



Aboriginal Sport and Recreation New Brunswick

Annual Report

2024
www.asrnb.ca



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Message from Our Executive

This past year, our communities across Turtle Island have shown incredible resilience and commitment to the power of sport. We are thrilled to announce that ASRNB has continued to make significant strides in its growth, further enhancing our services to both Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqey communities. This progress is essential to the health and well-being of our youth, and our staff remains focused on understanding that the young people who participate in our activities, sports, and events are the next generation of athletes and leaders in our communities.

This year, we were proud to support the return of the New Brunswick Indigenous Summer Games, an important event that provided an opportunity for our youth to come together, compete, and showcase their talents. The Games were a true testament to the dedication and perseverance of our athletes, and we are inspired by the strength of our communities as they continue to support these efforts.

To all the athletes in our Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqey territories: your determination and hard work have made us all proud. Whether you competed in local events or represented your community in larger competitions, you have demonstrated immense courage and dedication. We are grateful to each of you for embracing these opportunities to grow and excel in physical activity.

As we look ahead to 2025, ASRNB is excited to continue harnessing the power of sport and recreation to engage and inspire our youth. With many more events, programs, and activities planned for the coming year, we remain committed to supporting our athletes and communities in their journey toward success and improved healthy outcomes.

We would like to acknowledge the ongoing support of our partners, community managers, and leaders. Together, we will continue to nurture the next generation of Indigenous athletes and leaders.

Wela'lin - Woliwon - Thank you - Merci,

Cathy Ward

Our Staff



Program Director
Cherie Campbell



Program Coordinator
Hannah Somers



Communications Coordinator
Taylor Ward



Program Support
Adam Matchett



Program Coordinator
Lillian Ward



National Aboriginal Hockey Championships

In January 2024, ASRNB organized two identification camps—one in Wolastoqey Territory and the other in Mi'gmaq Territory—drawing a total of 42 Indigenous athletes from across New Brunswick.

The 2024 NAHC tournament took place in Grande Prairie, Alberta, where Team Atlantic proudly fielded both U18 Male and U18 Female hockey teams. Representing New Brunswick as part of Team Atlantic were four female athletes and five male athletes from Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqey communities.

The New Brunswick athletes who represented Team Atlantic were:

Female Athletes:

- Georgia Labillois
- Pahsesam Brown-Bear
- Kikpesan Ward
- Molly Francis

Male Athletes:

- Zander Joseph
- Kingston Copage
- Maximus Augustine
- Cohen Paul
- Landon Paul



We are incredibly proud of these athletes for their achievements and their role in representing their communities at the NAHC.



Female Empowerment Summit

Aboriginal Sport and Recreation New Brunswick proudly hosted the 2nd Annual Female Empowerment Summit from February 23rd to 25th, 2024, in Wolastoqey Territory. We were thrilled to welcome participants who traveled from near and far to take part in a weekend filled with cultural teachings and empowering experiences. The summit focused on the vital importance of physical, mental, and emotional well-being, while also addressing critical topics such as suicide prevention, the issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and fostering cultural teachings to help build positive, healthy relationships among the next generation of Indigenous youth.

Pamela Paul Montour of Wotstak First Nation led a therapeutic Paint Night in honor of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, offering education on our stolen sisters and providing guidance on how we can support those in need.

Stephanie Francis of Elsipogtog First Nation delivered powerful teachings that combined energy and emotion, advocating for the importance of understanding Indigenous trauma and the need for decolonizing trauma.

Ramona Moon of Neqotkuk First Nation guided us through a profound full moon ceremony, followed by storytelling and cultural teachings rooted in our ancestral history, providing deep insights into our traditions.

Aboriginal Sport and Recreation New Brunswick remains committed to empowering our youth and creating spaces for cultural celebration, acceptance, and inclusivity.





Aboriginal Coaching Modules

Aboriginal Sport and Recreation New Brunswick hosted several Aboriginal Coaching Modules (ACM) including in-person deliveries at Neqotkuk First Nation and Esgenoôpetitj First Nation.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the communities of Neqotkuk and Esgenoôpetitj for their hospitality and support in hosting these events. Additionally, we would like to thank all of our participants who traveled from near and far to take part in these valuable learning opportunities.

A special thank you goes to Facilitator Cline Gideon for delivering an outstanding in-person workshop and sharing his expertise with our participants.





Paddles Up & Paddle Boarding

Aboriginal Sport and Recreation New Brunswick hosted several successful Paddles Up and Paddle Boarding programs during the summer months.

We had the pleasure of delivering our Paddles Up and Paddle Boarding program to Neqotkuk (Tobique) First Nation youth.

The youth of Neqotkuk and the team of ASRNB were so fortunate to have elder Tina Bear start us off in a good way with ceremony and thanking the water that provides for us as Indigenous peoples in so many ways. Our participants immersed themselves culturally in the rivers of the Wolastoq River while learning the mechanics of Paddling with different platforms such as canoeing, kayaking and paddle boarding.

We delivered our other Paddles Up and Paddle Boarding program in Metepenagiag Mi'kmaq Nation. The youth of Metepenagiag and surrounding areas, and the team of ASRNB were so fortunate to have elder Victoria Augustine start us off in a good way with ceremony. Our participants immersed themselves culturally in the rivers of the Little Southwest Miramichi River while learning the mechanics of Paddling with different platforms such as canoeing, kayaking and paddle boarding.

Both programs offered our youth the opportunity to engage with the water in meaningful ways while developing their confidence, paddling and social skills in a culturally enriching environment. We are grateful to the Elders, communities, and participants for making these programs a memorable and impactful experience.



New Brunswick Indigenous Summer Games

Aboriginal Sport and Recreation New Brunswick would like to thank Ugpi'Ganjig First Nation for hosting the 2024 New Brunswick Indigenous Summer Games. Over the course of two weeks, nine sports were offered and over 550 Indigenous youth participated in the games.

ASRNB congratulates all the athletes and their communities for their remarkable achievements during the games.

In honour of the late Bobby Sylliboy, we are honoured to announce the very first Robert 'Bobby' Sylliboy Courage Award.

This award is given to the athlete who exemplifies great courage, leadership and sportsmanship throughout the course of the New Brunswick Indigenous Summer Games.

We would like to acknowledge and congratulate Xander Jerome (Eel River Bar), for his outstanding achievement and courage, medalling in swimming and receiving this award.





Ice Warriors Hockey Program

Aboriginal Sport and Recreation New Brunswick hosted their annual Ice Warriors Hockey program in Elsipogtog First Nation during the month of September. Our youth had an incredible time, while also developing essential skills that will benefit them in their upcoming hockey season.

We would like to express our gratitude to Hannah Ward and Kylie Francis for leading off-ice drills with the participants, and to coach Adam Matchett for guiding the youth on the ice.

Their dedication and support played a key role in making this program a success.



Wabanaki Hoops

Building up on the past successes of previous basketball clinics and preparation for the 2027 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG), Aboriginal Sport and Recreation New Brunswick hosted its first-ever Wabanaki Hoops Basketball Camp in Fredericton this past October. Following its success, we are excited to offer another camp in Miramichi in December 2024.

Coaches Quentin Sock and Tyrese Paul showcased their skills and expertise, helping the youth refine their existing abilities while introducing them to new techniques.

We aim to offer additional Wabanaki Hoops Basketball Camps moving forward to support the development of our youth athletes and as a precursor to NAIG 2027.



Rising Warriors

Aboriginal Sport and Recreation New Brunswick hosted the Rising Warriors Program in Esgenoôpetitij First Nation, specifically designed for Indigenous girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ youth.

The day began with a powerful session led by Maxine Ginnish, who shared valuable teachings on coping with mental health challenges and the importance of openly discussing feelings. Her insights provided the youth with strategies for emotional resilience and well-being.

Following Maxine's session, Adrian Francis led a self-defense workshop, teaching the youth essential skills for staying aware of their surroundings and how to respond in situations where they need to protect themselves or escape danger.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the participants who traveled from near and far to be part of this impactful program. Your presence made this experience truly special.



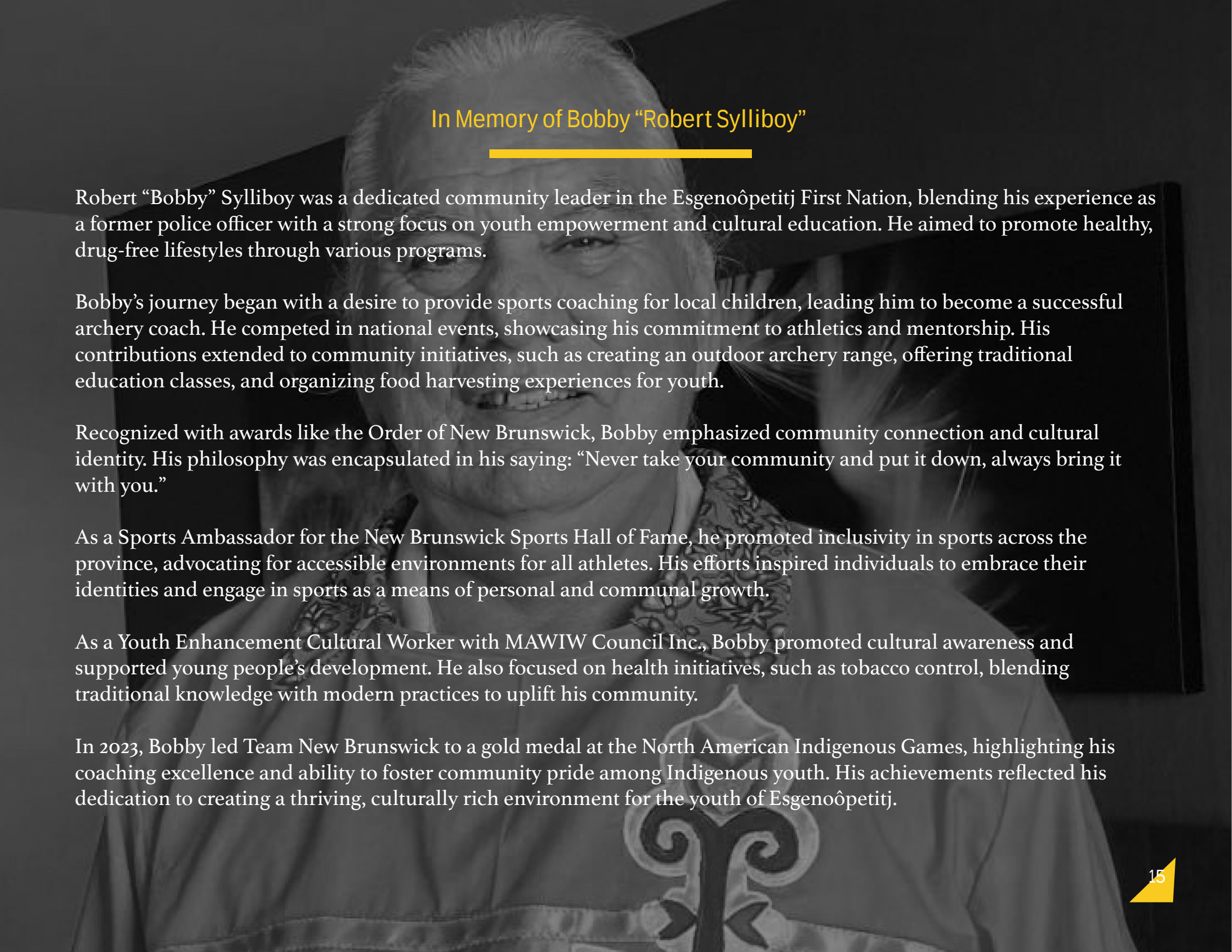
Photo Credits: Wheelchair Basketball Canada

Tom Longboat Award & Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award

It is with great pleasure that we acknowledge New Brunswick's Tom Longboat winner, Desiree Isaac-Pictou as this year's recipient. Congratulations to Desiree for your remarkable accomplishments along with representing at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games in Paralympic Basketball for Team Canada.

We are thrilled to announce that Bobby Sylliboy has been awarded co-winner of Sport NB's Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award. We thank you, Bobby, for your dedication and long lasting impression left within your community.

Each year we are looking for nominations. If you have or know someone that created a difference within your community, let us know at info@asrnb.ca by September 30th, 2025.

A black and white portrait of Bobby Sylliboy, an older man with white hair, smiling. He is wearing a traditional Indigenous garment with a large, ornate feathered headdress. The background is dark and out of focus.

In Memory of Bobby “Robert Sylliboy”

Robert “Bobby” Sylliboy was a dedicated community leader in the Esgenoôpetitj First Nation, blending his experience as a former police officer with a strong focus on youth empowerment and cultural education. He aimed to promote healthy, drug-free lifestyles through various programs.

Bobby’s journey began with a desire to provide sports coaching for local children, leading him to become a successful archery coach. He competed in national events, showcasing his commitment to athletics and mentorship. His contributions extended to community initiatives, such as creating an outdoor archery range, offering traditional education classes, and organizing food harvesting experiences for youth.

Recognized with awards like the Order of New Brunswick, Bobby emphasized community connection and cultural identity. His philosophy was encapsulated in his saying: “Never take your community and put it down, always bring it with you.”

As a Sports Ambassador for the New Brunswick Sports Hall of Fame, he promoted inclusivity in sports across the province, advocating for accessible environments for all athletes. His efforts inspired individuals to embrace their identities and engage in sports as a means of personal and communal growth.

As a Youth Enhancement Cultural Worker with MAWIW Council Inc., Bobby promoted cultural awareness and supported young people’s development. He also focused on health initiatives, such as tobacco control, blending traditional knowledge with modern practices to uplift his community.

In 2023, Bobby led Team New Brunswick to a gold medal at the North American Indigenous Games, highlighting his coaching excellence and ability to foster community pride among Indigenous youth. His achievements reflected his dedication to creating a thriving, culturally rich environment for the youth of Esgenoôpetitj.



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