

Major Games Participation Policy

Questions & Answers for Yukon government employees

Are you volunteering for the 2012 Arctic Winter Games? You may be able to take time off work without loss of pay to volunteer under the Yukon government's *Major Games Participation Policy* (GAM 3.34). The Yukon government is proud to support events like the Arctic Winter Games and encourage employees' volunteer efforts. As with all discretionary leave, it must be approved by your department and is subject to operational requirements.

If you are a Team Yukon athlete, coach, mission staff, a member of the cultural contingent or an official referee you may apply for leave without loss of pay during the games. When Yukon is hosting major games, volunteers in lead planning roles may also apply for leave. For the 2012 Arctic Winter Games, the chairs, VPs and AVPs of host society planning committees are considered lead planning roles. The leave is for times when your games duties conflict with your work hours and it is subject to operational requirements

Before you apply for leave to volunteer for the 2012 Arctic Winter Games, read the policy: <http://internal.gov.yk.ca/pubs/gam/volume3.html>

Q 1: What games are included in the Major Games Policy?

The Major Games Policy allows YG employees to apply for leave without loss of pay to volunteer for:

- Arctic Winter Games;
- Canada Games;
- North American Indigenous Games;
- Special Olympics; and
- Western Canada Summer Games.

The policy does *not* apply to any other district, regional, test, national or international, cultural or social service event.

Q2: Can all volunteers get time off work without loss of pay?

Not all volunteers are eligible to apply for leave under this policy.

Athletes, coaching staff, official referees, and members of the cultural contingent or Yukon mission staff can apply. These volunteers may apply for leave during the games.

When Yukon hosts a major games, like the 2012 Arctic Winter Games, planning or organizational leads are also eligible to apply for leave (chairs of a host society planning committee). These volunteers can apply for up to three weeks off work without loss of

pay, if approved by their department. The leave can be taken before, during or immediately after the games (within 90 days of the closing of the games.)

Employees who are members of a planning committee (but not the chair) or have a general volunteer job during the games are not eligible for leave without loss of pay under this policy.

Volunteer leave under the Major Games Policy is subject to operational requirements and must be approved by the deputy minister of the department, although the leave request should be submitted through the normal procedures and form.

The volunteer must confirm their role in the games by submitting a letter or other notice from either the Chef de Mission of Team Yukon, the games council, the Arctic Winter Games Corporation or the host society. Employees will provide the notice confirming their role with their leave applications.

Q3: What's changed since the last time we hosted a major games in Yukon?

When Whitehorse hosted the Canada Winter Games in 2007, a special policy was created to support the efforts needed to host an event of that level. Those special provisions are no longer in place.

The leave available to volunteers under the Major Games Policy is still the most generous leave of this type in Canada, but the policy is not as far-reaching as it was during the 2007 Canada Winter Games. Now only official members of the Team Yukon contingent and planning leads (committee chairs, VPs or AVPs) are eligible for leave under this policy.

Q 4: What if my volunteer role isn't eligible under the Major Games Policy? What if my request for leave wasn't approved?

If your volunteer role isn't covered by this policy, you can still apply for vacation leave or leave without pay.