ARPA continued to focus its efforts in supporting our membership, partners and community champions to help ensure recreation and parks were being used to (re)create healthy citizens, communities and environments all across the province.

ued sure

The ARPA Board of Directors, in collaboration with staff, members and partners, created an updated Strategic Plan that will guide and support the work of the Association over the coming years as we support members and communities in the recovery phase of the pandemic.

As we look to the future, here are some highlights to celebrate from the past year:

Return of In-Person Professional Development events – while our annual Conference never truly went away, we were excited to host a restricted in-person Conference within current restrictions in 2021, and we are looking forward to hosting the return of our traditional program and size in 2022. We were also able to host several other in-person events including the 2022 Leaders Summit and the SPARC Alberta Summit.

Indigenous Elders Camp and EKC project – through the leadership provided by Janet Naclia, ARPA continues its journey of reconciliation with indigenous peoples. Our work included the continuance of the Indigenous Elders Camp, the oversight of establishing parallel systems of governance for the Elders Knowledge Circle organization as well as the development of the Oral Knowledge Hub and the Indigenous Awareness and Engagement Toolkit.

Partnerships with the Government of Alberta – we were able to continue to grow and nurture our relationships with the province across several Ministries to collaborate on numerous programs including the continuation and growth of the Communities ChooseWell program (Alberta Health), the completion of a COVID-19 Labour Market Study for the recreation and parks sector (Alberta Labour and Immigration) and current work on the Provincial Recreation Survey and Return to Play Grant Program (Alberta Culture and Status of Women). We are proud to work closely with our government leaders and staff to strive towards shared outcomes.

We continue to work closely with the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA) on programs such as the CPRA Professional Development Certificate, the Youth Employment Experience program, Green Jobs initiative as well as on workforce strategies to improve the quality and sustainability of the sector.

We have experienced some recent losses in our sector including leader and philanthropist Doug Mitchell and the Chair of the Recreation for Life Foundation, and our dear friend and colleague Todd Reade. We will find opportunities to recognize and celebrate their substantial contributions to recreation and parks and beyond over the coming months.

It has been a pleasure to work with our Board of Directors who for the first time since 2020 were able to have a face-to-face meeting In June this year to solidify our path forward and celebrate our collective successes over these last two years. I would also like to personally acknowledge our Executive Director Steve Allan. Simply, he is our rock, our trusted leader and he exceeded in keeping our organization strong, relevant and focused. Thank you, Steve!

We are excited for the future and continuing to work collaboratively with members, partners and allies to ensure recreation and parks are valued and used for enhancing the wellbeing of individuals, communities and our natural and built environments.

Heather Cowie, ARPA President



BOARD MEMBERS

Heather Cowie ARPA President

Deb Comfort VP External

Jason Simituk VP Internal

Graham Jones Tresasurer

Susan Laurin Past President

Katie Biberdorf Region 1 Member (North)

Ken Luck Region 2 Member (Central)

Jarret Hoebers Region 3 Member (South) Jessica Youngblood Student Representative

Staci Lattimer, Julie Booke, Anne Charlton, Suzanne Lobb, Rachel Szucs Directors at Large

STAFF

Steve Allan **Executive Director**

Matt Leung

Janet Naclia Director of People & Programs

Lori Simmonds Administrative Coordinator

Coordinator

Caleb Boorse **Education & Events**

Provincial Coordinator

Breanna Morin Emilia Grindlay Communities ChooseWell Communities ChooseWell Program Officer, Special Program Officer, Engagement & Reconciliation **Projects**

Communities ChooseWell **Programs Manager**

Patrick MacQuarrie Communities ChooseWell Program Officer, Impact & Story Telling

Maddison Drader Communities ChooseWell Program Officer, Education & Events

Assistant

Spencer Acheson Karen Snethun Special Programs Communities in Bloom CJ Blye **Project Coordinator**

SPARC Alberta

Katelyn Christensen

Project & Event

Coordinator

Julie Venner Communications & Marketing Manager

Jen Goeres

HIGH FIVE

Coordinator

Callie Woodley Communications &

Marketing Coordinator

Karli Crowshoe Elder Knowledge Circle Helper



PARTNERS AND COMMITTEES

We continue to build relationships with other associations and institutions with shared goals.

We have formal partnerships with the following organizations:

Associations

- + Active Living Alliance for Canadians with a Disability
- + Alberta Association of Agriculture Societies
- + Alberta Association of Landscape Architects
- + Alberta Association of Recreation Facilities Personnel
- + Alberta Municipalities (formerly AUMA)
- + Alberta TrailNet
- + Alberta Therapeutic Recreation Association
- + Canadian Parks and Recreation Association
- + Recreation for Life Foundation
- + Rural Municipalities of Alberta Association

Post Secondary Institutions

- + Mount Royal Ūniversity; Faculty of Health, Community and Education
- + Olds College
- + University of Alberta; Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport and Recreation
- + University of Alberta; Centre for Healthy Communities
- + University of Calgary; School of Architecture, Planning & Landscape
- + University of Calgary; Werklund School of Education

Government

- + Government of Canada
- + Province of Alberta; Ministry of Culture and Status of Women
- + Province of Alberta; Ministry of Environment and Parks
- + Province of Alberta; Ministry of Health
- + Province of Alberta; Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Immigration

We also have working relationships with...

- + Active Alberta Coalition
- + Alberta Policy Coalition for Chronic Disease Prevention
- + Calgary Foundation
- + Canadian Red Cross

Committees, networks, and task groups

- + Education and Professional Development Committee

 Chair: Deb Comfort
- + Recreation Connections Network Chair: Shelley Kwong
- + Parks & Open Space Committee Network Chair: Doug Evans
- Awards and Scholarships Committee
 Chair: Barb McKee
- + SPARC Alberta Leadership Group Chair: Heather Cowie



RECONCILIATION

Staff Position

Knowing that a commitment to reconciliation is also a commitment to both people and to relationship-building, ARPA was pleased to announce its first-ever staff position dedicated to reconciliation this past year. ARPA commits itself to systemic change that includes safe and welcoming spaces for staff members of diverse cultural backgrounds.

In 2022, we officially welcomed **Breanna Morin as the Program Officer of Engagement & Reconciliation** for ARPA's Communities ChooseWell initiative. To learn more about Breanna's journey to ARPA, check out this <u>article on the CPRA Youth Mentorship Program.</u>

Elders' Camp

In 2021, under the guidance of Dr. Reg and Rose Crowshoe, esteemed Blackfoot Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers, ARPA hosted the inaugural Treaty 7 Elder Capacity Camp and Cultural Celebration. Held in August in the Kananaskis area, this camp continued the Crowshoes' work related to the timely issue of increasing Elder capacity.

We were honoured to have hosted the second Treaty 7 Elder Capacity Camp this year. The goal of this important initiative is to address challenges for Elders surrounding the impacts of both intergenerational trauma and the Residential School legacy.

This project was completed in collaboration with: the Elders' Knowledge Circle (EKC), Mahegun Tails, Miskanawah, and Trellis.

Funders:

Calgary Flames Foundation

Calgary Foundation

Government of Canada

Indigenous Peoples Resilience Fund

Na-mi-quai-ni-mak (The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation)

Grandmothers' Circles

ARPA was pleased to have featured the **seventh Grandmothers' Circle** this year. Sponsored by Communities Choosewell, this impactful series features a group of multi-nation Elders who came together to showcase a woman's perspective on various relevant topics.

These discussions have explored: cultural safety in the parks and recreation sectors, traditional Indigenous food systems, Indigenous views on wellness, and the power of community connection.

Check out the Grandmothers' Circles in the ARPA Oral Indigenous Knowledge Hub.



PROGRAMS

Communities ChooseWell

Communities ChooseWell is a program that inspires healthy living champions across Alberta to transform their communities into places where eating well and being active are easy choices for everyone. The partnership between the Alberta Recreation and Parks Association, and our funder Alberta Health demonstrates the joint commitment by the recreation and health sectors to improving the health and wellbeing of Albertans and their communities.



Who We Reached



Unique Champions



203
Unique
Communities



254
Champions working with Indigenous populations



54
Indigenous
Communities



199
Alberta Healthy Communities
Symposium Delegates

We Celebrated the Hard Work of Communities by...



Recognizing

7Champions with
ChooseWell Awards



Distributing

\$48,569 through our Healthy Community Seed Grants

Key Resources Developed

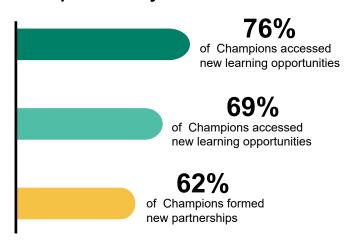


Healthy Communities Framework



Healthy Eating in Community Spaces eModule

According to our 2021 Annual Champion Survey...







SPARC Alberta

Alberta has led the charge for many diverse and innovative initiatives, and community-based grassroots sport is no exception. Supported by the Makadiff Sports Organization, The Alberta Recreation and Parks Association, and the Government of Alberta (CIP Grant), SPARC Alberta is a multi-stakeholder collaborative of partners in sport, physical activity, and recreation from across Alberta. Our work builds on the commitment and dedication within the SPAR sector to envision a future where all children and youth have access to quality sport and recreation environments that foster equity, diversity, and inclusion in their own communities.



Hosted

4Webinars



More than

150

Webinar Attendees

SPARC partnered with HIGH FIVE® and Sport for Life to develop an online learning platform focusing on **Positive Youth Development through Sport training** for coaches, parents, and volunteers. To date more than **75 people have completed this free online learning module**.

Sport for Life and SPARC Alberta Summit 2022

Alongside our national partner, Sport for Life, ARPA hosted The Sport for Life and SPARC Alberta Summit: Creating a Bright Future for Community Grassroots Sport in Alberta. The Summit objectives were to foster connection, understanding, creativity and progress among communities across Alberta. Through this marquee event we sought to build a more collaborative and resilient system whereby sport, recreation, health, and education sectors are aligned and working together to address barriers and strive towards quality programming that is equitably available.

This two-day event included international, national, and local plenary sessions. Over the course of two days we heard innovative ideas, discussed challenges and successes, and spent dedicated time on facilitated conversation opportunities to share key learnings, strategies, and policy implications in Alberta. Delegates came from across the province, representing provincial sport organizations, community sport and recreation organizations, coaches, practitioners from municipalities and NGOs, academics and students from Alberta's universities and others who work in the sport, physical activity, and recreation sector.



125



Speakers

Unique
Organizations Reached



HIGH FIVE®

HIGH FIVE® is Canada's only quality assurance standard for sport and recreation programs for children (4 - 12 years of age) and older adults.

Over the past three years, the importance of quality sport and recreation opportunities that support healthy child development and older adults in communities has been more evident.

With the support of our amazing HIGH FIVE® Trainers, volunteers with the ARPA HIGH FIVE® Task Force, and organizations across Alberta dedicated to providing quality sport and recreation opportunities, APRA was proud to provide 83 HIGH FIVE® virtual and in-person training opportunities to learners across Alberta.



The best way to play™

Training Opportunties Offered:

- + HIGH FIVE® Principles of Healthy Child Development
 - Introduction to Planning Quality Programs (e-module)
 - Introduction to Conflict Resolution (e-module)
 - · Communicating with Empathy (e-module)
- + HIGH FIVE® Strengthening Children's Mental Health
- + HIGH FIVE® Healthy Minds for Healthy Children
- + HIGH FIVE® Sport
 - Engaging Girls 9 15 Years (e-module)
 - Intersecting Identities (e-module)
 - Postnatal Mothers Return to Sport (e-module)
 - Women 55+ in Sport (e-module)
- + HIGH FIVE® QUEST 1
- + HIGH FIVE® QUEST 2
- + HIGH FIVE® Principles of Healthy Aging
- HIGH FIVE® Principles of Healthy Aging: QUEST 1
- + HIGH FIVE® Principles of Healthy Aging: QUEST 2
- + HIGH FIVE® Train the Trainer

2021 - 2022 Accomplishments:

- + Certified over **1200 individuals** in HIGH FIVE® across the province (the highest amount of individuals that have been certified since HIGH FIVE® was brought to Alberta in 2007)
- + Welcomed 21 new HIGH FIVE® Trainers representing the Town of Canmore, Free Play for Kids, City of Grande Prairie, Ever Active Schools, City of Red Deer, MD Green view, Town of Whitecourt, Town of Lac La Biche, and Canadian Armed Forces
- Renewed 11 HIGH FIVE® Registered Organizations and registered 11 new organizations with HIGH FIVE® and ARPA
- + Saw the completion of over 100 HIGH FIVE® QUEST 2 program assessments in children and youth programs across the province
- + Hosted ongoing virtual HIGH FIVE® Trainer Exchanges to over 70 HIGH FIVE® Trainers
- + Supported the relaunch of the **Physical Literacy Instructor Program** in Alberta with HIGH FIVE® Sport



Communities In Bloom

People, Plants & Pride...Growing Together!

ARPA has been successfully coordinating Alberta's Communities in Bloom (CiB) program for 16 years. Hundreds of Alberta communities have participated by enhancing and sustaining the visual appeal of their neighbourhoods, parks, and public spaces – all while building community, economic development, and civic pride.

Eighteen Alberta communities participated in the 2022 CiB Alberta program. CiB volunteer judges visited communities for a one-day evaluation and provided verbal and written feedback to the Municipalities on Community Appearance, Environmental Action, Heritage Conservation, Tree Management, Landscape, and Plant and Floral Displays.

The CiB Provincial Awards were held on Saturday, October 1 in Bruderheim, Alberta.

The CiB Alberta program will be represented at the Green Industry Trade Show and continues to focus on marketing and communications with communities.

Communities in Bloom is an excellent fit under the ARPA mission of building healthier citizens, communities, and environments.





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Alberta Communities in the Provincial Program

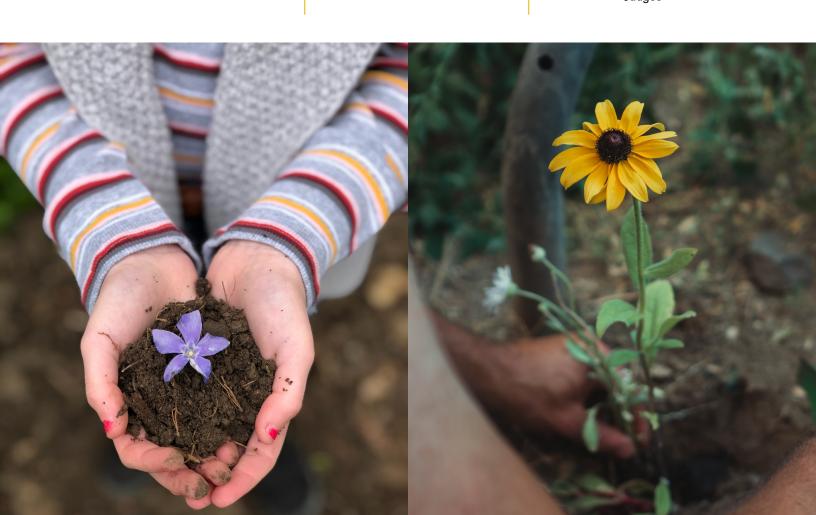


8

In Person Evaluations



Volunteer Judges



World Urban Parks

World Urban Parks (WUP) is the organization to go to for international advice, support and getting connected with urban park, open space and recreation issues, people and activity. WUP combines the experience of its members and partners with opportunities to help build urban parks leadership and bring about significant improvements in cities where rapid urbanization is occurring.

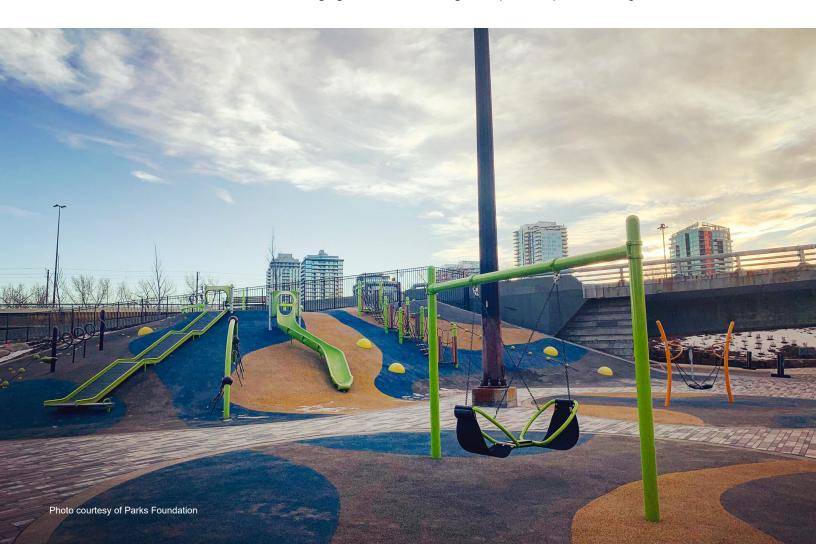
The past year brought many changes to World Urban Parks (WUP), along with the continuation of successful programs and initiatives to benefit its global community. WUP said farewell to CEO Neil McCarthy after a rewarding term and welcomed new CEO, Luis Romahn, who also leads the World Urban Parks LATAM Secretariat at ANPR Mexico.

As the Global Secretariat for World Urban Parks, ARPA is proud of the work and the relationship created over the past years. Our contract with WUP concluded in July 2022.



World Urban Parks Highlights

- + A successful run of the World Urban Parks Awards that included Individual Awards and the Large Urban Parks Awards
- + The **2021 WUP Virtual Congress** held in December gathered city and community leaders, park professionals, partners, affiliates, and engaged citizens from all around the world. The Congress provided **50+ hours of sessions** from **40+ speakers** for over **1000 delegates**
- + Parks Week 2022 brought together global partners and organizations to celebrate parks and promote the concept of 10/20/30
- + The launch of the new World Urban Parks Blog
- + The 2nd Cohort was chosen for the Emerging Urban Leaders Program in partnership with Salzburg Global Seminar



June is Recreation and Parks Month (JRPM)

At the Alberta Recreation and Parks Association, we recognize the month of June as "June is Recreation and Parks Month" (JRPM). JRPM highlights the many benefits that recreation and parks bring to our communities, and acknowledges the strong foundation of parks and recreation facilities & programs in Alberta. This year, JRPM focused on discovering and celebrating the many benefits of recreation and parks. #CelebrateJRPM



251

Unique page views on our JRPM website



24,770

Impressions on social media



45

JRPM Proclamation Signees



\$1000

Worth of contest prizes given away







CPRA Professional Development Certificate

ARPA continued our investment in the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA) Professional Development Certification program as our members remained leaders in terms of participation. The CPRA Professional Development Certificate program has now been operational for five years. We had taken time to gather some feedback on the overall program to assist with improvements and enhancements to content, learning platform and format. We have been busy implementing, reviewing and revising the course based on feedback gathered to best position this program in the coming years.





Total Participants

EVENTS

ARPA 2021 CONFERENCE

The Alberta Recreation and Parks Association (ARPA) hosted its second hybrid event that took place over 3 days both online and in-person at Lake Louise. With the theme of "CommUNITY," this conference focused on re-uniting the recreation and parks sector and helping them build their communities. With 342 total delegates, 8 keynote speakers, 84 speakers, and 24 sponsors, there were many opportunities to learn, connect, and network.



Total Delegates



146 Virtual Delegates



196 In Person Delegates





Number of Days

Number of Sponsors & Exhibitors

Number of Total Municipalities Reached



2022 Leaders Summit

The 2022 Leaders Summit fostered the discussion of various multifaceted issues in the field of parks and recreation. Designed for senior municipal leaders, the 2022 Leader Summit allowed delegates to indulge in discussion, workshops & peer learning.



Delegates



Speakers

Number of Total Municipalities Reached



Number of Days

Number of **Sponsors**



RECREATION FOR LIFE FOUNDATION

It was with shock and great sadness that we learned of the passing of the Chair of the Recreation for Life Foundation, Mr. Todd Reade, in early September this year. This will obviously have major implications for the future of the Foundation and we are currently focused on celebrating Todd's life and contributions to the recreation and parks sector, as well as helping the Foundation Board of Directors navigate the near future.

Todd's vision and focus for the past year was to continue to establish, grow and fundraise for endowments focused on supporting professional development for students and emerging professionals in the recreation and parks sector. Todd would want us to continue on with this important work and to this end we moved quickly to establish a fund to be able to establish a new endowment in Todd's name that would be connected to both aquatics and LGBTQ2+ interests. Our goal will be to have this fund endowed by the end of 2022. We are pleased to share that the fund has nearly doubled our initial goal of \$10,000 with current deposits and pledges to come. This is a direct response from the enormous impact Todd continues to have on an extensive networks of business professionals, colleagues, and friends.

Over \$100,000 over 10 different funds have been established with the Edmonton Community Foundation so far. This will generate an estimated annual support for student bursary and scholarships support of \$4,000 per year in perpetuity.

Another accomplishment for the Foundation this past year was the successful return of the RFLF Charity Golf Tournament which was held on June 6th at the Red Tail Landing Golf Course in the Edmonton area. Even though the weather did not cooperate the tournament netted over \$10,000 in revenues. We are looking forward to planning this again for 2023.





FINANCIALS & AUDITS

Treasurer's Report

The 2021 fiscal year continued to be different than what we traditionally planned and budgeted for. The continuance of restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact our operations and ability to return to normal levels of own source revenue generation. At the same time, COVID relief grants began to wind down as the year went on.

Here are some of the highlights and impacts for the 2021 fiscal year:

- + Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy grant program this continuance of this federal grant program helped ARPA to sustain its staffing capacity.
- + We continued to be challenged in realizing any substantial own source revenues through member services
- + It was a decent fiscal year from a grants and projects perspective with the continuance of our organizational grant as well as the Communities ChooseWell grant, as well as securement of several grants to host the Indigenous Elders Camp.

I do want to spend a bit of time looking forward to the next few years as we know our members and ARPA as an organization will continue to face fiduciary challenges as we recover from the pandemic. We are projecting a balanced budget for 2022 with a return to a more normal ARPA Conference that should provide the return of some much-needed own source revenues.

ARPA will need to continue to diversify its revenues so a more balanced approach to medium and long term sustainability and financial budgeting and planning for the Association can be achieved. I believe we are ready for the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead.

Graham Jones, ARPA Treasurer



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

REVENUE	2021	2020
Grants & Contracts	1,145,932	1,442,332
Memberships	51,736	97,751
Educations Services	227,705	206,244
Projects	178,574	141,408
Casino	-	-
Administration	143,641	155,377
Donations	15	5
Interest Income	1,243	2,858
TOTAL REVENUES	1,748,846	2,045,975
EXPENSES		
Administration - General	50,884	42,759
GST Expenses	11,922	11,109
Salaries and Benefits	347,093	229,690
Board and Executive	8,829	13,317
Liaisons	2,868	5,572
CPRA/Memberships	23,276	22,160
Education Services	238,199	204,949
Casino	-	-
Committee and Network Activity	16,404	4,235
Projects	1,023,388	1,258,294
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,722,861	1,792,086
NET GAIN (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR	25,985	253,889
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	462,479	208,558
NET ASSETS, END OF THE YEAR	488,464	462,477

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	2021	2020
Current Assets		
Cash	1,231,581	627,873
Short Term Investments	94,454	93,519
Accounts Receivable	63,920	189,304
Prepaid Expenses	17,772	3,630
Advances Receivable	5,854	5,854
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	1,413,579	920,179
Equipment		
Computer	56,293	54,772
Office	32,608	32,608
Subtotal	88,901	87,380
Less accumulated amortization	86,288	84,328
TOTAL EQUIPMENT	2,613	3,051
TOTAL ASSETS	1,416,192	922,598
LIADULTIC		
LIABILITIES Current Liabilities		
Bank Indebtedness		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	- 222.474	27,210
GST Payable	232,474	
	809	73
Long Term Debt Deferred Contributions	30,000 664,446	30,000 402,837
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	927, 728	460, 120
TOTAL CORRENT LIABILITIES		400, 120
NET ASSETS		
Internally Restricted Funds	154,761	153,518
Unrestricted Fund	331,089	306,542
Equipment Fund	2,614	2,418
TOTAL NET ASSETS	488,464	462,477
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	1,416,192	922,598