

Aboriginal Sport for Life Updates: Spring 2017

Since 2013, the Aboriginal Sport Circle and Sport for Life Society have partnered to facilitate the development and implementation of five different resources. In order to gather initial input on these resources, we collaboratively co-hosted numerous regional summits and focus groups to engage and gather feedback from over 70 key stakeholders across the country, including First Nations, Inuit, and Métis leaders; sport policy and program leaders; Aboriginal sport leaders; Aboriginal community leaders; and representatives from Provincial/Territorial Aboriginal Sport Bodies, National Sport Organizations, Provincial/Territorial Sport Organizations, Disability Sport Organizations, Multisport Service Organizations, and Local Sport Organizations.

Aboriginal community engagement has played an integral role in developing these resources. It has ensured that they appropriately represent the Aboriginal cultural perspective and allow for the bridging of both the mainstream and Aboriginal sport systems. The resources that have been developed include:

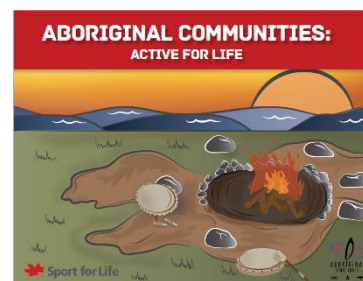
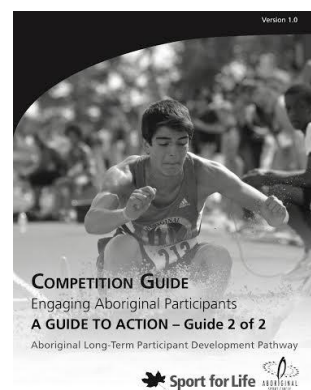
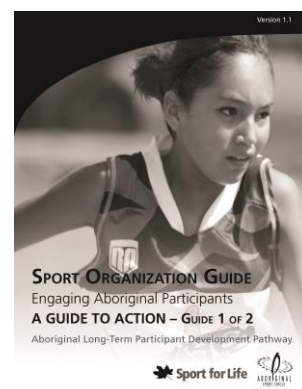
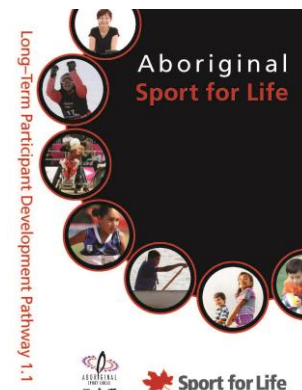
- The **Aboriginal Long-Term Participant Development Pathway resource**, which articulates a culturally appropriate stage by stage approach to the development of Aboriginal participants, as well as the supports needed for successful transitions between the Aboriginal and mainstream sport systems.
- The **Aboriginal Long-Term Participant Development Pathway Sport Organization Guide** and **Competition Guide**, which are targeted at sport organizations to evolve their abilities to provide Aboriginal participants with quality sport and competition experiences.
- The **Aboriginal Long-Term Participant Development Pathway Activation Workbook & workshop**, which develops an action plan for mainstream sport, recreation, and physical activity organizations to create supportive and welcoming environments and programs for Aboriginal participants.
- The **Aboriginal Communities: Active for Life resource and workshop**, which supports community champions with the development of physical literacy and quality sport programs to encourage healthy and active lifestyles.

The purpose of these resources and workshops are to:

1. Increase the percentage of Aboriginal children who are physically literate and thus physically active.
2. Define a pathway for Aboriginal athletes into high performance sport, resulting in a higher percentage representing Canada.
3. Increase the number of Aboriginal peoples who are Active for Life.
4. Build relationships between mainstream organizations and Aboriginal peoples.

These resources are available in English and French at:

- <http://sportforlife.ca/aboriginal-peoples/>
- <http://sportpourelavie.ca/autochtones/>



Current Work

In 2016/17 alone, we delivered over 20 presentations reaching over 620 participants, nine workshops reaching over 130 participants, and nine focus groups reaching over 260 participants across the country.

We are currently working to activate sport, physical activity, and recreation organizations to utilize the *Aboriginal Long-Term Participant Development Pathway* resource to evolve their ability to serve Aboriginal participants, coaches, and volunteers. This is currently being done in BC, where we are working closely with the Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Council (ISPARC) to implement the resource with three Provincial Sport Organizations – Basketball BC, BC Snowboard and CanoeKayak BC – through the assistance of the BC Sport Participation Program Innovation Fund.

The *Aboriginal Communities: Active for Life* resource, is complete and has gathered national input from over 260 Aboriginal leaders throughout the development of the resource. The resource aims to provide community champions with: 1) an understanding of the importance of physical activity and an introduction to the concept of physical literacy; 2) a feeling of empowerment to support and deliver quality sport and physical activity programs in their community; 3) tools, resources, and action plans to help get their communities active; and 4) a sense of how they are connected to a bigger picture.

As the Aboriginal Sport Circle and Sport for Life are moving towards the implementation and awareness of these resources, we are seeking all potential partners who wish to collaborate in making sport and physical activity more accessible and supportive of Aboriginal participants and athletes at the national, provincial/territorial, and community levels across Canada. We welcome opportunities to deliver *Aboriginal Long-Term Participant Development Pathway* and *Aboriginal Communities: Active for Life* workshops, which can assist organizations to create action plans and improve how they engage and support Aboriginal participants in their programs.

Next Steps

The next steps for the *Aboriginal Long-Term Participant Development Pathway* are to:

- Continue to engage sport, physical activity, and recreation organizations in the implementation phase.
- Train additional Learning Facilitators to deliver the *Aboriginal Long-Term Participant Development Pathway* workshop throughout Canada; this will be done as a joint partnership with Provincial/Territorial Aboriginal Sport Bodies, Provincial/Territorial Sport Bodies and Provincial/Territorial Governments.
- The Aboriginal Sport Circle and Sport for Life worked collaboratively on an application for the Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada New Paths for Education grant. The Aboriginal Sport Circle submitted the application with the support of Sport for Life to deliver a pilot project with four First Nations schools in 2017/18.

The *Aboriginal Communities: Active for Life* resource is in publication and translation and we are determining a formal launch date and location. We will also begin training Master Learning Facilitators and Learning Facilitators across Canada to deliver this workshop.

How to get Involved

- The delivery and implementation of this work requires building capacity within each province/territory. Please let us know if you, or someone within your region that you could recommend, are interested in becoming an Aboriginal Sport for Life Learning Facilitator for the *Aboriginal Long-Term Participant Development Pathway* and/or *Aboriginal Communities: Active for Life* workshops.
- Contact us if you are interested in hosting an *Aboriginal Long-Term Participant Development Pathway* workshop and/or *Aboriginal Communities: Active for Life* workshop in your area. More workshop information can be found at sportforlife.ca/community-workshops.
- Contact us if you are interested in implementing this work in your sport, organization, community, etc.
- Contact us if you are interested in including information about this work on your organization's website. Please note that some of the resources have been updated since initial publication, so if you already have some of these resources on your website, we can ensure that you have the most updated versions.
- Follow us at sportforlife.ca/calendar.
- Register for our E-news at sportforlife.ca/e-news to see upcoming opportunities to collaborate to support Aboriginal athletes and participants across Canada.

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