



**PADDLE
CANADA
PAGAIE
CANADA**



2021

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR IN REVIEW

LEARN TO PADDLE. YOU'LL LOVE WHERE IT TAKES YOU

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Message from the President

Welcome everyone to Paddle Canada's 2021 Annual General Meeting. Thank you for taking the time to join in and get involved. My apologies for not being able to be here in person. Unfortunately, when the date was decided my work schedule already had me elsewhere.

2021 saw Paddle Canada building on our successes of the previous year.

- Stronger membership numbers.
- More courses, clinics and classes.
- Improved services for our members.
- Greater attention to Adaptive Paddling and youth.
- Renewed focus on relationships.
- Adapting to new initiatives - Equity; Diversity & Inclusion; and Truth & Reconciliation.

For all this we have you, our members, to thank for your comments, suggestions and support. A huge thank you to your representatives on our Board of Directors who provide the patience and leadership in moving Paddle Canada along on its path to the future. Thanks also to all our volunteers working hard to improve our programming and member interactions from their positions on different committees and elsewhere. And, lastly, huge kudos to all of the hard work done by all of our staff and contractors who keep us running smoothly day to day.

As we move out from under the blanket of Covid I have even higher expectations for Paddle Canada and our members.

So for 2022...

- Look to keep all those new paddlers who took up a new sport because they could not travel.
- Recommend someone from our Skills path to maybe consider becoming an Instructor.
- Taking your next Instructor level will be beneficial to both you and all you teach.
- If you are a business, expand your clientele base - schools, scouts, guides, cadets, other businesses, tourism (making a big comeback with borders opening up).
- Share your passion and love for being out on the water.
- Set your expectations high for the next year.
- Welcome new and old paddlers.
- Enjoy a brand new paddling season.
- Discover new locations to immerse your blade.

Wishing you all the best and all success,

Mike Gilbert

President, Paddle Canada

Message from our Executive Director

As I reflect on 2021, I am pleased to note that we have a number of wins that we can celebrate with the closing of another year. Our membership numbers increased by about 16% over 2020, not quite as high as they were in 2019, but we are climbing back up. The number of courses that were offered across the country almost doubled over 2020.

The deep dive into our database that began in 2020 revealed several issues, that we have been able to not only fix, but vastly improve; if you have not already logged into the members website to have a look at your new dashboard, I would encourage you to do so!

Our Sea Kayak Manual French translation was finally completed, and all manuals are now being reviewed to ensure they are all formatted to look and feel the same. We redesigned the Paddle Canada certificate and are pleased to be offering them in a number of different languages, with more to come. On our main website, we have launched a paddling school directory, and a job board, with both initiatives we are hoping to promote more exposure to our instructors and course offerings.

We launched a virtual version of the [Waterwalker Film Festival](#) this fall, and saw tickets sales of over \$1500, with half of the profits supporting the [Bill Mason Scholarship](#). This scholarship fund is quite healthy (thanks to contributions that have accumulated over the years) and the committee decided to double the award in honour of our 50th anniversary, and we are pleased to announce that we will be able to maintain this moving forward.

With the help of a generous donor, we have launched the [Kaymayquinn Youth Paddling Grant](#). In 2021, close to 40 youth were able to participate in a Paddle Canada course, with their tuition covered. This initiative will continue to be funded until 2025 by the donor, and we are hoping to set up a donation portal in partnership with the Canadian Canoe Foundation later this year.

We are at the beginning stages of creating an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion strategy as well as a Truth & Reconciliation committee-please watch for announcements and invitations to be part of these initiatives.

We have continued to build relationships with other similar organizations, the Canadian safe Boating Council (in which I sit on the Board of Directors) the Outdoor Council of Canada, and Get Kids Paddling (who recently have registered themselves a not-for profit) And we have recently entered into an agreement with the Trans Canada Trail to help develop a water trail classification to go hand in hand with their newly launched trail classification system. Please watch for an opportunity to be part of this project coming soon!

The Ontario Not-for-Profit Act came into effect in October 2021, as such we were presented with an opportunity to review our [Bylaws](#) (amendments to be approved by our membership at the AGM), and ensure they are compliant with the new act, as well as a number of our policies and regulations-some have been updated, many will be revised and/or written later this year.

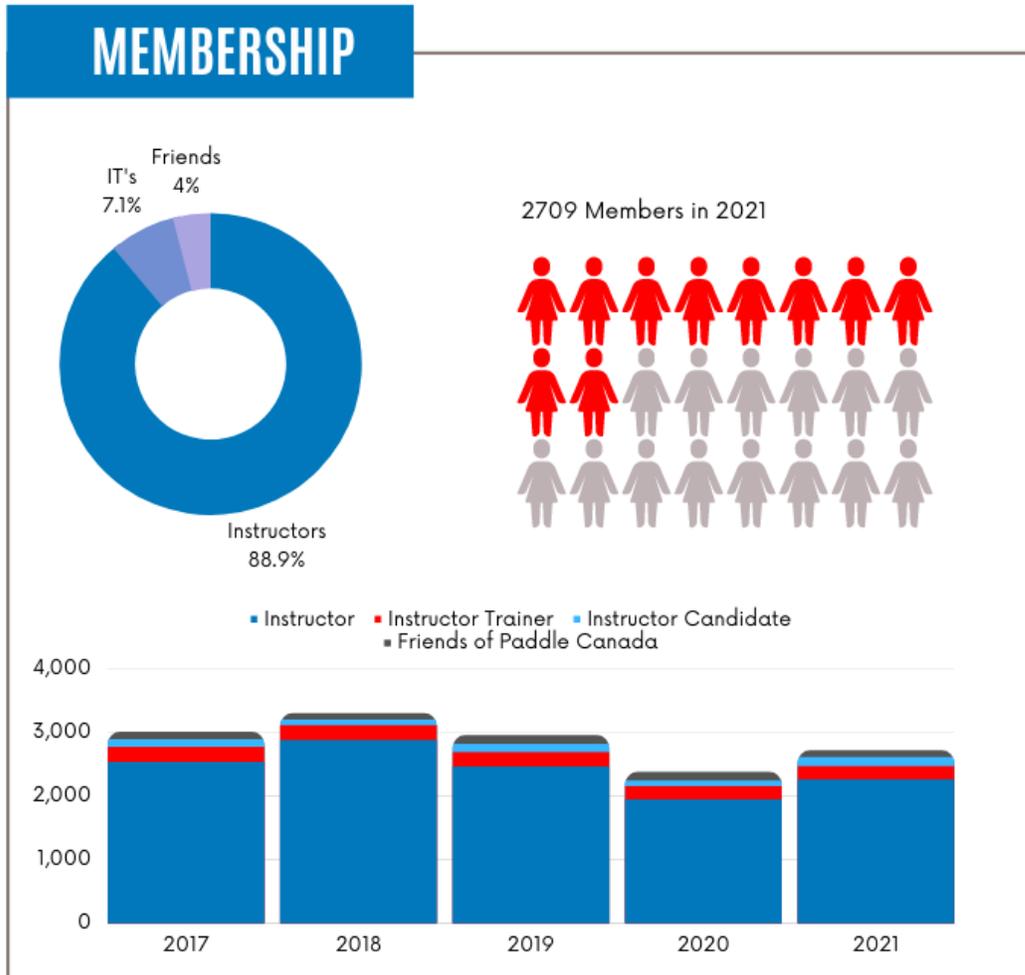
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We said goodbye to one of our staff Paolo, welcomed Bethan back from her maternity leave, and welcomed a new administrator Derik. We also made the transition to remote home offices for all, which enabled us to reduce our office expenses, and our carbon footprint by not driving to the office every day and allowed us to widen our hiring pool. I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish in 2022!

Michelle McShane
Executive Director, Paddle Canada

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2021 Membership Statistics



Message from our Treasurer

Thank you to everyone attending the AGM. My name is Geoff Horn, I am the Director for Saskatchewan and serving as the Treasurer for Paddle Canada. I live in Regina, SK and am a Paddle Canada Canoe instructor & Instructor Trainor since 1996. I have just completed my 4th full year in this position on the board as Treasurer. My sincere apologies for missing the AGM meeting as I am away travelling with my family.

The financial committee consisting of the Treasurer, the Executive Director, and the Bookkeeper, monitors and reviews the finances of Paddle Canada and reports to the board monthly.

The budget for 2021 was created during a surge in Covid cases across Canada and with some uncertainty if paddling courses were going to be taught for 2021. With this in mind, we opted for a safe bare bones budget that focused on our operations and planned expenses such as translation of the manuals from English to French, and updates to our database to ensure instructors can report and schedule courses properly. With Covid cases declining and outdoor programming opening in many regions across Canada, paddling courses were quite popular and instructors found safe ways to provide programming so our revenues for the year were quite strong. Strong revenues with very few expenses meant that Paddle Canada ended up in a large positive for the year.

Speaking to some of the specifics of the [financial statement](#), our staff is working from home hence the reduction in rent, our database host released us from our contract as our company no longer fit with their operations. Our database is currently being serviced by a short-term contract managed by our ED. Paddle Canada did participate in the Government loan program which is the 40,000 shown on the balance sheet. 30,000 of this will need to be re-paid in the next year.

The board will be working with and through the various committees through the 2022 year and be reviewing past grants and future grants to be able to assist our instructor members with courses or programming for the 2023 year. If members have ideas or suggestions please reach out to your provincial director, the office, or committee chairs prior to Nov 1st 2022.

I would like to thank our Bookkeeper, Bethan Williams, and our Executive Director, Michelle McShane, for all their hard work this past year. Financially planning is already a difficult task but add planning through Covid and you have some real uncertainties to work with. I would also like to thank my fellow board members for their input, advice, and support in my role this past year.

Geoff Horn
Paddle Canada Treasurer
Paddle Canada SK Director

Awards and Acknowledgements

Volunteer Awards:

Rick Wis, Membership and Sea Kayak Program Committees

Kirk Whipper Award: Tony Palmer

Bill Mason Scholarship: Carter Burtlake

We would also like to extend a warm thank you to:

Mark Scott, for his expertise and assistance with ensuring our Bylaws are compliant with ONCA

Karl Vollmer, for his work on make the Paddle Canada database better

David Johnston, for overseeing our School Directory and Job Board up and running

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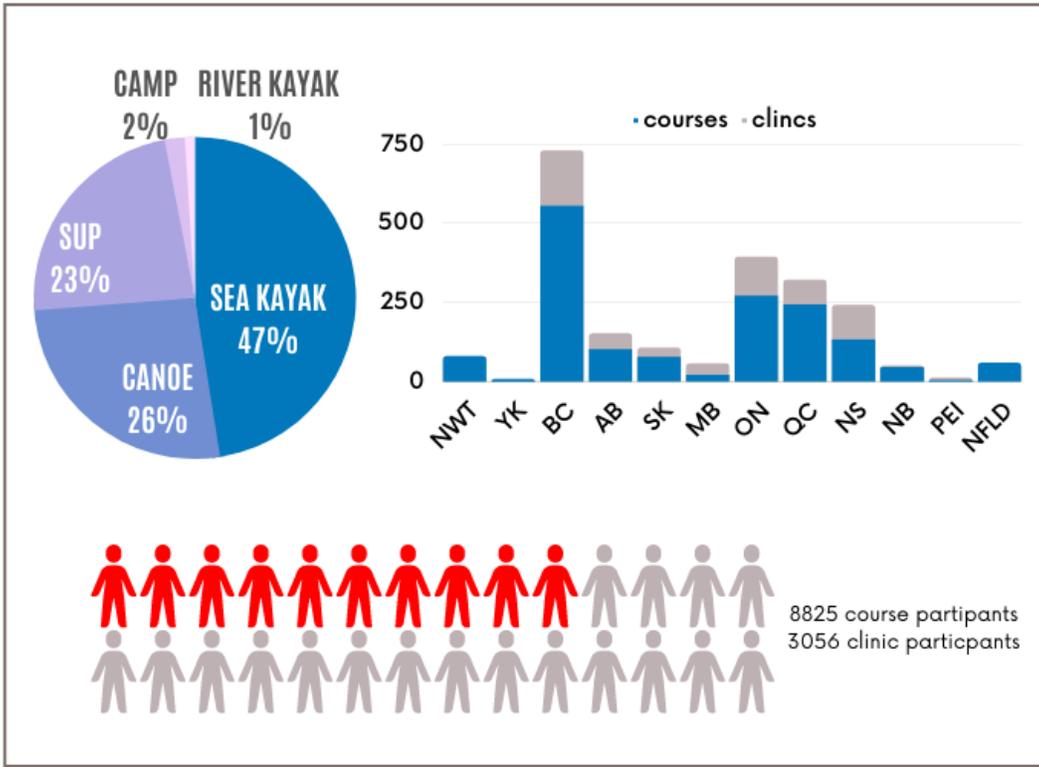
Program Committee Reports

COURSES

1635 courses taught to 8825 participants

CLINCS

554 clincs taught to 3056 participants



Program Coordination Committee (PCC)

About the Committee

The Program Coordination Committee (PCC) consists of one representative from each of Paddle Canada's Program Committees, usually its Chair. We are primarily tasked to oversee and develop programs, policies, and best practices that should be applicable across all of the Paddle Canada programs, and to seek Board of Directors approval for any significant changes.

Summary of accomplishments/activities over the year.

- New Instructor Trainer Manual updated, and published.
- Struck a sub-committee to review long term Certification Maintenance in Paddle Canada.
- Increased consistency between disciplines for Instructor Trainer certification.
- Updated Program Committee Terms of Reference to improve policies to let the Program Committees be more productive.
- First Aid Policy clarified, and an update was released last fall.

List of activities in progress and/or planned for the coming year.

- Unifying the structure and look of all program manuals.
- Reviewing and updating all general program policies and assisting the Office with creating a standardized response to improperly run courses.
- Continued unification on Instructor Trainer requirements, and procedures.
- Beginner Quiz for new Instructors.

Canoe Program Committee

Committee Members: Priscilla Haskin (Chair), Charles Burchill, Kevin Silliker, David Wooldridge, Richard Alexander, Andrew Westwood, Brian Johnston, Brett Pawlyk, Darren Keith, Advisors: Paul Mason, Carole Westwood, Alan Thomson

We are quite excited about this upcoming year. Restrictions are being lifted across the country with little to no restrictions on outdoor gatherings.

Our committee has been working quite hard over the winter. We are pleased to announce the update and completed Introduction to Moving Water Tandem Course Manual. The revised Moving Water Program Manual reflects the removal of the Introduction to Moving Water Tandem program and the inclusion of Paddle Canada program policies and information. We were pleased to assist with the finalization of the Instructor Trainer Manual that also has been released this year.

Within the Moving Water Program there is now the expectation that Moving Water Instructors start at the first level in the instructor progression. Instructor Trainers must ensure that their candidates have their instructor level instructors prior to higher level instructor courses. Please review the prerequisites for each instructor level. The building blocks for the Intermediate and Advanced level are within the Intro program. New items are introduced at each level. The Lake program subcommittee are presently reviewing the Lake program to meet the present needs. The introduction of having the option for Lake Instructors to become Waterfront Instructor Trainers under a mentorship process will hopefully increase growth within the Waterfront program.

The Big Canoe program will now see current Leaders register their activities on the Paddle Canada website. The Big Canoe program is presently looking at ways to make it easier to grow Big Canoe Instructors. They are looking at the addition of another level below the Intermediate and Advanced.

The three levels will make the progression through Instructor development easier.

2021 Canoe Stats		
Moving Water Instructor 406 Moving Water Instructor Trainers 55 Moving Water Instructor courses 20 Moving Water Skill courses 89		Style Instructors 15 Style ITs 7 Style courses 0
Lake Instructors 733 Lake ITs 85 Lake Instructor courses 29 Lake Skill courses 186 Waterfront Instructor courses 31 Waterfront courses 12		Coastal Instructors 25 Coastal ITs 8 Coastal Instructor courses 1 Coastal Skill courses 9
Big Canoe Instructors 28 Big Canoe ITs 5 Big Canoe Leader courses 10 Big Canoe Paddler courses 1		Poling Instructors 9 Poling ITs 7 Poling Skill courses 3

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The Poling and Style subcommittees are presently reviewing their programs.

Instructor Mentorship Option. When Instructor Trainers have less than 3 participants for an Instructor Course there is the mentorship option. Please contact the Canoe Program Committee for more information on this and a Mentorship Form to ensure your candidate(s) is/are registered under the Mentorship option.

Please continue to send if you feedback on all our programs. We also ask that you send us short video clips on your manoeuvres you ask your course participants to do. We would love to compile several of them, from across the county, to highlight them within our specific program manoeuvres.

Sea Kayak Program Committee

Committee Members: Chris Ladner (chair and secretary), Richard Alexander, Rick Wise, Amber Champion, Santi Berrueta, Meaghan Hennessey, Jason Richard (Board member)

Overview

Over the previous year we continued to meet online monthly except for the busy summer months with quorum for each meeting. Covid was still looming around us and influenced the needs of members, precipitating concerns forwarded to the SKPDC. Some members were seeking exceptions to standard processes. These requests catalyzed a review of our processes in Sea Kayaking to determine if they still served the members and Paddle Canada. Various aspects of the SK Program were identified for review and are described in our ongoing work below.

Summary of Activities

1. French Translation
 - a. The instructor section of the SK manual has now been completed. Delays were experienced due to changes in translators, consistencies in terms with other disciplines and stale links in the reference document.
 - b. Translations of revisions will be directed by the ED and applied on as needed basis.
 - c. Manual revisions were decided to be completed for February 1 annually so that members knew when the latest version was available.
2. Certification Maintenance and Professional Development (CM/PD)
 - a. The SKPDC determined that the CM/PD requirements required some additional options for members to stay current.
 - b. A request was sent to the PCC who struck a sub-committee comprising of a representative of each discipline to review this.
 - c. It was determined that decisions needed to be made prior to the 2024 season when most certifications were set to expire.
3. Certification sub-committee
 - a. A sub committee was formed to manage mainly mentorships coming from members. Due to Covid, there were numerous special requests to facilitate members completing their mentorships in novel ways.
 - b. It was determined that multiple PDC members should be reviewing these applications to assist with workload and assure the membership of an unbiased process.
4. Succession
 - a. It was determined through a survey of Instructors and ITs that there were some critical bottle necks in the certification process that could jeopardize the SK program. This was primarily due to a lack of available programs and certified individuals. Noting that attrition at the higher levels was occurring.
 - b. Survey results were summarized and sent to members.
 - c. A discussion paper was distributed. (*Options to increase the number of Instructor and Instructor Trainers in the Paddle Canada Sea Kayak Program*)

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- d. Mach 23, 2022 will be a conference call to discuss options to change the certification process to allow faster and more numerous certification programs be made available to members while maintaining (and improving) the rigor of the program.
- 5. Currents Wording
 - a. The SK manual needed to acknowledge that many PC SK programs are run in freshwater environments
 - b. Currents manifest themselves differently in ocean and freshwater environments
 - c. Courses were being run in suboptimal conditions for learning due to the limitation specified in the manual.
 - d. The manual wording should use industry standard terms for water descriptions.
 - e. New wording was created and will be included on the manual update for Feb 1, 2023.

Some of these activities are ongoing and will be discussed over the coming spring and fall monthly meetings. We are happy that we feel the committee represents a broad regional spectrum and can capably fulfill its duties in representing members' needs.

2021 Sea Kayak Stats	
Total Instructors 677 Total IT's 64 Total courses 769 Total clinics 184	Level 1 Courses 353 Clinics 59 Instructor Courses 11 IT courses 1
Rolling Courses 4 Clinics 37 Instructor Courses 1	Level 2 Courses 81 Clinics 20 Instructor Courses 3 IT courses 2
Basic Courses 268 Clinics 49 Instructor Courses 14 IT courses 1	Level 3 Courses 11 Clinics 5 Instructor Courses 2 IT courses
Waterfront Courses 11 Clinics 13 Instructor Courses 2 IT courses 2	Level 4 Courses Clinics 1 Instructor Courses 1 IT courses

River Kayak Program Committee

Committee Members: Karl Vollmer (Chair), Tony Palmer, Adam Tremblay, Advisor: Rob Lemmon

Message from the Chair:

As we come out of Covid 19 restrictions we hope to run Instructor program re-launch events in the near future, to help rebuild the national instructor base for this program.

We continue to look for new Committee Members from all provinces except NS, NB and AB. If you are interested in joining our committee please send us an e-mail!

Summary of accomplishments/activities over the year.

- Minor adjustments to the River Kayak manual to minimize focus on play boating
- Implemented the new shared Manual Header, bringing River Kayak’s manual inline with other programs

List of activities in progress and/or planned for the coming year.

- Hopefully running program re-launch events this fall, or next year funding allowing
- Soliciting feedback on course levels from current Instructors.

2021 River Kayak Stats	
Total Instructors 84	Beginner
Total IT's 11	Courses 5
Total courses 12	Clinics 6
Total clinics 7	Instructor Courses
	IT courses 3
Intermediate	Advanced
Courses 3	Courses 1
Clinics 1	Clinics
Instructor Courses	Instructor Courses
	IT courses

Stand Up Paddling Program Committee

Committee Members: Jenn Givens (Chair), Emre Bosut, Brian Raymer, Jess Rando, Annabelle Higgins, Alex Chandler, Leslie Gray, Tony Palmer (Advisor)

Message from the chair/committee

2021 was another challenging year with the pandemic but people continue to get outside. Thank you to all the instructors who continue to run courses and clinics safely with these unprecedented times.

Accomplishments since the last AGM

- Touring Instructor & IT course in Nova Scotia

Upcoming news/projects/events

- Adjustments to the Surf manual and the SUP yoga manual
- Going through existing SUP manual for any contradictions
- Quiz for External Instructor Transfer to SUP streams
- Create exam questions for IT's as a resource to use on their exams for ITC's

2021 Stand up Paddling Stats	
Total Instructors 781 Total IT's 112 Total courses 389 Total clinics 238	Basic Courses 211 Clinics 204 Instructor Courses 27 IT courses 1
Surf Courses 3 Clinics Instructor Courses	Advanced Flatwater Courses 86 Clinics 29 Instructor Courses 28 IT courses 1
Touring 1 Courses 12 Clinics Instructor Courses 2 IT courses 1	Touring 2 Courses 4 Clinics Instructor Courses 2 IT courses 1
River 1 Courses 6 Clinics 5 Instructor Courses 1 IT courses	River 2 Courses 1 Clinics Instructor Courses 2 IT courses

Camping Program Committee

Committee Members: David Wooldridge (Chair), Colin Frey, David Delafield, Neil Gilson, Lynette Chubb, Jimmy MacDonald, Andrew Foran, Tony Palmer (Advisor)

The Camping committee is now looking at updating the Camping program. We will be reviewing feedback from Instructors to see where we go from here. Some of the ideas presented could open up the program more to members of the public. For example: keeping the levels housed as units within themselves for Instructor and Instructor Trainer development and looking at options for a Leader award that would pair with a discipline specific certification.

We are looking for more people to sit on our committees. There may be individuals that are just interested in one area: Camping Basics, or Wilderness Camping, or Leadership. You are not expected to look at all levels. Please consider joining where you have the most interest.

2021 Camping Stats	
Total Instructors 184 Total IT's 54 Total courses 35 Total clinics	Basic Courses 5 Clinics Instructor Courses 4 IT courses
Wilderness Courses 12 Clinics Instructor Courses 3 IT courses 1	Leadership Courses 5 Clinics Instructor Courses 5 IT courses

Newfoundland & Labrador

2021 was a good year overall in NL with continued support for Paddle Canada and its National Paddling Programs. Paddle Canada has been entrenched in the DNA of paddlers since the 1970s and it is the only programming used within the province. The provincial association, Paddle Newfoundland and Labrador continues to be a big supporter of Paddle Canada and the province continues to have access to Paddle Canada Instructors and Instructor Trainers in all levels of the various programs.

We've seen a renewed interest in Canoe Programs in the wake of the COVID 19 Pandemic as people are showing renewed interest in outdoor activities in general and staying closer to home. There was also a welcome interest in participants looking to do higher level Solo Canoe courses and both an Intermediate and Advanced Solo course was taught due to student requests. Unfortunately Canoe Instructor courses continue to produce little interest and there is a lack of new Instructors being certified.

Due to a strong community of Kayak enthusiasts and a natural and spectacular playground for Sea Kayaking the number of Sea Kayak courses and participants continue to be strong. Within the province it seems to be engrained in peoples minds that when you buy a Sea Kayak...and you take a course. Hence there is a strong connection to the Paddle Canada Sea Kayak program in all regions of the province. We also continue to have more active instructors, instructors progressing through the program, and more people interested in entering the instructor stream.

Thanks to a keen group of SUP instructors and a blossoming SUP Community there was a total on 10 SUP courses ran in the province with a total of 52 participants. There is strong support from the City of John's within it's summer camp programming and PNL's Wednesday Evening Paddles continues to encourage participants to get on the water with any type of paddle craft they prefer. Paddle Newfoundland and Labrador (PNL) continues to be an active provincial organization that coordinates various activities and outings that indirectly supports Paddle Canada. By hosting Wednesday Evening Paddles, Club Day Trips, Club Overnight Trips, Skills Practice Sessions, Winter Pool Sessions, Safety Days, PNL has a strong community of Paddling enthusiasts that often translates into people wanting to take Paddle Canada courses. The club is seeing a sharp increase in the number of members owning recreational kayaks that are happy to venture out on ponds and very sheltered harbours vs. braving the exposure of the North Atlantic. This group is now driving new membership in the club as well as the lower-level Sea Kayak courses.

COURSE STATS

59 TOTAL COURSES

371 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

Canoe:

20 courses

165 participants

SUP:

10 courses

52 participants

Sea Kayak:

29 courses

154 participants

Most Popular Skills Course:
Sea Kayak Skills Level 1

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Despite strong numbers in overall courses and students, a challenge facing the province is the low number of actual active instructors. Of the 59 courses and 371 students taught, these courses were presented by

approximately 10 individual courses directors. In a province with such a natural environment for paddling of all sorts we should strive to have more than 10 active instructors and work to reengage those with Instructor certs but who are not presently active.

Lets hope 2022 continues to show strong interest in Paddle Canada Paddling Programs as the world opens up and people resume pre COVID vacation and travel routines.

Corey Locke
Newfoundland & Labrador Director
Paddle Canada

Prince Edward Island

PEI is small geographically and by population, our paddling community is not huge, but it is strong and we are looking forward to growing that in 2022. We have some Facebook pages that have doubled in participants in 2021 and we are hoping to do that again in 2022 . Without a regional group growing the paddling community can be difficult but we are up for the challenge.

We had some great participation in courses and clinics in 2021 considering what has been going on in the world with COVID-19. We pushed through and following health care guidelines we were able to make folks comfortable while on the water by providing a safe and encouraging environment.

PEI is one of the most beautiful places in North America to paddle with our sandy beaches and red cliff landscapes. I invite all folks to reach out if they are visiting PEI. We would love to be a part of your stay when you visit PEI!

Jason Richard
Prince Edward Island Director
Paddle Canada

COURSE STATS

7 TOTAL CLINICS

35 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

Canoe:

1 course
23 participants

Sea Kayak:

4 courses
15 participants
7 clinics
35 participants

Most Popular Clinic Course:
Sea Kayak Skills Basic Kayak

Most Popular Skills Course:
Sea Kayak Skills Level 1

New Brunswick

2021 was the year many of us started getting back out there after a year-long hiatus and resumed running courses and clinics. Thanks to the instructors and instructor trainers that made time to help grow the paddling community in NB.

Canoe Kayak NB hosted its 2nd Canoe Camping Symposium in September 2021. There were 56 participants, 28 volunteers including presenters (estimate 50% or more of volunteers were PC Instructor members). The event was a success and plans are in the works for a 2022 Canoe/Kayak Camping Symposium.

As is the case in other provinces, there is concern about a dwindling instructor and instructor trainer resource within New Brunswick.

Best wishes to all Paddle Canada members. I hope that you have an active and enjoyable year on the water.

Kind Regards,

Rob Neish
New Brunswick Director

COURSE STATS

45 TOTAL COURSES

265 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

6 TOTAL CLINICS

32 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

Canoe: 25 courses
173 participants

SUP: 2 courses
12 participants

River Kayak
1 course
1 participant
4 clinics
24 participants

Sea Kayak:
17 courses
79 participants
2 clinics
8 participants

Most Popular Skills Course:
Sea Kayak Skills Level 1

Most Popular Clinic:
River Kayak Skills Beginner

Nova Scotia

I have been in the role with Paddle Canada less than a year now and want to take steps to connect with Nova Scotia Paddle Canada members. I look forward to the survey being sent out to instructor members to get input on how we can improve supporting our membership and grow the connection with Paddle Canada and Members.

Coaching Adventure Sports professional development.

We have delivered three sessions as part of the Professional development series supported by Paddle Canada. We hope to offer this again in 2023 to interact with more Paddle Canada instructors. The turnout for the sessions has been low but for those who have attend are getting great value out of the sessions. The last session is scheduled for April 24. 7:00 Atlantic Time.

I am organizing a social event on April 26 in Halifax to create an opportunity for paddlers to get together to network and reconnect after the two-year COVID situation. Hope to sea you there!

In closing if you are a Paddle Canada member and are looking for help or a sounding board I am here to listen

Respectfully submitted ~
Christopher Lockyer
Nova Scotia Director
Paddle Canada

COURSE STATS

133 TOTAL COURSES

655 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

109 TOTAL CLINICS

300 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

Canoe: 22 courses
160 participants
13 clinics
196 participants

SUP: 25 courses
106 participants
20 clinics
82 participants

River Kayak
5 courses
16 participants
2 clinics
8 participants

Sea Kayak:
81 courses
373 participants
74 clinics
14 participants

Most Popular Clinic Course:
Stand Up Paddleboard Skills
Basic

Most Popular Skills Course:
Sea Kayak Skills Basic Kayak,
Sea Kayak Skills Level 1

Quebec

COURSE STATS

243 TOTAL COURSES

1099 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

79 TOTAL CLINICS

289 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

Canoe: 18 courses
140 participants
3 clinics
11 participants

SUP: 155 courses
634 participants
67 clinics
248 participants

Sea Kayak:
70 courses
325 participants
9 clinics
30 participants

Most Popular Clinic Course:
Stand Up Paddleboard Skills
Basic

Most Popular Skills Course:
Sea Kayak Skills Level 1

Ontario

The last paddling season was a great success, just look at the stats. This board season (non-paddling season) was a lot of work. I have had the pleasure on working on some new policies and watching our committees streamlining processes and our database getting re-vamped built to make it more secure and more user friendly.

As for the work of Paddle Canada Ontario, we have been working on the OPHEA subcommittee for canoeing, canoe tripping, sea kayaking and SUP. Paddle Canada Ontario has played a major role in the creation of new guidelines that will help us get kids out paddling in their schools. If you have the time available as an Ontario PC instructor, consider contacting your local Scout group, or High School and see how you can get kids out paddling.

If you feel like you have something you can add to Paddle Canada or any questions or are looking for volunteer opportunities, please reach out to us!

Matt Curracco
Ontario Director
Paddle Canada

COURSE STATS

271 TOTAL COURSES

1321 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

123 TOTAL CLINICS

625 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

Canoe: 62 courses
300 participants
23 clinics
121 participants

Camp: 16 courses
78 participants

SUP: 51 courses
206 participants
30 clinics
110 participants

Sea Kayak:
142 courses
737 participants
70 clinics
394 participants

Most Popular Clinic Course:
Sea Kayak Skills Level 1,
Stand Up Paddleboard Skills
Basic

Most Popular Skills Course:
Moving Water Canoe Skills
Introduction Tandem, Sea
Kayak Skills Level 1

Manitoba

COVID affected in person learning over the past 2 years. Less PC courses were offered, and instructors had to get creative in how content was shared. Paddle Manitoba, our Regional Member Association offered a number of programs over the year including fall and winter meeting with members, some online hopefully now in person. These meetings cover topics of interest to membership (tripping, equipment, route planning, safety) The canoe school offers weekly paddles and first aid courses to members. Clinics and courses offered at the canoe school clinics/courses took a huge amount of time/effort, but it was very successful (virtual and in person):

- Intermediate Lake Clinics - 48 people total, 7 instructors, 36 sessions. This was a series of virtual clinics run Tuesday and Thursday throughout the spring Pandemic period (April - July) covering 16 different topics. Taken together along with the 'on water' sessions when public health permitted (August/September) people could complete an intermediate lake certification. Presentation material was sent to Canoe PDC on behalf of the instructors as part of professional development requirements/certification maintenance as the material would be suitable for use by other instructors - confirmed with PDC before starting material development.
- Intro/Intermediate Lake Course on water skills - 12 participants, 5 instructors. August/September at Ft Whyte Alive over 1 long weekend, or several sessions over several weeks at La Barriere park (1 completed, 8 awarded Intro, 3 conditional and need re-assessment).
- Canoe Poling Clinic for Moving Water Instructors (Intermediate Poling) - 6 people.
- Introduction to Poling for MW instructors. This was done in conjunction with a moving water professional development clinic by Brian Johnston.
- Canoe Poling for the rest of us (Intermediate Poling x3)
- 4 Basic Skills (x1)

Pauline Nadlersmith
Director, Manitoba
Paddle Canada

STATS

Canoe: 10 courses
44 participants
5 clinics
59 participants

SUP: 7 courses
19 participants
25 clinics
185 participants

River Kayak
1 course
1 participant

Sea Kayak:
3 courses
11 participants
70 clinics
394 participants

Most Popular Clinic Course:
Sea Kayak Skills Level 1,
Stand Up Paddleboard Skills
Basic

Most Popular Skills Course:
Moving Water Canoe Skills
Introduction Tandem, Sea
Kayak Skills Level 1

Saskatchewan

The 2021 paddling season turned out to be a busy one as instructors were able to find safe ways to deliver paddling programming through Covid. In Saskatchewan alone, 22 Instructors delivered 35 courses for a total of 267 paddlers to participate in Paddle Canada clinics, and 64 instructors delivered 83 skill courses for a total of 510 participants. 15 new paddlers became Paddle Canada instructors in Saskatchewan last year.

Most of the Paddle Canada programs delivered in Saskatchewan are canoe courses which include lake training, moving water, and the camping program. There are also several paddleboard and sea kayak courses taught every year as well.

The warm waters of the Churchill River system are a huge draw for neighbouring provinces of Manitoba and Alberta to come and paddle. The deep large waves are a treat compared to the cold shallow waters of mountain rivers, and paddlers love to cast away their dry suits for board shorts and t-shirts. Churchill River Canoe Outfitters operated by Ric Driediger since the late 70's is the hub for instructors and skill participants to paddle and hone their skills.

Saskatchewan is facing a shortage of paddling instructors which is limiting the number of courses that can be taught each year. IT's throughout SK find it challenging to get enough numbers to run Instructor courses and use the mentorship program to train new instructors which works great, but is a slower process.

2022 is shaping up to be one of the busiest paddling instruction years yet. I would like to acknowledge fellow SK paddling instructors Jim Macdonald and Colin Frey for their volunteer work on Paddle Canada committees.

Geoff Horn
Saskatchewan Director
Paddle Canada

COURSE STATSCOURSE

78 TOTAL COURSES

463 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

29 TOTAL CLINICS

218 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

Canoe: 62 courses
391 participants
16 clinics
118 participants

Camp: 4 courses
22 participants

SUP: 1 course
3 participants
1 clinic
2 participants

Sea Kayak:
11 courses
47 participants
12 clinics
98 participants

Most Popular Clinic Course:
Waterfront Kayak Skills

Most Popular Skills Course:
Lake Canoe Skills Introduction
Tandem & Lake Canoe Skills
Intermediate Tandem (tied)

21 TOTAL COURSES

75 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

36 TOTAL CLINICS

264 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

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Alberta

While COVID 19 continued to be a problem and interfered with the planning and implementation of paddling programs, I am happy to report that Alberta succeeded in offering instructor and skills courses, and skill development clinics in all disciplines. I am also happy to report that Alberta numbers for youth were substantial.

Alberta is fortunate to have an active Regional Association, Paddle Alberta. Paddle Alberta actively supports instructors and clubs. During 2021, PA provided support clubs financially to assist with additional costs required by clubs to meet COVID 19 health requirements. Paddle Alberta also offered subsidies for instructors for upgrades and additional certifications (i.e. Wilderness First Aid). Paddle Alberta supported special clinics including a Women's Paddling weekend and offered support for certification maintenance.

Paddle Alberta has been active in promoting courses and information to Alberta camps. PA attended the first in person conference for the Alberta Camping Association since COVID to promote Paddle Canada courses and provide information on standards and grants available to camps.

Courses by discipline

Canoe continues to attract the highest number of participants with 71 courses (665 participants) and 28 clinics (272 participants). SUP is demonstrating its popularity with 18 courses (61 participants) and 28 clinics (172 participants). The camping program offered 9 courses (61 participants). Sea Kayak offered 3 courses (16 participants), and River Kayak offered 1 course. River kayak in AB is limited due to the structure of Alberta provincial funding. In summary, all programs did well, and we appreciate the effort from Alberta Instructors and Instructor Trainers.

Lana Ohler-Madsen
Alberta Director
Paddle Canada

COURSE STATS

102 TOTAL COURSES

789 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

50 TOTAL CLINICS

395 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

Canoe: 71 courses
665 participants
22 clinics
272 participants

Camp: 9 courses
61 participants

SUP: 18 courses
46 participants
28 clinics
123 participants

River Kayak
1 course
1 participant

Sea Kayak:
3 courses
16 participants

Most Popular Clinic Course:
Stand Up Paddleboard Skills
Basic

Most Popular Skills Course:
Waterfront Canoeing Skills
Tandem

British Columbia

This past year it was amazing to see how the BC paddling community was able to significantly grow and often bounce back if not even exceed pre-Covid programming.

Our instructor community is excited to welcome new members with 52 instructor courses that took place in 2021 with 216 participants (compared to 20 courses in 2020) . We now have 624 instructors and 55 Instructor Trainers in BC.

Across all our disciplines we ran 559 skills courses with 2902 participants (compared to 358 courses in 2020).

We also ran 135 clinics with 675 participants (compared to 99 clinics in 2020).

BC ran 1/3 of all courses across the country which makes it the most active province -which is no surprise given our size, our geographic location, and the abundance of beautiful paddling opportunities we have.

The most active discipline in BC is Sea Kayaking followed by a close tie between SUP and Canoeing and a small but powerful river kayaking community.

I have only taken on the role as BC Director in November, so I am still learning and step by step working on reaching out to all of you so I can do my best in listening to your questions and concerns and make sure I can represent you the best I can. Please do never hesitate to reach out to me if you have any thoughts or questions you would like to discuss.

Among the reasons that I joined the board was that I want to work towards more equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility in our industry. I am proud to say that we have already made the first step by creating a small working group to look at what we can be doing and to plan our next steps. This is of course an ongoing process, and we have a lot of opportunities to learn and to grow, but I am excited to be able to contribute and actively move this initiative forward.

It is a great honour to be able to be part of and to represent such a wonderful and committed group of paddlers and I am excited to see what we can do together for 2022.

EJ Lange
British Columbia Director
Paddle Canada

COURSE STATS

555 TOTAL COURSES

2891 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

174 TOTAL CLINICS

526 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

Canoe: 75 courses
495 participants
48 clinics
9 participants

SUP: 82 courses
364 participants
62 clinics
198 participants

River Kayak
4 courses
18 participants

Sea Kayak:
394 courses
2014 participants
64 clinics
319 participants

Most Popular Clinic Course:
Sea Kayak Skills Level 1

Most Popular Skills Course:
Sea Kayak Skills Basic Kayak

Yukon

2021 saw a very busy year for paddling and paddlesport instruction in the Yukon despite Covid. Yukon did see a huge reduction in International and National tourists who visit the Yukon to paddle. Locals were not travelling as much as they normally would and many group events were cancelled such as Music Fests, Beer Fests, Sport Relays etc which all compete for people's time. Many decided that 2021 was the year to learn to paddle and see more of the great Yukon.

A Lakewater and Waterfront Instructor course was successfully run which grew the base of Certified Paddling Instructors in the Yukon. Hopefully some of those instructors will renew their memberships this year.

There are many agencies teaching paddling in the Yukon and unfortunately the Paddle Canada brand is not well recognized within the territory. There are few common challenges for many of the agencies to use PC Instructors and curriculum.

Available certified PC Instructors to meet required Program ratios. It can be a challenge to find even 1 Certified Instructor especially in the rural communities, finding 2 or 3 certified instructors can be especially challenging. Programs are able to find qualified assistants to support programs to ensure safety, adequate supervision and group management, but lack formal certification. The Yukon is full of qualified paddlers.

Insurance/Cost- Most agencies have their own insurance and do not need PC insurance yet to offer certifications they must purchase the PC insurance as the price is built into course costs. This drives up the costs for these agencies to embrace PC certification. They essentially pay for Insurance 2-3 times. PC Insurance, Private Insurance and WCB. The PC Insurance only covers the instructor of the course and for amounts not covered under other policies, so it essentially is very limited coverage for these agencies.

Cost of memberships- For many instructors the cost of membership is a barrier. Many instructors may teach 1-2 times per year and find the price expense for their perceived value. Many of these instructors may teach multiple sports which each have their own memberships and certification maintenance requirements that as a package become prohibitive and the instructors become selective with which ones they maintain.

COURSE STATS

5 TOTAL COURSES

31 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

40 TOTAL CLINICS

303 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

Canoe: 4 courses

27 participants

39 clinics

291 participants

Sea Kayak:

1 course

4 participants

Most Popular Clinic Course:
Moving Water Canoe Skills
Introduction Tandem

Most Popular Skills Course:
Sea Kayak Skills Level 1

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It is hoped that Paddle Canada will be able to acknowledge and tackle some of these challenges in the upcoming years.

The Yukon has concerns with the direction of some of the Paddle Canada programs and are very concerned by the lack of representation on Paddle Canada program committees, not only for the Yukon but for all Northern Canada. There are 5 active Program committees but only 1 Northern Representative in all the committees. If PC programs aim to be relevant and successful in the Yukon and Northern Canada the realities of programming in the North need to be recognized and addressed.

One of my big goals for the upcoming year is to better communicate and connect with all Yukon Instructors so I can be a better representative for Yukon members on the PC Board of Directors. We will be hosting some Instructor Courses and Instructor Maintenance clinics this season.

We look forward to another busy and successful summer of Paddlesport Instruction across the entire Yukon, with hopes of supporting more agencies that are delivering Paddlesport Instruction. Please feel to contact me with any questions, concerns, comments, or programming needs for the Yukon

Trevor Braun
Yukon Director
Paddle Canada

Northwest Territories



COURSE STATS

80 TOTAL COURSES

489 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

Canoe: 63 courses
401 participants

Camp: 4 courses
20 participants

SUP: 9 courses
44 participants

Sea Kayak:
4 course
24 participants

Most Popular Skills Course:
Lake Canoe Skills Introduction
Tandem