

MANITOBA WINTER GAMES VOLUNTEER HANDBOOK



TOGETHER
māmawi ki-mētawānaw
WE PLAY

WELCOME!

Thank you for volunteering at the Manitoba Winter Games 2026 powered by Manitoba Hydro in Thompson. Volunteers are essential to creating a safe, welcoming, and memorable Games experience for athletes, coaches, officials, and visitors.

GREETINGS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA

Minister of Sport, Culture, Heritage and Tourism, Nellie Kennedy



As Minister of Sport, Culture, Heritage and Tourism I want to sincerely thank all the volunteers at the 2026 Manitoba Winter Games.

Sport is an essential part of our Manitoba culture; it brings people of all ages and backgrounds together through shared values. Whether Manitobans take part at the local rink, the court, on a field or in their own backyard – participating in sport supports healthy living and community engagement.

Volunteers are the heart of the Manitoba Games, ensuring a positive and welcoming experience for sport participants and supporters alike. Your contributions will shape the experience for all Thompson visitors and residents.

Thank you for sharing your time, energy and talents with our province. It is inspiring to see your commitment to ensure the success of this exciting week of competition.

I'd also like to thank the Thompson Host Committee and all the local leaders and advocates that contributed to bringing the Winter Games back to Manitoba's north. Their efforts have been instrumental in creating an event that is sure to have a positive impact on the community for years to come.

I wish you all a successful and memorable Games experience!

GREETINGS FROM SPORT MANITOBA

President and CEO, Janet McMahon



On behalf of Sport Manitoba, thank you for sharing your time, energy, and expertise as a volunteer at the Manitoba Games powered by Manitoba Hydro. These Games rely on the collective efforts of many dedicated people working together to deliver the province's largest ongoing multi-sport event, and your contribution helps create meaningful, lasting memories for thousands of participants and families.

We are especially grateful to the Thompson community for its hospitality and for welcoming visitors to the Hub of the North. This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase the spirit of the region and all that northern Manitoba has to offer. Your commitment is truly appreciated, and we hope you enjoy the camaraderie while building lasting connections through this rewarding experience.

GREETINGS FROM CITY OF THOMPSON

Mayor Colleen Smook



Greetings 2026 Manitoba Games powered by Manitoba Hydro volunteers and thank you all for devoting your time to help make the 2026 Manitoba Games the best ones yet!

The last Winter Games in Thompson provided a wonderful showcase for our community and I know this year's edition will set the same high standard for future Manitoba Games! I know you will show you all our visitors Thompson's famous northern hospitality and ensure that athletes, coaches, officials and spectators remember this experiences for the rest of their lives.

On behalf of my fellow Councillors, City staff and all residents of the City of Thompson, thank you for being wonderful ambassadors and showing what makes our community such a special place.

Together We Play!

GREETINGS FROM HOST SOCIETY CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Todd Harwood & Cristy Andres



Welcome to Thompson, and thank you for being part of the Manitoba Winter Games powered by Manitoba Hydro. On behalf of the Host Society, we are thrilled to have you join us as a volunteer—your commitment, energy, and community spirit are the foundation of these Games. Thompson is proud to welcome athletes, coaches, officials, and families from across Manitoba, and your contribution will help showcase not only outstanding sport but also the warmth, resilience, and hospitality of Northern Manitoba.

Volunteers are the heart of the Manitoba Winter Games, and your efforts will help create a safe, inclusive, and memorable experience for everyone involved. Whether you are supporting competition, transportation, food services, or athlete services, your role is essential to the success of this event. We are deeply grateful for your time and dedication, and we hope this experience leaves you with lasting memories and a strong sense of pride in what we will accomplish together. Thank you for helping make the 2026 edition of the Games in Thompson truly unforgettable.

ABOUT THE MANITOBA GAMES POWERED BY MANITOBA HYDRO

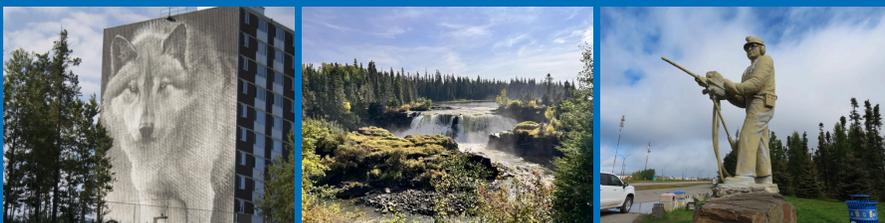


In 1972 the Provincial Government approved the initiation of a Provincial Games Development Program, which would give rural Manitoba an equal opportunity to participate in amateur sport.

The first province-wide Manitoba Games powered by Manitoba Hydro were held in Winnipeg in late December as part of the city's 1974 Centennial Celebration. These Games were used to identify and select Manitoba's 1975 Canada Winter Games teams. Neepawa was chosen to host the 1976 Manitoba Summer Games, and the 1978 Manitoba Winter Games were held in Dauphin. After a hiatus, the Manitoba Games powered by Manitoba Hydro program was reinstated in 1986 and has been held every two years since.

The Manitoba Games aren't possible without our title sponsor, Manitoba Hydro, presenting sponsors Calm Air, Manitoba's Credit Unions, Konica Minolta, Travel Manitoba, and GEMS.pro by KIMIK IT. With their support, we can continue to unite communities, inspire the next generation, and build a healthier Manitoba.

ABOUT THOMPSON, MANITOBA



"For locals, it's known as the hub of the north - an industrious mining town with proud Indigenous identity and deep roots in the fur trade. For visitors, it's where the highway ends - a city that evokes images of waterfalls, clear-to-the-bottom lakes, pine-scented forests and mystical howling wolves." ([Travel Manitoba](#))

We acknowledge we are signatories of Treaty Five and that we reside in the traditional territory of Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation.

Thompson, Manitoba is located on the traditional and ancestral lands of the Nehetho/Ininiw, Denesųłiné, Métis, Inuit, and Anishinaabe nations. Manitoba Games is committed to honouring treaties in the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Games Office:

Call: 204-250-2166

Text: 204-679-8501

RCMP:

204-677-6911

Note: 911 does not work in Thompson

Ambulance/Fire:

204-677-7911

Safe Sport:

1-833-656-7233

Volunteer Lounge:

2nd Floor UCN Room 232 Hours: 8 AM – 10 PM

Volunteer Online Scheduling:

<https://mg2026.gems.pro/>

Accreditation Room:

2nd Floor UCN Room 231

Games Merch Store:

TRCC Multipurpose Room

Hours: March 1: 4 PM – 9 PM

March 2-6: 9 AM – 9 PM

March 7: 9 AM – 4 PM

VOLUNTEER CHECK IN LOCATIONS

COMPETITION VENUES

Archery:

Registration table at Trojan Gym Entrance

Badminton:

Draw Desk at Trojan Gym Mezzanine

Gymnastics:

Table at Comaskey Gym Spectator Entrance

Futsal:

Comaskey Gym Scorekeepers Table

Male Hockey:

C.A. Nesbitt Team Benches

Female Hockey:

Gordon Beard Team Benches

Ringette:

Gordon Beard Team Benches

Speed Skating:

C.A. Nesbitt Team Benches

Figure Skating:

C.A. Nesbitt Team Benches

Cross Country Skiing:

Stable Road Trail Entrance Timing Booth

Alpine Skiing:

Mystery Mountain Winter Park Chalet

Curling:

Burntwood Curling Club Lobby

Wrestling:

R. D. Parker Gym Scorekeepers Table

NON-COMPETITION VENUES

Warehouse:

R.D. Parker Power Mechanics Garage

Female Village, Access Control & Athlete Entertainment:

R.D. Parker School Office

Male Village, Access Control & Athlete Entertainment:

Deerwood School Office

Food Services:

R.D. Parker Cafeteria

Medal Presentation:

TRCC Lobby Medal Podium

VIP Transportation:

UCN Room 202A

VIP Receptions:

Burntwood Curling Club Lounge

Polyclinic:

UCN Room 219A

Accreditation Centre & Games Operations Centre:

UCN Room 231

Volunteer Lounge:

UCN Room 232

Results Centre:

TRCC Admin Desk

Media Centre:

Mary Fenske Boardroom

Merchandise Store:

TRCC Multipurpose Room

Ceremonies:

C.A. Nesbitt Team Benches

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & CONTACT INFORMATION

Access Control Committee Chair	Debby Belyea	204-679-1403
Athlete Entertainment Committee Chair	Melanie & Jeremis Ouellette	204-679-1182
Villages Committee Chair	Donelda Parenteau	204-679-5008
Food Services Committee Chair	Harold Smith	204-679-0635
Logistics Co-Chair	Sandy Deibert	204-939-0646
Technology Committee Chair	Charlie Hendren	204-679-0564
Technology Committee Chair	Shauna Kortz	204-679-2253
Transportation Committee Chair	Roberta Halkett	204-307-1739
Transportation Committee Chair	Danny Morris	204-679-1038
Warehouse and Distribution Committee	Lee Belyea	204-679-0911
Merchandise Committee Chair	Kim Laycock	204-679-6950
Special Events Committee Chair	Jaycee Frost	204-679-5519
Ceremonies Committee Chair	Jeff Paradis	204-939-1469
Medal Presentation Committee Chair	Jessie Horodecki	204-307-0192
Receptions/VIP's Committee Chair	Nicole Lafreniere	204-307-1709
Digital and Social Media Committee Chair	Eden Valentino	431-354-2071
Volunteers Division Chair	Cheryl Crawley	204-679-8501
Appreciation Committee Chair	Djahl Kristjanson	204-307-0127
Screening Committee Chair	Andrea Alderson	204-939-4205
Sport and Venues Division Chair	Luke Deibert	204-939-4066
Medical Committee Chair	Jordan Osborne	647-828-3961
Alpine Skiing Committee Chair	Kathryn Windeler	204-307-1951
Archery Committee Chair	Delvene Langan	204-371-1972
Badminton Committee Chair	Don Macdonald	204 670-3092
Cross Country Skiing Committee Chair	Carrie Holland	204-307-0102
Curling Committee Chair	Sam Antila	431-354-1972
Figure Skating Committee Chair	Agnes Szabo	204-778-7811
Futsal Committee Chair	Eugene Chong	204-679-2417
Gymnastics Committee Chair	Kristin Donovan	204-679-2984
Hockey (Female) Committee Chair	Laurel Roussin	204-939-4169
Hockey (Male) Committee Chair	Justin Valentino	204-679-6839
Ringette Committee Chair	Danielle Campbell	204-939-1230
Speed Skating Committee Chair	Emily Casey	306-822-4112
Wrestling Committee Chair	Jason Mintenko	204-679-2478
Results Committee Chair	Jan Perrin	204-679-5932

MANITOBA GAMES TERMS & ACRONYMS

Host Society – the local organization formed to coordinate and organize the Games.

Sport Manitoba – a not-for-profit organization and the lead planning, programming, and funding agency for the development of amateur sport in Manitoba

PSOs – Provincial Sport Organizations, e.g., Athletics Manitoba
Regional Chef de Mission – volunteer team managers, selected by Sport Manitoba

Regional Assistant Chef de Mission – volunteers who assist the Chef de Mission in managing the regional teams, selected by Sport Manitoba.

Sport Chairs – volunteers responsible for presenting the technical arrangements for sport, selected by the Host Society and the PSO.

Technical Advisor – ensures that all technical requirements directly related to sport are identified and met, as selected by the PSO.

Technical Officials – judges and /or referees certified by a sport.

Minor Officials – assistants in the scoring, timekeeping, etc. of a sport; may require certification by a sport.

Sponsor – an organization that provides services or supplies or pays some or all of the costs involved in staging the Games in return for advertising or specific rights and privileges.

Friends of the Games (FOG) – an organization that provides limited services or supplies, and pays for some costs involved in staging the Games in return for limited advertising, rights and privileges.

VIP – Very Important Person is a person who is accorded special privileges due to their involvement in the Games, e.g., a sponsor, dignitary, politician, elder or emcee.

VOLUNTEER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

What You Can Expect

- To be treated with respect and valued as part of the team
- A role that matches your skills, interests, and experience
- Clear information about the Games, policies, and expectations
- Training and guidance for your role
- Opportunities to learn new skills and receive recognition

What We Ask of You

- Be enthusiastic, reliable, and open-minded
- Ask questions if you are unsure of a task
- Perform your duties to the best of your ability
- Attend required training sessions
- Respect confidentiality
- Inform your supervisor if you can no longer volunteer

Volunteer Code of Conduct

- Volunteers are expected to act professionally at all times. The following are prohibited while on shift and may result in dismissal:
- Personal visits or excessive phone use
- Smoking, alcohol, drugs, or gambling
- Criminal, unsafe, threatening, or violent behavior
- Accepting bribes or making unauthorized statements
- Insubordination or leaving your post without approval
- Any other inappropriate conduct

These standards help ensure a safe, respectful, and professional Games environment.

Service Excellence

- As a volunteer, you are an ambassador for the Games and the Host Community.
- Be friendly, patient, and approachable
- Listen carefully and take ownership of concerns
- Focus on solutions and positive communication

Helpful Responses

- "Let me find out for you."
- "Here's what I can do to help."
- "I understand—let's see how we can resolve this."

Handling Complaints

- Recognize – Thank the person for raising the concern
- Acknowledge – Explain why their feedback is important
- Next Steps – Clearly state what you will do
- Action – Address the issue or contact your supervisor
- Follow Up – Confirm the concern was handled

Social Media & Media Policy

Social Media

- Do not post negative or disparaging content about the Games or participants
- Share only respectful, positive content
- Personal device use while on duty is not permitted

Media

- Volunteers are not authorized to speak to the media
- Direct all media inquiries to the Games Communications Team

Volunteer Uniform

- Wear your official Games volunteer t-shirt while on shift
- Arrive clean, presentable, and dressed for the weather
- Wear solid-colour, professional-looking bottoms
- Do not alter, cover, or wear your uniform as a spectator
- Keep your uniform clean and secure

Accreditation Badge

- Wear your badge at all times while on shift
- Keep it visible and forward-facing
- Access only approved venues and zones
- Do not share or alter your badge
- Report lost badges immediately

Preparing for Your Shift

Before Arriving

- Bring your uniform, badge, schedule access, and a pen
- Confirm your shift time and location
- Plan transportation in advance
- Eat beforehand and check the weather
- Bring only essential personal items

Arrival

- Please arrive 15 minutes early.

During Your Shift

- Check in with your Committee Chair
- Understand your tasks and break schedule
- Be knowledgeable about the venue and Games
- Be flexible, professional, and positive
- Take pride in representing Thompson

Breaks & Volunteer Care

- Water refill stations and snacks provided
- One 15-minute break during the first four hours
- Bring your own meals for longer shifts
- Allergy Notice: food may not be nut-free

After Your Shift

- Check out with your Committee Chair
- Collect all personal belongings
- Enjoy the Games
- Travel home safely

Be friendly, smile, and have fun!

SPORT PHASES



THE SPORTS



PHASE 1

March 1-4, 2026

PHASE 2

March 4-7, 2026



ALPINE SKIING
Mystery Mountain Park



ARCHERY
Trojan Gym - RDPC



CURLING
Burntwood Curling Club



GYMNASTICS
Comasky Wellness - TRCC



HOCKEY (MALE)
C.A. Nesbitt Arena - TRCC



RINGETTE
Gordon Beard Arena - TRCC



BADMINTON
Trojan Gym - RDPC



X-COUNTRY SKIING
Thompson Ski Trails



CURLING
Burntwood Curling Club



FIGURE SKATING
C.A. Nesbitt Arena - TRCC



FUTSAL
Comasky Wellness - TRCC



HOCKEY (FEMALE)
Gordon Beard Arena - TRCC



SPEED SKATING
C.A. Nesbitt Arena - TRCC



WRESTLING
Parker Gym - RDPC

SCHEDULE & RESULTS
mg2026.gems.pro



IMPORTANT EVENTS

Opening Ceremonies

Sunday, March 1st, 7:30 PM – 8:30 PM
C.A. Nesbitt Arena, TRCC

Closing Ceremonies

Saturday, March 7th, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
C.A. Nesbitt Arena, TRCC

Volunteer Windup

Saturday, March 21, 2026, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Bill Comasky Wellness Centre – TRCC