



ULU News

The Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games

Wood Buffalo Edition | ISSUE 1 - JAN. 23, 2023 • The Official Newspaper of the Arctic Winter Games



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ON THE COVER —
Reanna Whiteknife,
former Arctic Winter
Dene Games medalist
PHOTO SUPPLIED

Land Acknowledgement

The Arctic Winter Games Host Society acknowledges Treaty 8 Territory, ancestral and traditional land of the Cree, Dene and Métis people.

We are thankful for these borrowed lands along with the traditional teachings and lessons of resilience they offer us in the spirit of maintaining good relations with others for future generations.

As long as the sun shines, the river flows
and the grass grows, we will honour these lands.

Nih Beghonoł't'a ʔa T'e (Dene)

The Arctic Winter Games Host Society, Saṇáts'dé betłası hoṛa. Yanisoł'ine dene, Dene, Ena, Begahgaze benéné, thı bechaniye hotıye hoł'thé beghonołta, Treaty #8 keyaghé.

Hotıye marcı nederı nih beghé saṇáts'ede ha nohṛo nat'a, begahłthene Yanisoł'ine bechaniye beta honoweltıno łat'e. T'a t'o Yanisoł'ine dene bahorenihele hodel kolo, bechaniyé kası hoł'thé Saṇáts'dé ha thı eyita elchıtan nowejiye nezṛo helchı yonathı thá sekwi daniyáh cho ha ʔat'e.

Nederı Sa ghealho, Des helḥo, T'ogh neseho,
hotıye hołethe nederı nih beghodı ha t'a.

Nitaskinan (Cree)

Arctic Pıpon Metawıwin Society Emamiskotakwaw
Treaty 8 Nehıyo, Ochıponıw, Métis Askıy.

Nanaskomananak Otaskıwaw Entatamoyahk Ahkamemotwaw
Opımachıhonowaw Epımatisakwaw Mıyoti Ototemkoyakwaw.

Esko Pısım Pımoteti Esko Sıpiy Pımıchowakı
Ekso Maskosıya Opıkıkawew

Treaty 8 Adhesion 1899 Signed by Chiefs of RMWB.

Land Acknowledgement Developed by Allison Flett and Elder Alice Martin
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Stay connected with the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games. Scan the barcode to download the AWG 2023 mobile app and follow the social media accounts for news and updates about all things AWG!



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WOOD BUFFALO
2023
ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

COVID-19 vaccine policy revoked for 2023 Games

The Arctic Winter Games International Committee (AWGIC) revoked its Policy on Mandatory COVID-19 vaccines to align with current public health advice and the AWGIC will no longer require participating athletes, coaches, managers, mission staff, and others to be fully vaccinated to be part of the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games.

“The AWGIC does support any jurisdiction who wishes to enforce its own requirements, including other health measures related to COVID-19”, states John Rodda, AWGIC President. “We would respect the autonomy of this as a team decision.”

The AWGIC recognizes that public health circumstances have evolved and that COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses are still impacting the public and that all persons need to remain vigilant to limit possible spread.

As such, the AWGIC is working closely with the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games Host Society to encourage adoption of the recommended health measures at the time of these Games.

— 2023 AWG Staff

— TIME TO SHINE —



2023 AWG Staff | FILE PHOTO

Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) Mayor Sandy Bowman (middle) with RMWB Councillor - Ward 2 Kendrick Cardinal (left) and Dennis Fraser, RMWB representative and AWG Board of Directors (right) hold signs with 'Time to Shine' translated in English, Cree and Dene at the M2 Misson Conference, Keyano Theatre & Arts Centre on September 13, 2022.

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ULUS TRACKER

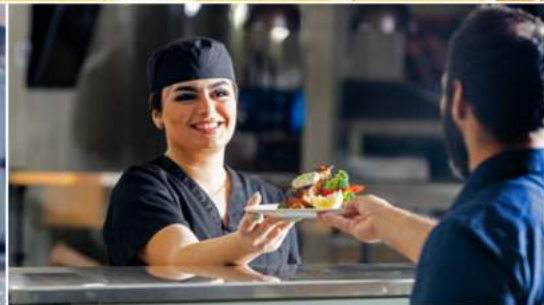
The Wood Buffalo
2023 Arctic Winter

Track the medal count in ULU News and online at www.awg2023.org

Stay Well. Play Well.

Participants Village
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Civeo warmly welcomes all Arctic Winter Games participants visiting the region. We look forward to hosting you in the Participants Village.



Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games' Contingents

The Arctic Winter Games is/are an international multi-sport event bringing together participants from Alaska, Greenland, Sapmi (the indigenous people of Norway, Sweden and Finland), Northern Alberta, Northwest Territories, Nunavik (Northern Quebec), Nunavut, and Yukon. The Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games includes athletes from the Northwest Territories, Yukon, Nunavut, Alaska, Greenland, Nunavik (Northern Quebec), Northern Alberta and the Indigenous people (Sami) of Norway, Sweden and Finland. — **2023 AWG Staff**

ALASKA — Established in 1968 as a non-profit, Arctic Winter Games Team Alaska (AWGTA) cultivates and celebrates sport, social exchange and culture. Team Alaska strengthens Alaska's communities by providing young athletes with the opportunity to compete in friendly competition while sharing cultural values from northern regions around the world.

ALBERTA NORTH — Alberta North joined the Arctic Winter Games in 1986 and hosted for the first time in 1994 in Slave Lake. As the fourth-largest of Canada's provinces, Alberta is the southernmost participant in the Games. Participation is limited to those regions located north of the 55th parallel. The 2023 Games will be the fourth time for the province to host.

GREENLAND — Greenland has been participating in the Arctic Winter Games since 1990. In 2002, Greenland hosted the Games for the first time in Nuuk, and they last hosted the Games in 2016. Greenland is the most northerly of the jurisdictions involved in the Arctic Winter Games. Considered part of North America, Greenland is the world's largest island.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES — The Northwest Territories (NWT) was the first team to host the Arctic Winter Games in 1970 in Yellowknife and last hosted the Games in 2018. The Northwest Territories is the second largest of the three territories in Canada. The territory extends from the 60th parallel to the North Pole and includes several large islands in the Arctic Ocean.

NUNAVIK-QUEBEC — Nunavik-Quebec, also known as Arctic Quebec, participated in the Arctic Winter Games in 1972, 1974, 1976, and 1986. The Team returned to the Games in 2000 and has participated ever since. Nunavik is the region of Quebec located above the 55th parallel and has close cultural ties between its Inuit residents and those of Nunavut and Greenland.

NUNAVUT — Prior to 2002, Nunavut participated in every Arctic Winter Games as part of Team NWT. Since that time, it has become a permanent member. Also noteworthy, 2002 was the first time Nunavut hosted the Games in Iqaluit, along with co-host Nuuk, Greenland. Nunavut is an area characterized by vast tracts of Canadian Shield and tundra, as well as most of Canada's Arctic Archipelago.

SÁPMI — Sápmi is the cultural region traditionally inhabited by the Sami people. The region stretches over the northern parts of Norway, Sweden, and Finland. The Sami speak as many as nine distinct dialects, with the most widely spoken language known as Northern Sami.

YUKON — Team Yukon has participated in every Games since its inception in 1970 with Whitehorse hosting the Games six times. Stretching from St. Elias Range, which forms the Yukon border with Alaska and British Columbia, Yukon extends to the Arctic Ocean and the Beaufort Sea. Included within this area is the famous Klondike, home of the last great Northern American gold rush in 1898.

HISTORY OF THE GAMES —






















Established in 1967, the first Games were staged in 1970 in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, and these Games have occurred every two years since, alternating among the participating contingents (excluding the cancellation of the 2020 scheduled Games due to the global pandemic, COVID-19). The concept of the Arctic Winter Games was developed as a direct result of the experiences of northern athletes at the 1967 Canada Winter Games.

Source: Arcticwintergames.org

MAP OF THE 55th PARALLEL — A map showcasing the participating countries, territories, states and regions of the 2023 Wood Buffalo Arctic Winter Games. 2020 AWG ARCHIVES



2023 SPORTS SCHEDULE

SPORT	VENUE	28-JAN	29-JAN	30-JAN	31-JAN	1-FEB	2-FEB	3-FEB	4-FEB
 ALPINE SKI	Vista Ridge	ARRIVAL DAY	T	C	C	C	W	W	W
 ARCHERY	Shell Place - MIP*		NC	T	C	C	C	C	NC
 ARCTIC SPORTS	CNOOC Fieldhouse #1 - MIP*		T	C	C	C	C	C	NC
 BADMINTON	Anzac Recreation Centre		T	C	C	C	C	C	C
 BASKETBALL	Ecole McTavish & Holy Trinity High School		T	C	C	C	C	C	C
 BIATHLON (SKI)	Fort McMurray Golf Club		T	C	C	W	C	C	NC
 BIATHLON (SNOWSHOE)	Fort McMurray Golf Club		T	C	C	W	C	C	NC
 CROSS COUNTRY SKIING	Birchwood Trail/Doug Barnes Cabin		T	C	C	C	C	C	W
 CURLING	Suncor Community Leisure Centre - MIP*		C	C	C	C	C	C	C
 DENE GAMES	CNOOC Fieldhouse #2 - MIP*		NC	C	C	C	C	C	NC
 FIGURE SKATING	Frank Lacroix Arena		T	T	C	C	C	C	NC
 FUTSAL	Fieldhouse 3, SSWC**		C	C	C	C	C	C	C
 GYMNASTICS	Norfort Gymnastics		T	T	T	C	T	C	NC
 HOCKEY - FEMALE	Centerfire Place		C	C	C	C	C	C	NC
 HOCKEY - MALE	Arena #1 & #2 - MIP*		C	C	C	C	C	C	C
 SNOWBOARDING	Vista Ridge		T	C	C	C	C	W	NC
 SNOWSHOEING	Birchwood Trails/Doug Barnes Cabin		T	C	W	C	W	C	NC
 SPEED SKATING	Fort McKay Arena		T	T	C	C	C	C	NC
 TABLE TENNIS	Shell Place, MIP*		T	D	C	C	C	C	NC
 VOLLEYBALL	Composite High School & SSWC**		T	C	C	C	C	C	C
 WRESTLING	Fieldhouse 2, SSWC**	T	C	C	D	C	C	T	

C COMPETITION DAY **NC** NON-COMPETITION DAY **T** TRAINING **W** WEATHER DAY **D** DEMONSTRATION/CLINIC

*MacDonald Island Park | **Synchrude Sport & Wellness Centre

Meet the Games Mascot

ELIZABETH PRIEST

2023 AWG Staff

Nitotem the Lynx is the official mascot for the Wood Buffalo Arctic Winter Games and was introduced in 2020 to support the promotions of the Games and celebrate the spirit of the region.

Nitotem was brought to life and illustrated by Sadie Antoine of Fort McMurray. Her design was the winning submission chosen in the mascot design contest in the spring of 2020. Nitotem was officially unveiled to the public in the fall.

The unveiling was paired with the launch of the Wood Buffalo Arctic Winter Games Mascot program, which was made possible by the generous support of the program's sponsor, A.P.E. Maintenance Ltd.

"As a locally owned company, it's important to us to give back to the community in which we work and live. We are proud to be part of the region and look forward to seeing Nitotem bring joy to people in Wood Buffalo," said Melanie Antoine, A.P.E. Maintenance Ltd.

The Mascot Program promotes the Games while supporting education, culture and community engagement initiatives. It will also include a highly planned and publicized promotional campaign to support the needs of the community and the messaging of the Games.

Leading up to the Games, Nitotem has been a leading ambassador by travelling throughout the Wood Buffalo region to get its residents ready and excited for the 2023 Arctic Winter Games.



2023 AWG STAFF | PHOTO SUPPLIED

Nitotem the Lynx is the official mascot for the 2023 Wood Buffalo Arctic Winter Games. It was named and designed by Sadie Antoine.

Sports Legend

GROUND TRANSPORTATION: All accredited volunteers and participants have complimentary access to The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) transit system, WOOSH, during Games week. Volunteers must show their accreditation badge to ride for free. Learn more at awg2023.org/ground-transportation/

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GREG HALINDA | FILE PHOTO

The 35 honourees of the Indigenous Sport Gallery join together after a dinner ceremony held at the Fort McMurray Golf Club in November 2022. The Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games Host Society recognized the individuals for their balance of well-being within their lives and communities in three categories: Local Legend, Athlete and Community Builder.

Host Society unveils 35 Indigenous Sport Gallery Honourees

The Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games Host Society unveiled 35 Indigenous Sport Gallery Honourees during an Honouree Dinner at the Fort McMurray Golf Club in November 2022, in correlation to the Games 87 Days Out, which reflects Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action #87.

CTA #87 – We call upon all levels of government, in collaboration with the Aboriginal peoples, sports halls of fame, and other relevant organizations, to provide public education that tells the national story of Aboriginal athletes' history.

Individuals were nominated and recognized for their balance of well-being within their lives and communities in three categories: Local Legend, Athlete and Community Builder. Indigenous Sport Gallery Honourees are listed, as follows. *Local Legend:* Lawrence Bull Powder – Fort McKay First Nation, Keanan Cardinal – Mikisew Cree First Nation, Julien Cardinal – Fort Chipewyan Métis, Albert Nokohoo – Chipewyan Prairie First Nation, Danny Lindstrom – Fort McMurray 468 First Nation and Mike Cardinal – Fort McMurray Métis.

Athlete: Dawson King – Hay River Métis, Detonaze Paulette – Smith's Landing First Nation, Connor Tuccaro – Mikisew Cree First Nation, Mae-Belle Fraser – Mikisew Cree First Nation, Mason Wanderingspirit –

Mikisew Cree First Nation, Cash Brebant – Mikisew Cree First Nation, Ryder Carroll – Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Brielle Mercredi – Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Arianna Perreault – Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Corbin Cyprien – Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Tayden Shott – Fort McKay First Nation, Alicia Gladue Fort McKay First Nation, Jayden Shott – Fort McKay Métis Nation, Ben Asadi – Fort McKay Métis Nation, Bear Croucher – Fort McMurray 468 First Nation, Presley Hodgson – Fort McMurray 468 First Nation, Riley Bourque – Willow Lake Métis Nation, Landon Bourque – Willow Lake Métis Nation, Lucas Thompson – Fort McMurray Métis, Shania Desjarlais – Conklin Metis Local 193 and Skye Quintal-Janvier – Chipewyan Prairie First Nation.

Community Builder: Dustin Nokohoo – Chipewyan Prairie First Nation, Verna Quintal-Janvier – Conklin Métis Local 193, Shay Laurent – Fort McKay First Nation, Bernadette Dumais – Fort McMurray 468 First Nation, Angela Marcel – Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Nathan Whiteknife – Mikisew Cree First Nation and Judy Ann Cardinal – Fort Chipewyan Métis Nation. *Regional Community Builder:* David Bouchier, Fort McKay First Nation and Nicole Bourque-Bouchier, Mikisew Cree First Nation.

The Host Society will create the Indigenous Sport Gallery inspired by the stories of the honourees and it will travel throughout Wood Buffalo during the 2023 Arctic Winter Games and other cultural events.

— 2023 AWG Staff

GREG HALINDA | FILE PHOTO
Chief of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Allan Adam speaks to guests at the dinner ceremony. For more photos, visit the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games Facebook page.





Canadian Natural is proud to support
**The Wood Buffalo
2023 Arctic Winter Games**

We wish all the athletes the best of luck and thank the organizers and volunteers for their hard work staging this amazing event.



Canadian Natural

Canadian Natural is committed to working together with local communities and stakeholders to build long-lasting relationships based on mutual respect, creating shared value as part of responsible operations.

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PINNING IT ON THE GAMES

Pin Trading — 21st unofficial Games event for all

BECKI STORIE

2023 ULU News

At the 2002 Arctic Winter Games, self-professed pin fan, Janet Pacey, who was covering the Games for CBC, was first exposed to the world of pin trading. With pins to give out to fans of the Games, she got talking to several pin enthusiasts who explained the craze.

“By the end of day one, I was hooked. As I was giving pins out, I noticed people had loads of different ones, so I started trading the pins I had for all the different ones I could find. The next Games, I came prepared, as CBC developed a series of pins to be released,” said Pacey.

Pacey notes one of the special things about pin-trading is the ability to communicate across languages.

“Language has never been a barrier when it comes to trading, which is great for an event like the Games, there are so many kids in all the different communities who will come and listen, watch and learn,” explained Pacey.

With a personal collection exceeding 20,000 pins, including Arctic Winter Games, Canada Games, Hockey, RCMP, Royal pins, Northern communities and territories and flags, Pacey is excited for the 2023 games to get underway and to start trading.



JANET PACEY | PHOTO SUPPLIED

Janet Pacey displays her pin collection which has grown to approximately 20,000 pieces.

The Host Society developed a series of pins, including some that will only be available at special events in the region and others that visitors and participants can get during the Games.

“Pin trading is a long-standing tradition at the Arctic Winter Games and is a unique way for people from other countries to meet and become more connected with the Games, said Michelle Toner, Board Director - Marketing, Communications and Sponsorship.

“ The Pin Program also give us another opportunity to show our commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action we have chosen to follow and hand out pieces that represent our heritage that will shine in people’s pin collection for a lifetime.”

A Pin Trading Post will be set up starting at 10 a.m. every day during Games week in the Suncor Community Leisure Centre. Find Pacey at the booth where she will be getting people started with a mini collection of pins to start their trading journey.



The Seven Sacred Teachings to be presented in ULU News

In Indigenous culture, the Seven Sacred Teachings are oral traditional teachings passed down through many generations and are shared across lands of the country since the beginning of history. These teachings honour the virtues necessary to live a full and healthy, happy and balanced life.

These teachings have stayed alive through Indigenous storytelling and Indigenous peoples life experiences of raising families. The teachings are shared between parents, children and siblings creating a strong feeling of kinship.

The Seven Sacred Teachings are brought into the community on how they treat each other as people, bringing happiness to their hearts and create a feeling of equal between each other where no one is better than the next.

The Seven Grandfathers were great spirits that were sent to guide our people through life. When the Seven Grandfathers sent a messenger to learn how the people were living, the messenger came back to share that the people were not living in harmony with each other or nature. In a vision quest, the messenger found a child worthy of the

teachings of the Seven Grandfathers. They tutored the child in each teaching to live life in a good way with each other and nature. Each teaching is also represented by an animal that carries the traits of each gift connecting all beings together. To live life with these teachings, it is said people will live a good and harmonious life.

The Seven Sacred Teachings: Love, Respect, Courage, Honesty, Wisdom, Humility and Truth will be shared throughout the pages of each edition of ULU News to honour the Indigenous lands the Games are played on.

— 2023 AWG Staff

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The logo features a stylized infinity symbol or interlocking loops in white, purple, and teal, set against a black circular background. Below the symbol, the text "WOOD BUFFALO 2023 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES" is written in white, with "2023" in a larger font.

WOOD
BUFFALO
2023
ARCTIC WINTER
GAMES

YOUR TIME TO SHINE IN
GAMES GEAR



AWG2023.ORG



2023 AWG STAFF | FILE PHOTO
Volunteer during the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games between January 29 and February 4, 2023. There are over 2,000 roles available.

Volunteer champions give back for Games

ELIZABETH PRIEST
 2023 AWG Staff

A single mom at 19 years old, Jennifer Vardy depended on low-income programs in Wood Buffalo to help make ends meet. Fast-forward nearly a decade and the married, mother of two, now donates her time back to help improve the lives of others.

“When I was able to have the opportunity to volunteer, I took it head-on,” said Jennifer Vardy, Chair, Rural Relations and Engagement Committee.

Vardy is one of the 2,000 volunteers needed to host the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games.

Due to the size and complexity of the event, the Games require people to fulfill a variety of roles both before and during the Games, assisting in areas such as accommodations, food services, box office, spectator services, logistics and culture.

“Sometimes I wonder, how are we going to do this, but I know we have all the right people in place and all the support necessary,” said Jen Kennett, Host Society Board of Director of Volunteer & Community.

From building community, making new friends and being a part of a monumental event, Kennett said there is a lot people can gain by volunteering.

“I think that when you speak to volunteers after, especially if they’re not local, they feel more connected to Fort McMurray and have something better to say.”

“It’s fun. It doesn’t feel like work. You’re not going out and doing back-breaking labour, you’re going, you’re meeting people, you’re seeing people excited, you’re catching glimpses of the sporting events and you’re

like ‘wow, this is really cool’, and you’re becoming a part of something.”

Each volunteer who works two shifts, approximately eight hours, will receive a uniform package, volunteer orientation, role-specific training, recognition at ceremonies, and an invitation to volunteer recognition events.

“I hope people see that volunteering isn’t a burden and I hope people get involved in more volunteer opportunities in the future.”
Sign up for the Volunteer Program powered by ATCO at awg2023.org/volunteer



2023 AWG STAFF | FILE PHOTO

Volunteer uniforms will be available during the Games.





2023 AWG STAFF | GRAPHIC SUPPLIED

Host Society declares 2023 AWG True Sport event

ELIZABETH PRIEST

2023 AWG Staff

The Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games (AWG) Host Society is committing to the values of fairness, excellence, inclusion and fun by declaring the 2023 Arctic Winter Games a True Sport event.

True Sport is an initiative of the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES), which is designed to give people, communities, and organizations the means to leverage the benefits of good sport, from a platform of shared values and principles.

"We are pleased to declare the Games a True Sport event and are fully committed to upholding all seven True Sport Principles," said Nicole Clow, General Manager of AWG 2023. "Inclusion, respecting others and striving for excellence align with our mission, vision and values and we encourage everyone involved in the Games to embrace these principles to create an unforgettable experience for everyone."

The Host Society is encouraging participants, coaches, officials, volunteers and spectators to share photos and use the hashtag #TrueSportMoments to celebrate good sport and respectful competition.

"It is amazing to see AWG 2023's commitment to True Sport. This intentional effort to embrace values-based sport through the True Sport Principles will contribute to building a positive culture at the Games which will translate into positive sports experiences and memories to last a lifetime," said Karri Dawson, Executive Director of Values-Based Sport at the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) – the network leader for values-based sport and champion of True Sport.

True Sport Principles banners will be hung at every Official Host Venue during the Games to raise awareness of the seven principles and serve as a reminder of the behaviour that is expected at sports competitions. Participants, technical officials and coaches will also take the True Sport oaths prior to the start of the Games.

www.awg2023.org



fmwb.ca

**FORT McMURRAY
WOOD BUFFALO**

Olympian Brooke Voigt official 2023 Arctic Winter Games ambassador

ELIZABETH PRIEST
2023 AWG Staff

The Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games is a time for our region and local athletes to shine. To help put the spotlight on the communities' competitors, the Host Society welcomed professional snowboarder Brooke Voigt as an official ambassador leading up to the Games in August 2020.

Originally from Fort McMurray, Voigt is a former Arctic Winter Games athlete who competed at two Olympic Games, Pyeongchang in 2018 and Beijing in early 2022.

"The Games were a significant steppingstone for me at the beginning of

my career and I hope that's the case for many athletes to come. It means a lot to me to be partnering with an event that helped me develop my passion for competition," said Voigt.

The partnership highlights Voigt's achievements and supports the promotion of the Wood Buffalo Arctic Winter Games' mission, vision and values to the community and an international audience. "Brooke is a prime example of dedication to sport and athletic excellence making her a wonderful role model for AWG athletes and all youth of the circumpolar north. It showcases our pride in Brooke and the strength of the Arctic Winter Games legacy as we prepare to shine together," said Nicole Clow, General Manager.



PHOTO SUPPLIED

Olympian Brooke Voigt is a Canadian freestyle snowboarder. She grew up in Fort McMurray, Alberta.

OLYMPIC FACTS ABOUT VOIGT — Brooke Voigt was just 16 years old when she not only competed at her first World Cup slopestyle event but won a silver medal in Calgary in January 2010. *Source: Olympic.ca*



FORT McMURRAY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

YMM is proud to welcome the circumpolar North, participants and visitors to Wood Buffalo for the 2023 Arctic Winter Games!



PROUD PARTNER OF THE 2023 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES



WHITEHORSE DAILY STAR | FILE PHOTO

Team Yukon's archery contenders during the Arctic Winter Games trials on December 15, 2020. The sport was to debut at the Whitehorse 2020 Arctic Winter Games prior to the COVID-19 pandemic interruption.

New Games competition promises to hit the mark

BECKI STORIE
2023 ULU News

The upcoming 2023 Arctic Winter Games will be hosting archery in competition for the first time in the history of the Games. The sport was previously intended to debut at the 2020 Arctic Winter Games in Whitehorse, which were unfortunately cancelled due to COVID-19.

While archery is one the most recognized sports globally, it's only represented by a small community of athletes in Alberta, something that Andrew Pitura, Grants Chairperson of the Alberta Archery Association, hopes will change following the Games.

The sport offers indoor and outdoor competitions. The 2023 Games will feature indoor archery, which will see competitors releasing 30 arrows on a five-ring target in a bid to achieve the highest possible score.

There will be 24 participants competing in this year's Games.

Archery Alberta has been integral in introducing the sport to the young people of Alberta and the Fort McMurray community, including the National Archery in Schools Program (NASP) which is aimed at grades 3-6.

"I'm really hoping that these games light a fire under our young people to get involved. I've never seen anyone try the sport and not immediately love it," Pitura said.

It's such a unique sport where the athletes' focus, commitment, and consistency, are displayed so powerfully."

Following the games, Archery Alberta will be donating the target rings to the Fort McMurray Fish and Games Association, which is currently the only club supporting archery in the community with a possibility of space being created at MacDonald Island Park which could also benefit from the donated targets.

WIDE
WOOD BUFFALO ENTERPRISE
VVDL

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THE



WOOD BUFFALO
2023
ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

SPORTS PLAYED IN 2018 — The last Arctic Winter Games held in South Slave Region, Northwest Territories, hosted 18 sports competitions including Arctic Sports, Dene Games, badminton, basketball, cross-country skiing, ski biathlon, curling, dog mushing, figure skating, gymnastics, hockey, futsal, snowboarding, snowshoe biathlon, speed skating, table tennis, volleyball, and wrestling.
Source: Arcticwintergames.org

Button blanket gifted from Whitehorse

ELIZABETH PRIEST

2023 AWG Staff

The Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games Host Society received a traditional button blanket and a #91 Truth and Reconciliation flag and pins from the Whitehorse 2020 Arctic Winter Games Host Society to carry on its path of reconciliation education.

During a cultural celebration at Doug Barnes Cabin, Nyla Klugie-Migwans, former President of the Community Engagement Committee for the 2020 Arctic Winter Games in Whitehorse, Yukon, presented the Host Society with the traditional items which were created to honour and act upon reconciliation.

The presentation took place as part of the Host Society's second Mission Conference on September 13. "

The button blanket acknowledges that reconciliation is part of healing our community through sport and cultural activities," said Klugie-Migwans.

"It is through this legacy that we continue to inspire and be the change for the



ELIZABETH PRIEST | 2023 AWG STAFF

Former 2020 Whitehorse Arctic Winter Games Community Engagement Committee President Nyla Klugie-Migwans presents Wood Buffalo 2023 Culture Committee Co-Chair Allison Flett and Board Chair Melissa Blake with a traditional button blanket.

generations to come."

Hazel Bunbury, an Elder of the Ta'an Kwach'an Council of Whitehorse gave the blanket the name Lech'I Dün K'e, which means "Like One People."

The Host Society will showcase the blanket during the 2023 event and the Culture Committee will collaborate with Nyla Klugie-Migwans on supporting the legacy of Whitehorse 2020.

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FORT MCMURRAY ISLAMIC SCHOOL | SUPPLIED PHOTO

Grade 2 and Grade 3 students at Fort McMurray Islamic School posters for the Participant's Village to welcome Team Alaska.

Students learn about Games in the classroom

ELIZABETH PRIEST

2023 Ulu News

A newly-developed program by the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games Host Society is giving teachers and students the opportunity to learn about the Games.

The Education Program launched in Fall 2022 in all schools in the Fort McMurray Public School District, Fort McMurray Catholic School Division, Northland School Division and Conseil Scolaire Centre-Nord.

Each school has been given a different contingent to learn about and cheer for during the Games, a detailed lesson plan, sports guide and an engagement campaign, interactive bulletin board and poster project where students will create welcome posters that will decorate the walls of the Participants Village.

"I created it and started it from scratch. I decided to look at what was unique about the Arctic Winter Games and what I can teach kids that the average person may not know," said Lana Tremblay, Host Society Program Manager of Education & Volunteers.

A teacher herself, Tremblay said her goal was to develop fun learning opportunities related to sport, culture, healthy living and the Arctic Winter Games.

"I think kids need to know what's happening around them and finding ways to engage students in your community is important. It helps create active citizenship and it's a wonderful opportunity for kids to engage with things in an academic way.

"I hear of a lot of schools that are interested in hosting their own mini-Games. It's almost as if I can't give them enough information because they're so excited," added Tremblay.

Amber Nelson, a Phys Ed and Wellness teacher at St. Paul's Elementary School in Fort McMurray, is one of those schools planning to host a mini-Arctic Winter Games. She tells *Ulu News* they decided to take part in the Education Program because the educational material that was provided was easy to incorporate into the classroom and met the curriculum standards.

"St. Paul's has been given Alaska. The students are interested in learning about Alaska, geographically, and culturally. I think it is important to educate students about

other cultures but also give them the opportunity to celebrate their own community and be exposed to new things."

As a Phys-ed teacher, Nelson said she has a different approach to implementing the Education Program.

"Most of my focus is on the resources provided for the sports section and I'm excited about the student involvement. During our implementation of the Games, I've seen some students shine in the individual challenges who would typically shy away from large group games but have stood out in individual ones." Nelson added that teachers aren't seeing this program as another item on their plate and are eager to incorporate the materials in their classrooms.

As for Tremblay, she hopes future Host Societies continue the program and implement it in schools in their region.

The Education Program is open to anyone interested in teaching the Arctic Winter Games to youth.

Resources are available for educators and the public to access on the Wood Buffalo Arctic Winter Games website. Learn more at awg2023.org/education-program.

The Halluci Nation set to headline Games opening ceremonies

ELIZABETH PRIEST

2023 AWG Staff

The Halluci Nation is set to headline the AWG Games Opening Ceremonies presented by Bouchier on January 29, at Legacy Dodge Baseball Stadium at MacDonald Island Park.

Previously known as A Tribe Called Red, The Halluci Nation is a Canadian electronic music group, who blend instrumental hip hop, reggae, moombahton and dubstep-influenced dance music with elements of Indigenous music, particularly vocal chanting and drumming.

“To have a renowned band like The Halluci Nation help us kick off seven days of celebration of sport and culture is very special,” said Eden Boutilier, Senior Manager, Marketing, Culture and Promotions.

From local performers and high-energy dance performances to a laser show and fireworks, the Opening Ceremonies presented by Bouchier will merge the world of music, entertainment, sport and culture into an unforgettable one-hour show.

“Creating such memorable experiences for the participants and the community would not be possible without the generous support of Bouchier, Fort McKay First Nation for their partnership in funding The Halluci Nation and our many valued Games sponsors,” added Boutilier.

The ceremonies kick off at 7 p.m. with a preshow beginning at 6:30 p.m. The ceremony will highlight the region, and its culture through the spirit of sport to an international audience.



REMI THERIAULT | FILE PHOTO

Tim "Zoolman" Hill (left) and Ehren "Bear Witness" Thomas of Halluci Nation will be the headliner for the 2023 Arctic Winter Games Opening Ceremonies. Tickets start at \$39 per adult. Purchase online at awg2023.org/tickets/

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