

NEWS RELEASE - June 12, 2014

ARCTIC WINTER GAMES INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT

Whitehorse, Yukon – The Arctic Winter Games International Committee (AWGIC) announced today that Mr. Jens Brinch has been elected President of the Committee. Mr. Brinch replaces Mr. Gerry Thick of Whitehorse who is retiring after over 30 of service to the Games in various roles.

Mr. Brinch said, “Gerry’s contribution to the Arctic Winter Games has been truly remarkable. His commitment and leadership in nurturing and protecting the extraordinary impact that the Arctic Winter Games has on the people of north has been nothing less than outstanding. We will truly miss Gerry’s unique direction, dedication and support.”

Mr. Jens Brinch has a degree in Sport Science from the University of Copenhagen. He has taught and trained coaches at various levels and has been a lecturer on Human Sport Science at the various institutions. He is also an author with a number of sport psychology and sport science works to his credit.

Jens became the International Director for the Greenland Sport Confederation in 1997 and was instrumental in increasing their participation in the Arctic Winter Games. He has served on the AWGIC since 1998 and before his election was the Director responsible for International Affairs.

Jens has through the last 25 years been working on a variety of aspects within international sports policy; working with sports development in Eastern Europe and Africa, and for 4 years he was chairman for "Play the Game", an organization working towards more democracy and transparency in international sports organizations.

Mr. Brinch said, “I am truly honored to have been selected by my colleagues for this important role in northern and circumpolar sport development. I look forward to working with the Committee members, Chefs de Mission, the participating governments and others in our cooperative efforts to support and evolve the Games as they continue to positively impact all of our communities.”

Mr. John Rodda of Eagle River, Alaska was elected Vice-President of the AWGIC at the same meeting. Mr. Rodda, a lifelong Alaskan, has been active with the Arctic Winter Games since they were first held in Anchorage in 1974 and was President of the very successful 1996 Chugiak-Eagle River Games. He has served on the AWGIC since 1997.



The Arctic Winter Games is a high profile circumpolar sport competition. The Games celebrate sport, social exchange and culture, and include participation from Alaska, Yukon, Northwest Territories, Northern Alberta, Nunavut, Greenland, Nunavik Quebec, Yamal Russia and Sapmi. www.arcticwintergames.org

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