Recreation Gathering

Whitehorse, Yukon
October 6th – 9th ,2026

Recreation Gathering at a Glance

Event Information
Day One

Date: Tuesday, October 6th 2026
Location: Linda Rapp Building
Address: 120 Robert Service Way, Whitehorse, Yukon
Arrival Time: 6:00 pm

Additional Considerations for Day One Events & Activities:
We'll be having dinner by an open campfire, so please wear clothes that you don't mind being exposed to smoke or the occasional campfire spark.

Event Information
Day Two

Date: Wednesday, October 7th 2026
Location: Linda Rapp Building
Address: 120 Robert Service Way, Whitehorse, Yukon
Start Time: 9:00 am

Additional Considerations for Day Two Events & Activities:
Bring warm clothes and proper footwear as we'll have some outdoor icebreaker activities. If you're planning to join us for the Hot Springs Social, don't forget your swimsuit and towel!

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Event Information
Day Three

Date: Thursday, October 8th 2026
Location: Linda Rapp Building
Address: 120 Robert Service Way, Whitehorse, Yukon
Start Time: 9:00 am

Additional Considerations for Day Three Events & Activities:
For those participating in the Lumel glass-blowing workshop, you may also want to wear clothing that fits comfortably and isn't loose or hanging down. We'd hate for anyone's outfit to get a little *too* close to the fire!

Event Information
Day Four

Date: Friday, October 9th 2026
Location: Nowhere 😊
Departure: On your own time!

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Recreation Gathering
Schedule of Events

Tuesday, October 6th 2026

Travel

Travel into Whitehorse on your own time. You can check into your room at the Gold Rush Inn upon arrival before meeting us at the Linda Rapp Building in Robert Service Campground. Please plan to arrive by 6:00 pm for dinner and the welcome bonfire.

Accommodations

Rooms have been booked for delegates at the Gold Rush Inn.

6:00 pm Dinner

- Dinner will be served by RPAY! We'll be having an informal campfire dinner with smokies and s'mores.Register and receive your room assignment.
- Say hi to the RPAY team!

Wednesday, October 7th 2026

9:00 am Arrive & Registration

Participants will gather at the Linda Rapp Building, located within the Robert Service Campground. Breakfast will be on your own prior to the start of the event, however coffee and snacks will be provided throughout the morning sessions.

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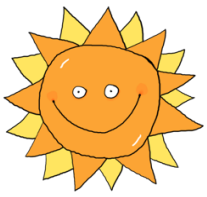
9:30 am Welcome & Introductions

Representatives from the Recreation and Parks Association of the Yukon (RPAY) and the Yukon Government Sport and Recreation Branch (SARB) will officially open the Gathering, provide an overview of this year's outline, and share housekeeping information.

10:00 am Icebreakers

Start the day with some fun and movement led by Alycia Bannon, RPAY's Active Play Experience (APE) Coordinator and Janna Tait, SARB's Physical Literacy Education Coordinator. They'll lead a series of icebreaker games designed to get everyone active, connected, and ready for the great day ahead.



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11:00 am Sport Yukon

Megan Cromarty, Incoming Executive Director of Sport Yukon, will introduce herself and share information about Sport Yukon membership, including opportunities and benefits for communities. She will also provide more information on Sport Yukon After Hours, taking place later that evening.

11:15 am Unfortunately, we have to talk about AI

Peter Jacob, RPAY's Active Living Coordinator, will explore how AI is being used in everyday life and workplaces, where it can be helpful, and some of the broader questions and concerns that come with it. The goal is to give participants a clearer understanding of the technology so they can make informed decisions about what role, if any, it has in their work and lives.

12:00 pm Lunch

Lunch will be provided by La Cara Catering at the Linda Rapp Building.

1:00 pm Keynote and Workshop

Tosh Southwick and Davida Wood
IRP (inspire.reconciliation.potential) Consulting

Tosh and Davida, co-founders of IRP Consulting, will lead a keynote exploring reconciliation through the lens of recreation and community relationships in the Yukon. Drawing on their work with Indigenous and non-Indigenous governments and organizations, they will create space for reflection and conversation around how we work together, navigate different perspectives, and build stronger relationships across communities.

5:00 pm Sport Yukon Meet and Greet!

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Sport Yukon has invited Recreation Gathering attendees to join their Members Meeting for an opportunity to connect with Sport Yukon staff and territorial sport organizations. Dinner will be provided.

6:30 – 7:30 pm Hot Springs Social

Make your way out to Eclipse Nordic Hot Springs for an evening of soaking and socializing as we kick off the first night of the 2026 Recreation Gathering! It's a great chance to unwind and connect with fellow recreation professionals.

Thursday, October 8th 2026

9:00 am Arrive

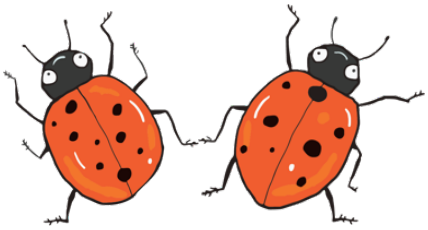
Participants will gather at the Linda Rapp Building. Breakfast will be on your own prior to the start of the event, however coffee and snacks will be provided throughout the morning sessions.

9:30 am Tourism Yukon

Silken Cinq-Mars and Coralie Ullyett from the Government of Yukon's Destination Development Unit will share information on the funding, resources, and supports available for recreation organizations and communities. They'll talk about some ways Tourism Yukon can partner with communities to help support recreation and tourism initiatives across the territory.

10:00 am Cross Country Yukon (CCY)

Jen Mackeinan from Cross Country Yukon will give a quick update on ski programming and the opportunities available through CCY.



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10:15 am Healthy Living Study

Caroline Sparks will present an overview of the Healthy Living Study. She'll share results, key findings and what those findings can tell us about the recreational lifestyles of Yukoners.

10:30 am Food Security Network (FSN)

Sage Brown from the Yukon Food Security Network is here to share information about the work FSN does and the resources they can provide to communities.



11:00 am Keeping Kids in Camp

Alycia Bannon uses stories from 12 years of owning and operating a summer camp, mixed with research from experts in the field, to support leaders in learning how to see behaviour as communication, and develop actionable strategies for when participants are having a harder time. The more we can set the goal of keeping kids in camp, the greater the impact our programs can have in building community and helping develop great humans.

12:00 pm Lunch

Lunch will be provided by La Cara Catering at the Linda Rapp Building.

1:00 pm Ignite Consulting

Meg Grudeski and Erin Legault from Ignite Counselling are back for round two!!

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Ignite Counselling is a Yukon counselling practice that supports people through all sorts of life challenges, with a big focus on mental wellness, resilience, and helping people build the tools they need to navigate everyday.

Meg and Erin both bring lots of experience working with Yukoners and supporting people through their work in counselling and community mental wellness. They're coming to this year's gathering to spend some time talking about the people and work behind "recreation". Looking at some of the harder parts of the job and giving us some tools to help care for ourselves while also showing up for our communities.

3:00 pm Lumel Studios Glass Blowing

End the day with a hands-on glass blowing workshop with Lumel Studios! Get creative, and enjoy a fun afternoon activity to wrap up the day together.

6:30 pm Final Dinner + Awards Presentations

Join us at MacBride Museum for our final dinner of the 2026 Recreation Gathering, with dinner provided by Ali Cat Catering. After dinner, we'll celebrate the incredible work happening across Yukon recreation with our annual awards presentations.

Award Presentations:

- Yukon Government Sport and Recreation Branch:
  Community Recreation Leadership Award
- Canadian Parks and Recreation Association:
  Award of Merit
- Recreation and Parks Association of the Yukon:
  Recognition Award
- Recreation North:
  Leadership Certificate & Management Certificate

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Friday, October 9th 2026

Hit the Dusty Trail!!



THANK YOU

This event was made possible with the support of our partners: