



**Operations Year in Review  
Excerpt from the 2024 AGM**



- The 2023-2024 year was an exciting year as we fine-tuned our approach to developing culture/recreation/sport, ensuring we were deliberate in selecting opportunities that clearly aligned with the unique needs of our communities.
- Community groups struggle to find volunteers, there is never enough funding, and navigating the provincial system is complicated.
- We aim to make it a little easier.
- Last year we offered over 80 different events to specifically support community leaders, volunteers, and groups.
- We heard the voices from southwest, saying they wanted training, but it needs to be low-cost, online, and on-demand.
- We released our on-demand grant writing workshop, offered HR training, an Insurance Q/A, and a Non-Profit 101 workshop.



- We heard our groups tell us they wanted opportunities to network with other groups to compare notes and develop best practices, but it needed to work around seeding, harvest, and a long list of other volunteer demands.
- So, we made sure the Cultural and Recreation Gatherings fit the mark.
- Running a community group usually means volunteering for not 1, but more like 4 or 5 organizations. To keep all the community groups active and functioning, volunteers are faced with no other choice, they open the museum, write the grant applications, chair the board, and try to learn as much as a tight schedule and limited budget will allow.
- Last year we brought in skilled experts in the culture/recreation/sport fields and provided training for over 600 participants.





- We expanded our core programs by offering in-person community asset mapping.
- Our roundtable discussions grew to include topics from community aquatics, and playground safety, to risk management.
- Making the knowledgebase of provincial culture/recreation/sport available to communities and groups is a priority for us. Last year we connected with over 1300 individuals through one-on-one phone calls, emails, chats, and networks.
- We attended the SUMA and SARM Conferences to let even more people know about the support we can provide.
- We are committed to building on, and making, meaningful connections to help our communities and groups *thrive*.



- You will often see our very talented Community Consultants, Elizabeth and Brennen, in your community, talking with groups and attending events.
- We are always keeping an eye on the issues, trends, successes, and challenges our community leaders are facing to be ready to provide support, whether that's new ideas, or an ear to listen.
- We are on the road right now and look forward to meeting with old and new friends.
- Our little team wants to help southwest leaders, volunteers, and groups develop culture, recreation, and sport in their communities.