



# ULU News

The Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games

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THOMAS HOPKINS |  
2023 ULU NEWS

**ON THE COVER** — Team Nunavut took home the gold medal in 2004 or later division in men's hockey last night, defeating Team Alaska. **LEFT:** Arctic Winter Games International Committee President John Rodda congratulates players of Team Alberta North's 2003 or later women's hockey, after their gold medal win on Friday. Read more on page 3.

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**Hashtag: #AWG2023**



WOOD BUFFALO  
**2023**  
ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

## Treaty 8 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 ʔą T'e (Dene)

*The Arctic Winter Games Host Society, S̱anáts'dé betłası hoʔą. Yanisot'ine dene, Dene, Ena, Begahgaze benéné, thı bechaniye hotiye ẖotł'thé beghonołta, Treaty #8 keyaghé.*

Hotiye marci nederı nih beghé s̱anáts'ede ha nogẖo nat'a, begẖłthene Yanisot'ine bechaniye beta honowetłıno łat'e. T'a t'o Yanisot'ine dene bahorenihele hodel kolo, bechaniyé kası ẖotł'thé S̱anáts'dé ha thı eyita eḻchıtan nowejıye neẕo helchı yonathı thá sekwi daniyáh cho ha ʔat'e.

Nederı Sa gheatho, Des heḻho, T'ogh neseho,  
hotiye ẖotlethe nederı nih beghodi ẖa t'a.

### Nitaskinan (Cree)

Arctic Pison Metawiwın Society Emamiskotakwaw  
Treaty 8 Nehiyo, Ochiponiw, Métis Askiy.

Nanaskomananak Otaskiwaw Entatamoyahk Ahkamemotwaw  
Opimachihonowaw Epimatisakwaw Miyoti Ototemkoyakwaw.

Esko Pisim Pimoteti Esko Sipiy Pimichowaki  
Esko Maskosiya Opikikwawe

### Treaty 8 Adhesion 1899 Signed by Chiefs of RMWB.

*Land Acknowledgement Developed by Allison Flett and Elder Alice Martin  
Translated by Elder Rita Marten*

# Hockey medal rounds wrap up, one division left

Medal rounds for the 2003 or later Female and 2004 or later Male ice hockey teams took over the action at Centrefire Place yesterday for the medals games.

In the male division, Team Nunavut is bringing home the gold ulus after defeating Team Alaska. The 2003 or later Female hockey player won against Team Northwest Territories, while Team Yukon received bronze.

Starting at 8 a.m. today, the 2007 or later Male medal games kick off today with Team Nunavut versus Team Yukon for bronze. The gold ulus game with Team Alberta North and Team Northwest Territories is at 11:30 a.m.

35. — **2023 Ulu News**



THOMAS HOPKINS | 2023 ULU NEWS

**Team Alberta North’s 2003 or later Female hockey players with their team coaches, after they won the gold ulus game against Team Northwest Territories. Team Yukon received the bronze ulus yesterday.**



THOMAS HOPKINS | 2023 ULU NEWS

**Team Northwest Territories 2003 or later Female assistant captains wearing their new silver ulus.**

## In Every Ulu News

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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](http://www.awg2023.org)

Contingent	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
<a href="#">Yukon</a>	48	47	45	140
<a href="#">Alaska</a>	47	36	37	120
<a href="#">Alberta North</a>	34	44	32	110
<a href="#">Northwest Territories</a>	39	24	24	87
<a href="#">Greenland</a>	27	15	19	61
<a href="#">Nunavut</a>	7	12	20	39
<a href="#">Nunavik</a>	5	19	8	32
<a href="#">Sápmi</a>	2	6	4	12

PROUD SUPPORTORS OF THE

# Arctic Winter Games



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- A HILL COMPANY -

# Dene Games rooted into the Arctic Winter Games

**CURTIS J. PHILLIPS**

2023 Ulu News

For more than 30,000 years, the Dene, also known as the Athapaskan people, were sustained by the land.

Travelling over their vast traditional territory — from Hudson’s Bay to the Northwest Territories, across the Yukon and into the Alaskan interior - the Dene Games find their origins in the hunting, fishing and food gathering traditions. They tested one’s endurance, speed, physical strength and resistance to pain and mental agility.

Today, the modern Dene Games, according to the Canadian Encyclopedia “are now performed for

entertainment, to demonstrate athletic skill and ability, and for educational purposes. Many schools in the North teach Dene Games as part of their curriculum as a means of transmitting Dene culture and history, and promoting healthy and active living.”

As part of the Arctic Winter Games, modern Dene Games include the individual events of Finger Pull, Snow Snake, Stick Pull and the team events of Hand Games and Pole Push. There is also an all-around event, with Ulus awarded based on top-combined scores for the three individual events. Dene Games competitions are held in Open and Junior Male and Junior and Juvenile Female. A team consists of up to 16 athletes and two coaches.



## Finger Pull

Two players sit while facing one another. There is a defensive and an offensive player. The goal of the defensive player is to prevent the offensive player from releasing the finger lock and/or straightening the defensive player’s arm.

## Snow Snake

Snow Snake is a distance game. Athletes throw their 1.4 m (wooden) spear as far as they can, underhand (the movement begins below the hip) and over a flat snow surface, contained on a track in a trough.

## Stick Pull

Two players stand facing one another, both grasping the stick with one hand. They then pull, hard and steady, with their hand braced against their hip, as they try to get the stick out of their opponent’s grip.

## Hand Games

Two teams of about four players and one captain sit facing one another, with blankets or jackets dividing the groups. One team hides objects in their hands and then moves their hands around rhythmically, to the sound of the drum music, placing their hands under their clothing or blankets. The opposing captain must guess in which hand the objects are held.

## Pole Push

Pole Push participants (usually four to a team) try to push the centre of a pole (roughly 6.10 m long) outside a clearly defined circle. Athletes dig their feet into the ground for grip and balance. Although modern versions are somewhat different from the original Dene games, they still retain many of the same rules and traditions.

## Final standings

Team	Placing
 <u>Team Nunavik</u>	Gold
 <u>Team Alberta North</u>	Silver
 <u>Team Yukon</u>	Bronze

# 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

# Athlete of the Day

**ATHLETE:** Jessica LeClair, 16  
**TEAM ALASKA**  
**SPORT:** Wrestling  
 \* 2023 AWG Ulu Gold Recipient



In every Ulu News edition, our field reporter Stephen Harris will feature an Athlete of the Day to learn a little more about the athletes participating in the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games.

**What is the strangest thing about Canada, so far?**

I'm taking French lessons, but I got a Gatorade bottle, and I turned it around to the French side and I don't even know what it says.

**What do you eat at home that I might think is strange?**

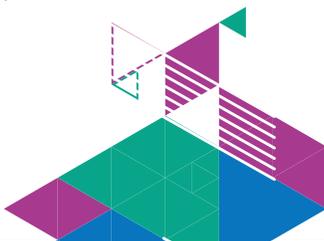
Seal oil. We use it as a dip for a frozen whale.

**If you could choose a superpower, what would it be?**

Speed, because I'm kind of slow on the wrestling mat.

**If you could travel to any place, where would you go?**

Italy, because the food is so good.



**Sports Legend**

- Alpine Skiing
- Archery
- Arctic Sports
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Biathlon Ski
- Biathlon Snowshoe
- Cross Country Ski
- Curling
- Dance Games
- Figure Skating
- Futsal
- Gymnastics
- Hockey
- Snowboarding
- Snowshoeing
- Speed Skating
- Table Tennis
- Volleyball
- Wrestling



## Venues

**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.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

**Greenland Table Tennis players get clean sweep at 2023 Arctic Winter Games**

# Greenland sweeps table tennis

Greenland put on a dominant performance in table tennis at MacDonald Island Park this week bringing home seven ulus.

The competition wrapped up on Friday with Greenland in the finals in every age category.

Rune Schultz beat Simon Aliqu of Nunivik Quebec to take the gold ulu in the singles 2007 or later category.

It was an all-Greenland final in the female 2007 or later with Uiloq Dahl defeating Najattaa Jakobsen 3 sets to 1.

In 2004 or later male category, it was another all-Greenland finals. Brian Schultz took home the gold ulu with 3 sets to 1 win over countryman Inuuteq Knudsen

2004 or later female, Niviaq Knudsen took a 3-1 win over fellow Greenlander Theresa Fontain.

Despite having a small contingent, Greenland currently sits fifth in the medal standings with 27 gold, 15 silver and 19 bronze. Northwest Territories is at 11:30 a.m. 35. — **2023 Ulu News**



## PURSUING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

Thank you to all the participants, organizers and volunteers for making the 2023 Arctic Winter Games such an astounding success.

ATCO is proud to power the Volunteer Program and continue as a Legacy Sponsor of the Arctic Winter Games.

# Arctic Winter Games legacy sponsor celebrates eighth year of support

The Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games Host Society is recognizing ATCO for their continued support of the Arctic Winter Games.

At these Games, ATCO are the official sponsor of the volunteer program. However, over the last 20 years, the company has sponsored the Games on eight occasions – making them one of two companies in Arctic Winter Games history to receive the Legacy Sponsor title. This distinction is given to companies that have sponsored more than five Games and donated more than \$350,000 over that time

"We have a long history of supporting the Games and the Northern communities, caring is a core value for ATCO, something that's really important in everything that we do," said Shannon Ohama, manager of

Sponsorships and Community Investment for ATCO.

ATCO's presence in Canada's North dates back to 1901, already establishing their legacy of impact and commitment to the region. The company is currently working on several projects across Northern Alberta to promote more sustainable energy in remote communities and decreasing reliance on diesel.

"Sponsorships like these provide employee engagement opportunities but also demonstrates our commitment to the North and its cultural diversity.

This event really educates people of the culture of North, showcasing Arctic and Dene games, traditional arts and music—it's amazing." Continues Shannon. Learn more about ATCO here at [atco.com](http://atco.com). — **2023 Ulu News**



PHOTO SUPPLIED

**ATCO has been a proud sponsor of the Arctic Winter Games for two decades and donated more than \$350,000 throughout this time.**



## CLOSING CEREMONIES

PRESENTED BY



**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4**

Performing "The Warriors Call" alongside Juno Award winning artist Maria Dunn and the Northern Wolf Drummers this promises to be a performance you won't soon forget from the Stephanie Harpe Experience!

*Time to Shine*



# Pin collecting guru shares the story behind the craze

STEPHEN HARRIS

2023 ULU News

A pinhead is a nickname for a person who loves collecting and trading pins. At the Arctic Winter Games (AWG), you'll find a lot of them, as pin trading is sometimes referred to as the 21st sport. *Ulu News* Field Reporter Stephen Harris sat down with the AWG Pin Collecting Guru Janet Pacey, who was running the pin booth at the Games.

## What is the deal with pin trading?

**Janet Pacey:** "Every contingent has pins. They have a set of pins, mostly. It is the most amazing sport of the games. You don't have to speak each other's language to trade. Just point, smile and shake your head 'yes' or 'no.'"

**So, every contingency gives you a set of pins?** "I trade to get them. I wrote to the general email (for the 2023 AWG) and said: 'Hey, I've run the pin trading center for many years. I'd love to come and do it for the Games. Do you want me to do that?' I've been to Whitehorse, Alaska, Yellowknife, Hay River..."

## What is the oldest pin you own?

"1972. It is the first year they had official AWG pins. I have this really cool blanket that I made for the 2020 games that never happened. It's got pins from 1972 to 2020 and it says '50 AWG' all made out of pins."

**A young athlete coming here, are they given pins to trade once they get here?** "Yeah. It depends on the team. It depends on the country. In NWT, the kids were given, I think two sets each."

But they haven't given those to the kids. So, their set is five pins total. Sometimes a team will release this pin this day, and this pin this day. They may have other pins that are a part of their collection, their set for the year and they may not release those until Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday... And then you madly scramble, looking at everybody's lanyards and coats."

## How did you get started in this?

"I used to work for CBC. I was communications for CBC North in Yellowknife. The Games were coming up in 2000. I was asked to design the pins. I did not get to go to those games because I had my appendix out, that was super fun. So, two years later I got to go to the games. I was giving out the next pins that I designed. The kids could come to our CBC booth and I would give them a pin. And then it started where they'd offer me a pin."

Then, I had a little piece of fabric, I think it was a toque, and I started sticking them to the toque. These kids would come to the table and say, 'Oh, I need that one.' And then you would find out all of this background information, 'Whoa, they only released 100 of those.' 'You can only get that one from this guy.' So, then you'd find out all these cool stories and then it becomes this obsession, 'Well, I need the other two parts of that pin set.' By the end of the first day of me being at these Games, I went to the sponsor events trying to get pins from everybody. I was just desperate. And then it just became this thing."



STEPHEN HARRIS | 2023 ULU NEWS  
Arctic Winter Games Pin Trader Janet Pacey was set up at MacDonald Island Park during the Games to show off her decades of pin collecting and help others add to theirs. She's been a part of the Games for many years.





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of the 2023  
**Arctic Winter Games**



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FORT MCKAY  
FIRST NATION

Fort McKay First Nation welcomes the Arctic Winter Games to our Community!

We are a proud sponsor and host facility for the Speed Skating events.



Fort McKay First Nation, Nistawoyaw Kinanasokmitinan ota kapi Metoweek netaskinaw.

Nimewehtenan Etipahma oma kawe soki soonkwatami ota.



Fort McKay First Nation nùhëba Arctic hhayá şanáts'ëdè k'a nódá hésá.

Hoyte kolá ełts'ëts'edi sponsors dałë chù elnik'ezi eghaleda ha dené tsáke nódahá.



# 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



SUPPLIED PHOTO

**CULTURE ON SHOWCASE** — The Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo showcased culture each day of the 2023 Arctic Winter Games at MacDonald Island Park. The Culture of the Day performances highlighted the diversity of culture and backgrounds found in the Wood Buffalo region.



## HUMILITY

### The Seven Sacred Teachings

The quality of being without arrogance and having proper self-respect. The gift of the WOLF. The Wolf represents humility because of its giving nature and devotion to protecting and working for the betterment of the pack. Wolves are mates for life and are generous and loving parents, setting great examples of what our community systems should be.

*The Seven Sacred Teachings will be highlighted in each edition of Ulu News to honour the land the Games are played on.*

# Proud Sponsor of the Arctic Winter Games

**GARDAWORLD**



**GARDANORTH**

# Stay Well. Play Well.

Participants Village  
Presented by Civeo

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

