



ULU NEWS



THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

MARCH 24, 2018












Records broken as games wrap up



Midget and bantam hockey action

ULU COUNT

Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
 Alaska	42	29	34	105
 Alberta N.	37	27	38	102
 Greenland	10	14	18	42
 NT	19	35	32	86
 Nunavik	8	8	5	21
 Nunavut	9	14	16	39
 Sapmi	3	6	6	15
 Yamal	48	35	18	101
 Yukon	33	39	38	110

Sport, culture and spectacle





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Alaska junior skiers get redemption in relay



Cody Punter/NNSL photo

Alaska's Noah Ravens crosses the finish line to secure the gold medal for his junior male relay team in the 3x3-km cross-country skiing race on Thursday.

Male team pulls off gutsy win after missing gold by a second in 2016

by Cody Punter
Northern News Services

Team Alaska got a measure of redemption by winning the junior male 3x3-km relay race at the Fort Smith Ski Club on the penultimate day of cross-country skiing events at the Arctic Winter Games.

The race started off with Yamal's Daniil Tomchuk shooting off to an early lead.

By the end of the first lap, Tomchuk had created a good amount of separation with the rest of the field, other than a Sapmi skier close on his heels.

Alaska was about 10 seconds back from the two leaders when they passed the

baton at the first exchange.

That's when the team's second skier, Miles Dennis, took over. About halfway into his race, Dennis found himself neck and neck with the two skiers ahead of him.

"I was just double polling the whole thing."

Miles Dennis

"My skis were running really well so I decided to push it and just see what happens," Dennis explained.

"I made a gap on them and tried to finish strong."

By the time he passed on the baton to his teammate Noah Ravens, Dennis had built a 10-second lead.

He attributed his speed to

Please see **page 7**

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CULTURAL Feature

by Thorsten Gohl

Arctic Winter Games cultural performers elegantly demonstrated the customs of their respective nations as they came together at the cultural gala in Fort Smith on Friday evening. The talented delegates entertained the audience with drumming, song and a variety of dance.

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Paul Bannister/NNSL photo

POWER PADDLE

Greenland's Arnakkuluk Nielsen returns service during her singles junior female quarter-final match on Wednesday morning table tennis action at JBT Elementary school in Fort Smith.



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First time racing on skate skis

Continued from page 3

his decision to use skate skis instead of classic ones.

"I was just double polling the whole thing," he said. "That played to my advantage."

The feat is even more impressive because this was the first time Dennis had used skate skis in a competition.

With a big advantage established heading into the final lap, it was up to Ravens to maintain it in final lap.

Although the Sapmi and Yamal teams made gains, the lead Dennis established earlier in the race ended up being enough for the Americans to win.

It was a victory for all three Alaskan skiers at this Games, one that tasted even sweeter for Ravens, who settled for silver at team event in 2016.

"I was (at the AWG) two years ago and the Sapmi snatched the gold by maybe a second so it was really cool to come back this year and win," he said.

This year it was the Sapmi team that finished second, while Yamal ended up in third.

After the race, Tomchuck and his teammates said they were disappointed not to get the gold but proud to have won the bronze.

"We lost the couple days so we were really hoping to win this event, because it's a team event and we work good as a team," he said.

"We work good as a team."

Miles Dennis



Mayor of Fort Smith - Welcome!

It is my pleasure to extend greetings to everyone attending the 2018 Arctic Winter Games, hosted by the communities of Fort Smith and Hay River.

On behalf of the citizens of Fort Smith and my Town Council colleagues, we welcome you as our guests for this very special celebration. It is our honour to be your host for this exciting event.

I would like to commend the organizers for the hard work that goes into coordinating this terrific celebration of athletic and cultural skills. The Arctic Winter Games are filled with captivating and challenging sports and performances that require focus and discipline. I would like to recognize the talented athletes and performers for all their dedication and enthusiasm. Special thanks are also due to the countless volunteers, coaches, and parents for their unwavering support of our participants.

If you are visiting from out of town, I hope that you will enjoy our warm hospitality and visit some of our beautiful attractions:

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Fort Smith has a diverse cultural and arts community, as well as a number of unique shops and restaurants for you to enjoy.

I would like to extend my best wishes for a successful and enjoyable event and I wish all those participating the best of luck. Let the games begin!

Sincerely,

Mayor Lynn Napier-Buckley

Town of Fort Smith



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Whitehorse next up to host Games

Yukon capital set to host 2020 edition of Arctic Winter Games

by James McCarthy
Northern News Services

Part of the agreement every host city signs for the Arctic Winter Games includes sending a team of observers to the existing edition before it hosts.

With Whitehorse laying out the welcome mat the 2020 Arctic Winter Games, that means its host society is in the South Slave this week to see how the 2018 host society is running its operations.

Robb Andison, vice-presi-

dent in charge of logistics for the 2020 Games, has plenty of experience in operations for major sporting events.

"I've been involved for a number of years on the organizational end of things, starting with the 2007 Canada Winter Games," he said. "I've also been on the 2012 Arctic Winter Games committee and now the 2020 host society. We have lots of experience in Whitehorse hosting major events but it's good to come with fresh eyes and see

how another organization is doing it and see if we can't take something back home." He also said if there were

issues with anything during the 2018 Games, help was only a phone call away.

"We're boots on the ground here as well," he said.

Even with a great deal of experience behind them, there are three areas where Andison said the Whitehorse crew is

focusing while they're here.

"One is logistics because you're always looking to do things better logistically," he said. "For example, airport and arrivals. From what I'm hearing, this year was one of the best-operated that people have ever seen. Athlete and food services is another area, and culture as well. We want to see what events are here and get

some ideas so we're able to

include everyone on that."

Whitehorse will host 22 sports in 2020 as archery and freestyle skiing will be added. Andison said that decision was made in consultation with the Arctic Winter Games International Committee.

"Yukon has a strong sport background in both of those sports," he said. "It also works logistically for us and it's just another couple of things to schedule, a couple of extra people to pick up

and drop off."

After the Games in Hay River are over, the Whitehorse crew will return and have a debrief on what they noticed over the course of the week.

"We'll disseminate the information we've received and just give people a heads-up on what we saw," said Andison. "It's not our first rodeo. We've seen lots of different events and there's always one or two new things we see every time we go."



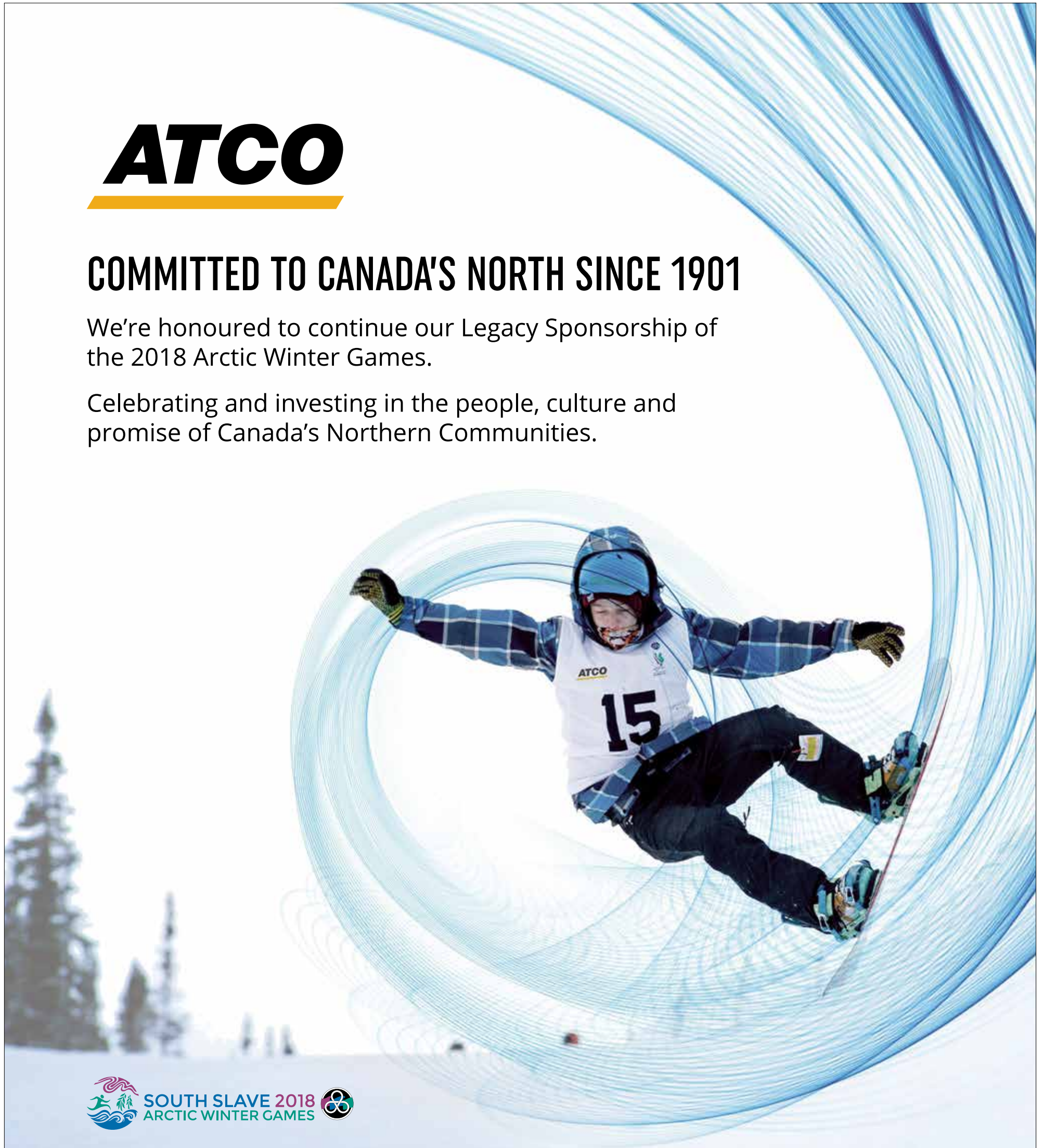
Robb Andison

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#AWG2018 SPORT SCHEDULE

	DAY 1 SUNDAY, MARCH 18		DAY 2 MONDAY, MARCH 19		DAY 3 TUESDAY, MARCH 20		DAY 4 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21		DAY 5 THURSDAY, MARCH 22		DAY 6 FRIDAY, MARCH 23		DAY 7 SATURDAY, MARCH 24	
	START	FINISH	START	FINISH	START	FINISH	START	FINISH	START	FINISH	START	FINISH	START	FINISH
HAY RIVER														
BADMINTON			9:00	18:00	9:00	18:00	9:00	18:00	9:00	18:00	9:00	16:00	9:00	14:00*
BIATHLON SKI			13:30	15:30*	13:30	15:30*	WEATHER DAY		13:30	15:30*	13:30	15:30*	WEATHER DAY	
BIATHLON SNOWSHOE			9:30	11:30*	9:30	11:30*	WEATHER DAY		9:30	11:30*	9:30	11:30*	WEATHER DAY	
DENE GAMES			10:00	17:00*	10:00	17:00*	10:00	17:00*	10:00	17:30*	10:00	17:00*	WEATHER DAY	
DOG MUSHING			11:00	14:00*	11:00	14:00*	TRAIL MAINTENANCE		10:00	13:00*	WEATHER DAY		WEATHER DAY	
FUTSAL			8:00	21:00	8:00	21:00	8:00	21:00	8:00	20:00	8:00	21:00	8:00	13:00*
CYMNASTICS							11:00	15:00*			11:00	15:00*		
HOCKEY (MALE)			9:00	21:00	9:00	21:00	9:00	21:00	9:00	21:00	11:00	21:00*		
SNOWSHOE			8:30	11:30*	WEATHER DAY		8:30	14:00*	WEATHER DAY		8:30	11:30*	WEATHER DAY	
VOLLEYBALL			9:00	21:30	9:00	20:00	9:00	21:30	9:00	20:00	9:00	20:30	9:30	13:30*
WRESTLING			9:00	19:00*					16:00	20:00*			10:00	14:00*
FORT SMITH	START	FINISH	START	FINISH	START	FINISH	START	FINISH	START	FINISH	START	FINISH	START	FINISH
ARCTIC SPORTS	OPEN PRACTICE		10:00	19:30*	9:30	19:00*	9:30	19:00*	9:30	18:00	9:30	18:00*		
BASKETBALL			10:00	20:00	10:00	20:00	10:00	20:00	10:00	20:00	10:00	21:00*		
CROSS COUNTRY			14:00	17:00*	10:00	13:00*	WEATHER DAY		10:00	13:00*	10:00	14:00*	WEATHER DAY	
CURLING			8:30	21:30	8:30	21:30	8:30	21:30	8:30	22:30	8:00	22:30*		
FIGURE SKATING			18:30	22:30*			9:30	14:30*	14:30	15:30*	SHOWS			
HOCKEY (FEMALE)			12:00	17:30	8:00	16:00	15:00	21:00	16:00	20:00	16:00	20:00*		
SNOWBOARDING			10:30	15:30*	10:30	15:30*	10:30	15:30*	10:00	15:30*	WEATHER DAY		WEATHER DAY	
SPEEDSKATING	8:00	11:00*	8:30	11:30*	16:30	22:30*			8:00	14:00*	8:00	14:00*		
TABLE TENNIS					9:00	19:00	9:00	19:00	9:00	19:00	9:00	16:30*		

* Medal Event
 - This Schedule is subject to change. Please check www.awg2018.org for up to date information.
 - Detailed sport specific schedules can be found at awg2018.gems.pro

Pole push closes out Dene Games

Team Greenland and Team NT take home gold ulus

by Dylan Short
 Northern News Services

Team Greenland and Team Northwest Territories earned gold on the final day of Dene games at the 2018 Arctic Winter Games.

Pole push was the main attraction on the field outside of Diamond Jenness Secondary School on Friday.

In the open male division it was Team Greenland claiming the gold medal over Team Alaska. Team Nunavut finished in the bronze medal position on a day in which blustery conditions may have benefitted the gold medal finalists.

"We like it more if it's cold," said Suulut Geisler, of Team Greenland's open male team. "We get motivation, that's the way we do it."

Team Greenland doubled down on their claim that the cold weather was their friend by rubbing their exposed arms with snow before the gold medal match, a strategic move by the team.

"We do that so we can stick to the pole," Geisler said.

In a sport that could essentially be described as a reverse tug-of-war, two teams of four push against a large wooden pole. The goal of the event



Members of Team Nunavik fight to keep their gold medal hopes alive in the junior female pole push as officials keep a close eye on the proceedings.

is to push the opposing team outside of a circle drawn in the snow. In a physical challenge that often leaves competitors laying on the ground gasping for air, any advantage a team can gain is welcomed.

On the junior girls side of competition, Team NT repeated its gold medal performance from two years ago, beating Team Nunavik in the finals.

"It feels pretty good, we didn't think we were going to win, but (we're) undefeated two years in a row now," said Izzy Heron of Team NT.

It was an uphill battle for the girls of Team NT. After they lost to Nunavik earlier in the afternoon they had to fight their way through the consolation bracket before they earned the opportunity to go for gold.

With the tournament being a double-elimination bracket, they had to defeat Nunavik twice before they were awarded their gold ulus.

"The second match was a lot easier I think because we were all tuckered out," Heron said.

Team Greenland rounded out the medallists on the girls' side by earning bronze.



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Record breaking streak in Arctic sports

At least five events have seen new benchmarks set at 2018 AWG

by **Cody Punter**
Northern News Services

The record book for Arctic sports will have a handful of new names for at least two more years after five Arctic Winter Games records were broken in the least week.

"It's always amazing to watch it happen and to be a part of it," said Gerry Kisoun, a longtime advocate for Arctic sports, who is emceeing all the events in Fort Smith. "That's one of the reasons you come to the Games."

On Thursday night it was Alaska's Stuart Towarak who reached new heights when he measured an astounding 9 foot, 7 inches in the open male one-foot high kick. Once he eliminated the competition with a kick at 9 foot 6, Towarak asked for the seal-skin ball to be raised an inch. After taking time to gather his concentration, Towarak's foot successfully smashed the ball to a raucous round of applause from the crowd.

"Words can't explain this moment," he said moments after he set the record.

Towarak was originally supposed to be an alternate for these Games but his teammate broke his ankle last month. The 24-year-old also

tried to make Alaska's team in 2016 but he didn't survive the cut.

"The first thing my coach told me is 'You're not an alternate anymore, you're an AWG record-holder.'"

Nunavik may have had one of the smallest delegations at the Games but two of their athletes broke records this year.

On the first day of competition, 14-year-old Nathan Saviadjuk shattered the previous record for the junior male knee jump by going a distance of 151.1cm. Saviadjuk said he has been training hard specifically for this event for the past few months, usually upwards of five times a week.

"I only stop when it starts to hurt," he said.

A few days later it was Larry Thomassiah who set a new benchmark in the airplane with a time 56.83 seconds.

Drew Bell from Nunavut got in on the action, pushing the threshold of the open male one-arm reach to 5 foot, 7 inches on the second day of competition.

Kisoun said it's amazing to see the extent to which athletes are pushing the sport.

"I was in Alaska in 1988 when they broke the nine foot barrier. Here we are in 2018 and they're going 9 foot 7, so when are they going to break that barrier? Am I going to live to see it? Probably not."

Veronica McDonald, who's from Fort Smith, was the only female competitor to set a new Arctic sports standard at these Games. Her gold medal attempt of 8.61m came in the open female triple jump on Thursday.

"I didn't expect to break the record and I didn't train to break it. I just go really hard when I do it," she said.

It wasn't until McDonald's third attempt that she established the new mark and won the gold.

McDonald said that after her second attempt she sought advice from her grandfather.

"He told me I needed to go faster and take your first jump a little further."

McDonald is competing in her sixth Arctic Winter Games and has won a gold ulu in the triple jump in her last two appearances.

"Having my name on there now is so exciting. It's nice to know that even though I didn't train for it my hard work has paid off."



Alaska's Stuart Towarak reached record heights when he launched himself 9 feet, 7 inches in the open male one-foot high kick on Thursday.

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Gymnasts jump for joy



Sasha Kozmen of Yukon goes full out with a splits during the floor exercise in gymnastics in Hay River on Friday.

James McCarthy/NNSL photo

All-around and individual ulus handed out on Friday

by James McCarthy
Northern News Services

Gymnastics wrapped up at the 2018 Arctic Winter Games in Hay River with the individual and all-around finals on Friday.

Ulus were up for grabs in the uneven bars, balance beam, vault and floor exercise.

When the chalk settled, Sasha Kozmen of Yukon ended up with gold on the floor exercise with a score of 9.6 out of 10.

"I was hoping for gold or silver," she said. "I've already finished fourth (earlier) so I wanted to get a good result. I got a bronze in the team

event as well."

The floor exercise is Kozmen's favourite event for one good reason.

"I get to show off my sass a lot," she said. "I train four days a week for three-and-a-half hours a day."

Aila Spronk of Alberta North was also a winner as she claimed gold in the uneven bars with a best score of 9.725, but she did even better than that in the team competition on Tuesday.

"I'm happy with that score," she said. "I did a 9.8 earlier."

At the age of 10, Spronk is one of the youngest competitors at the Arctic Winter Games, giving her several

more chances to come back and compete. She said she intends to do so based on this experience.

"It's been really cool to be here," she said. "I've been to Alberta Winter Games before but this is different because I'm competing against other gymnasts I've never competed against before."

One noticeable aspect of the gymnastics venue is that everyone is cheering for everyone, regardless of what team they're a part of.

Spronk said that's one of the coolest things about the competition.

"We're all supporting each other," she said.



Josie Panika of Nunavut performs her routine on the uneven bars at gymnastics in Hay River on Friday.

James McCarthy/NNSL photo

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Red dresses spark questions

Hanging clothing represents MMIW inquiry

by Sarah Pruys
Ulu News

Every day, athletes, coaches, and cultural delegates in Fort Smith walk to the cafeteria in Aurora College, passing by red dresses hanging in the trees along the way.

There are only a few dresses and jackets now, remnants of a fall research project that the students in the adult learning basic education program undertook in October when they sought to learn more about the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) inquiry.

Their instructors, Cherie Stewart and Leah Desjarlais, said the idea came from Dene fashion designer Tishna Marlowe, who was hosting a Yellowknife fashion show that included red outfits to represent MMIW; and Metis artist Jamie Black, who started the The REDress Project in Winnipeg.

"We thought it was really important to bring awareness of it to our students," said Stewart, explaining that like the women that inspired them, they wanted to use red dresses to symbolize the more

than one thousand missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada. The dresses are meant to illustrate the absence left by the women who have been victims gendered and racialized violence.

The instructors had their students do their own research on both the The REDress Project and on MMIW and report what they found.

"We recorded some of our students reading out the stats and personal stories because they know some of the people that are missing," Cherie said.

Once all of the material had

been compiled, it was sent to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre in Yellowknife to be included in Marlowe's show. Stewart and Desjarlais said the hanging dresses encouraged plenty of questions around campus, which their students were able to help answer after the project.

The dresses were only intended to hang outside for a month, but people requested that the class leave them up. After the Arctic Winter Games wrap up however, the dresses will find a new home hanging inside the college.



Sarah Pruys photo

Red clothing hangs on a tree in Fort Smith as a reminder of missing and murdered Indigenous women.



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Double delight for the boys

Northwest Territories wins midget boys hockey gold ulu over Nunavut

by James McCarthy
Northern News Services

For most of the Northwest Territories midget boys hockey team, this was a shot at redemption from two years ago when they were bantams.

They lost the gold ulu game in 2016 but this time they got the colour they wanted.

Team NT knocked off Nunavut in another exciting finish, 2-1, on Friday night in Hay River. Ben Carson scored what would be the eventual game-winner.

Nunavut tallied late in the third period to close the gap but couldn't find the equalizer with the goalie pulled.

Team NT head coach Randy Caines said it was a fantastic game all around from his bunch.

"You have to hand it to Nunavut because they came

out hungry but we cranked it up,"he said. "We started out slow this week but we were improving every time. We identified the things we needed to correct, we made the adjustments and our team came together like no

"I still think our boys are the best."

Denis Lambe

For Carson, the pain of watching from the bench with a broken wrist two years ago went away thanks to a gold ulu.

This time, he was in a different sort of discomfort.

"I was on the bench at the end of it passing out almost because I was so nervous,"he said. "I saw (Nunavut) score and I was out of my mind."

For Nunavut, it was a bitter pill to swallow for a squad that had finished first in the round-robin and came in having beaten Team NT 3-2 earlier in the tournament.

Head coach Denis Lambe said all the credit goes to the winners because they worked hard but he still feels like his players were the better team.

"I still think our boys are the best,"he said. "There's a lot of passion in our locker room but give them a good night's sleep and they'll realize that they lived in the moment. You win some and you lose some on any given night."

For Caines, though, this was a special moment for one good reason: the late Carl Bulger.

"A lot of these boys played on the Carl's Rockies midget team,"he said. "I have no doubt that Carl was pulling the strings a little bit for us up there tonight."

Nunavut goaltender Seth Ningeongan makes a kick save during the midget boys gold ulu game in Hay River on Friday.

James McCarthy/NNSL photo



NT wins bantam boys gold in thriller

Cordero notches winner with less than 10 seconds on the clock

by James McCarthy
Northern News Services

In his own words, Alex Cordero of the Northwest Territories had a bad bantam boys hockey gold ulu game and probably shouldn't have been on the ice late in the dying seconds.

Good thing he was because he ended up becoming a hero.

Cordero scored the winning goal to help Team NT to a 4-3 win over Alberta North on Friday, snapping home a wrist shot with 9.9 seconds remaining in regulation time.

"That's probably the biggest goal I've ever scored,"said Cordero. "My game at the start wasn't too good. I picked up slowly but surely. I just joined the rush, the puck came to me and I just shot it."

The game was literally a back-and-forth affair with Hay River's Declan Munro open-

ing the scoring via a point shot that found its way through to beat Alberta North goaltender Thomas Sellin. Jacobi Rouleau evened the game early in the second period before Tyler Caines restored the NT's lead.

That was followed by Joseph Gerwatoski tying the game again after Cordero coughed up the puck in neutral ice.

Carter McLeod gave NT the lead once again on a solo effort, walking through four Alberta North players before roofing it on Sellin. But Gerwatoski evened it up again on the power-play midway through the third.

And then the heroics.

The NT's Logan Cunningham went on one last rush and lost control of the puck. An Alberta North defenceman tried to clear it but the puck ended up on Cordero's stick,

which he promptly rifled top-shelf past Sellin for the gold ulu-winner.

Team NT coach R.J. Carr said it was a classic case of redemption for Cordero.

"He got burned twice in this game but great players always bounce back, and he

did," Carr said.

Cordero was one of those rare examples of a peewee player playing up an age group and NT coach Shawn Talbot said he's been a solid player all tournament long.

"He picked up two goals for us in our win (against

Nunavut in the semifinal),"he said. "He's just a special kid with a special skill-set."

In defeat, Alberta North head coach Simon Juches said it felt like a sudden-death kind of game late in regulation.

"We got down to the last two minutes and if felt like

overtime,"he said. "Just an unfortunate play we made there and it ends up on the wrong guy's stick and in the back of the net. Overall, I felt this was our best game of the week and at the end of the day, that's all you can ask for. It's tough but it is what it is."



James McCarthy/NNSL photo

Alex Cordero of the Northwest Territories, left, curls in the corner with the puck as Alberta North's Hudson Chalifoux gives chase during the bantam boys hockey gold medal game in Hay River on Friday.

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Hockey Nunavik en 2020? Peut être

'Nous n'aurons pas d'infrastructures avant cinq ou six ans, et peut-être plus tard'

by Denis Lord
Ulu News

La présidente du comité administratif de l'Administration régionale Kativik (ARK) Jennifer Munick souhaite que le comité des Jeux d'hiver de l'Arctique (JHA) fasse un exception à un de ses règlements pour permettre au Nunavik-Québec de présenter une équipe de hockey aux jeux de 2020.

Le Nunavik a actuellement le statut d'invité, explique Mme Munick, ce qui ne lui permet que de participer aux sports individuels.

Pour être un membre régulier, il faut pouvoir accueillir chez soi les Jeux. Et ce n'est pas pour demain.

"Nous n'aurons pas d'infrastructures avant cinq ou six ans, et peut-être plus tard,"suppute Jennifer.

Or, le Nunavik aimerait que le Comité international des JHA, qui élabore ses politiques, fasse un exception à ce règlement, parce qu'alors que la pratique de certains sports admis aux JHA est difficile au Nunavik, le ski par exemple, le hockey, lui, est immensément populaire.

"Presque tous les jeunes jouent au hockey chez nous

explique Mme. Munick. Depuis ou 15 ans, ça s'est beaucoup organisé.

Les jeunes voyagent d'une communauté à l'autre en avion et partout où ils vont, les arénas sont toujours plein."

La présidente du comité administratif de l'ARK a jusqu'à présent rencontré deux fois le président Jens Brinch pour lui manifester son souhait.

En outre, l'équipe de la mission Nunavik-Québec aurait écrit plusieurs lettres au Comité international à ce propos.

"Et nous allons en écrire d'autre,"assure la tenace Mme Munick, qui circonscrit la réalisation de son désir à une seule équipe de hockey, garçon ou fille, dans n'importe quelle catégorie.

Selon Mme Munick, la seule réponse obtenue jusqu'à présent du Comité aurait trait à des restrictions du contingent du Nunavik-Québec, fixé à 90 personnes, athlètes et personnel confondu.

La délégation de cette année ne s'élève pourtant qu'à 74 personnes, ce qui aurait presque laissé de la place à contient pour 15 joueurs de hockey et trois entraîneurs.

Partie remise?



Denis Lord photo

La présidente du comité administratif de l'Administration régionale Kativik (ARK), Jennifer Munick, espère que des équipes de hockey du Nunavik participeront aux Jeux d'hiver de l'Arctique de 2020.

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Alaska wins gold in girls hockey



Cody Punter/NNSL photo

Alaska slipped past the Northwest Territories 3-2 to take the gold medal in the junior female hockey final on Friday night.

Americans overcome early deficit to beat a determined NWT team 3-2 in final

by **Cody Punter**
Northern News Services

Alaska downed the Northwest Territories 3-2 to lock up the gold medal in female hockey on Friday night in Fort Smith.

The Northwest Territories came out flying and scored an early goal in the first few minutes of the game when Bryn Hill passed the puck to Anna MacCara, who stuffed the puck behind Alaska goalie Gabi Gibson.

But Team Alaska notched the equalizer when one of their forwards danced around three players before squeaking the puck past NWT goaltender Emily Paddock just before the 10-minute mark.

After the goal, the NWT continued to press hard and maintained pressure in Alaska's end, generating chances and leading Alaska to ice the

puck a handful of times.

Alaska's Gibson had to come up with big saves on several two-on-ones, including one near the end of the first to keep the game tied.

Although Alaska took an interference penalty in the offensive zone with 19 seconds left in the period, Team NT was unable to convert heading into the next frame.

Alaska started skating at the NWT in the second period and had a few chances on net. Alaska took a slashing penalty at 8:41 but the best chance of the power play came during a shorthanded breakaway. Paddock was beat by with a nifty backhand but she was saved by the post.

Paddock later made a key stop to keep the game tied after a bad pinch led to a three-on-one for Alaska.

With just a few minutes

left in the period, a broken play off the draw in the Team NT zone allowed an Alaska player to pick up a loose puck in front of the net before sliding it home to give Alaska a one goal lead.

The tempo remained high heading into the third, with

chances from both sides. With just under eight minutes remaining in the period, Alaska's Kira Ackerman made it 3-1 on a bad bounce off a skate in front of the net.

But a minute later the NWT's MacCara danced past an Alaska defenceman and

fired the puck through Gibson's legs to put Yellowknife back in the game with her second goal of the final.

The team pushed hard to get the equalizer in the final minutes of the contest. But they ended up shorthanded with just over a minute left.

Team NT pulled the goalie to put five skaters on the ice but they were unable to get a quality opportunity on net as time elapsed.

Team Alaska players shed their gloves and gathered for a jubilant team hug in their own end to celebrate their gold ulu.



Cody Punter/NNSL photo

Play ramps up in Alaska-NT hockey showdown.

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Alaska scoops hoops gold



Alaska beat the Northwest Territories 87-80 to take the gold medal in female basketball at the Arctic Winter Games on Friday.

Numerous fouls cost Team NT in finals

by **Cody Punter**
Northern News Services
Alaska outlasted a scrappy Northwest Territories squad 87-80 to take the gold medal in female basketball at the Arctic Winter Games on Friday.

Alaska was the favourite heading into the championship showdown after beating Team NT by 20 points in round-robin play. The two squads traded points in a furiously paced first quarter. Team NT found

themselves under siege from Alaska's offence and suffered from poor discipline, racking up six fouls to Alaska's one. Alaska led 22-19 when the clock ran down. Self-control continued to be the difference throughout

the second quarter as Team NT repeatedly gave Alaska the chance to shoot from the free-throw line. An offensive foul against Alaska halfway through the quarter seemed to breathe life into the NWT side but

the girls struggled to convert points when they were in tight to the net. Team NT scored a huge three-pointer with two minutes left to tie things up for the first time since the beginning of the game at 33 points apiece. Another NWT three pointer with 30 seconds remaining gave Team NT their first lead of the game but Alaska responded by draining a buzzer-beating three pointer to jump ahead by two at half-time.

Alaska continued to extend their lead at the start of the second half, but a trio of consecutive three-pointers for Team NT kept them

in the game. At the start of the final quarter, Alaska was up 64-60. The NWT continued to rely on their three pointers to stay in the game but Alaska's speedy counterattack started to take its toll. Not finished yet, Team NT was able to claw their way back into the game. After being down by 10 points halfway through the final quarter, the score was 84-80 for Alaska with 40 seconds left. Despite Team NT's push at the end, Alaska ended up controlling the ball and adding another three points to their total to seal the win.



Players jockey for the ball in Friday's gold medal game between Alaska and Team NT.

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- BIATHLON SNOWSHOE / BIATHLON RAQUETTES**: Hay River Ski Club, 25003 Fairway Drive
- DENE GAMES / JEUX DÉNÉS**: Chief Lamalice Complex, K'atlodeeché First Nation
- DOG MUSHING / TRAINÉAU À CHIENS**: On the Hay River in K'atlodeeché First Nation, Dene Village Road
- FUTSAL**: Diamond Jenness Secondary School, 58 Woodland Drive
- GYMNASTICS / GYMNASTIQUE**: Rowe's Construction Head Office, 25 Studney Drive
- HOCKEY**: Northwestel AWG Recreation Centre, 73 Woodland Drive
- SNOWSHOEING / RAQUETTE**: Hay River Ski Club, 25003 Fairway Drive
- VOLLEYBALL**: Northwestel AWG Recreation Centre, 73 Woodland Drive
- WRESTLING / LUTTE**: Rowe's Construction Head Office, 25 Studney Drive



SHOOTOUT
Arina Semeniuk of Team Yamal calls for assistance from her coach during the snowshoe biathlon juvenile mixed relay on Friday.

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Licence plates attract attention

Aurora Ford vehicles used for Games to be sold to public

by Paul Bickford
Northern News Services

The most unique souvenirs of the South Slave Arctic Winter Games might be licence plates.

But they are not just any old licence plates.

They are the iconic NWT plates in the shape of a polar bear, but containing the letters AWG and numbers ranging from one to 75.

The plates are catching the attention of many people

at the Games.

Most of those plates – 56 to be exact – are attached to vehicles provided to the host society by Aurora Ford in Hay River.

Donna Lee Jungkind, general manager with Aurora Ford, said the host society provides transportation to mission staff and members of contingents, and the company provided use of new vehicles as a donation in support of the games.

The vehicles – Escapes, Explorers, F-150s and Super Duties – are also part of a motor pool to help people, including delegates and VIPs, get around the communities; and get the Games' mascot Kechi from

"They will be an Arctic Winter Games special edition."

Donna Lee Jungkind

– Escapes, event to event. "At the end, after it all shook out, there's 56 vehicles that we supplied between Hay River and Fort Smith," said Jungkind, adding Aurora Ford also has several more of the special licence plates.

All the vehicles were registered by the

AWG Host Society, and the cost was covered by the GNWT as a donation.

Robert Bouchard, the transportation chair with the host society, said the idea for the personalized plates came from the GNWT's vehicle registration office.

Aside from the ones on the Aurora Ford vehicles, the remainder are with the government, although Bouchard said it is expected they will be given to the host society at the end of the Games.

Some of them will go to AWG staff and others might be used for fundraising, he said.

"Lots of people like them," noted Bouchard. "They look pretty good."

Jungkind of Aurora Ford said the dealership has also heard "tons of comments" about the licence plates.

"People love them," she said. "They think they're great."

Some people are asking what's going to happen to the plates and if can they have one after the event is over.

"The plan is, going forward, these vehicles will come back to the dealership," said Jungkind.

"We will be selling them at a discount. They will be an Arctic Winter Games special edition, and with the vehicle you will get the plate."

She noted the special licence plate cannot be transferred to a new owner to remain on the back of a vehicle.

"But they will get to keep the plate," she said.

"We will do something commemorative, whether it's in a frame or with a plaque or something like that. We're working on that right now."

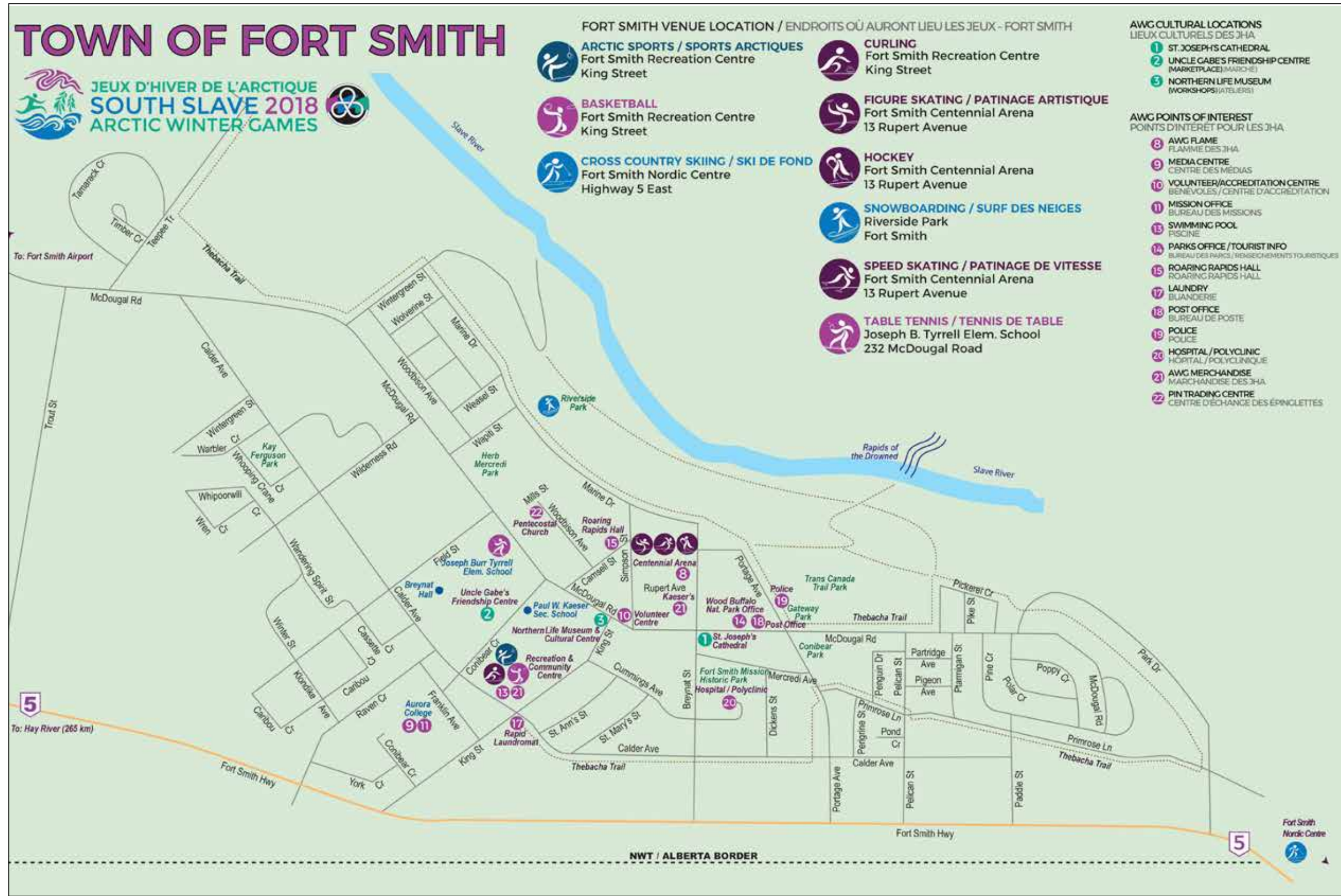
The new owner of a vehicle can use the special plate on the front, Jungkind noted. "As long as there's a legal plate on the back."

Lee Cawson, vice-president of the Aurora Group, said the special plates will help sell the vehicles.

"Because, of course, the challenge for us is we'll have vehicles back that will have some kilometres on them from usage. So we'll obviously discount the pricing of the vehicles," said Cawson, adding the plates will be a "nice little bonus" for buyers.

Donna Lee Jungkind, general manager of Aurora Ford in Hay River, holds one of the special licence plates created for vehicles used by the South Slave Arctic Winter Games.

Paul Bickford/NNS photo



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CAREFUL AIM

NWT skip Zoey Walsh delivers a stone during the first play-off round of junior female curling in Fort Smith on Wednesday afternoon

Paul Bannister/NNSL photo



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HAY RIVER	DAY 1 SUNDAY, MARCH 18	DAY 2 MONDAY, MARCH 19	DAY 3 TUESDAY, MARCH 20	DAY 4 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21	DAY 5 THURSDAY, MARCH 22	DAY 6 FRIDAY, MARCH 23	DAY 7 SATURDAY, MARCH 24
OPENING CEREMONIES	18:00-19:00 (Northwestel AWG Recreation Centre)						
CLOSING CEREMONIES							16:00 - 17:00 (Northwestel AWG Recreation Centre)
EXHIBITS (Centennial Library)		10:00 - 17:00 & 19:00 - 22:00	10:00 - 17:00 & 19:00 - 22:00	10:00 - 17:00 & 19:00 - 22:00	10:00 - 17:00 & 19:00 - 22:00	10:00 - 17:00 & 19:00 - 22:00	
WORKSHOPS (Centennial Library)		1:30 - 3:30 Traditional Bracelet		10:30 - 12:00 Fishscale Art		10:30 - 12:00 Fishscale Art	
PERFORMANCES	10:00 Kole Crook Fiddlers (Arena Foyer)	13:00 Lyca Capulso (Whispering Willows) 15:00 Jessica Latour & Bailey Mackie (Whispering Willows)	10:00 Moses Butt (Arena Foyer)	11:00 Mark Lyon (Whispering Willows) 20:00 - 23:00 Brother Inlaw Band (Legion Club Room)	19:00 - 21:00 KFN Drummers, Katlodeeche Family, Linda Duford (KFN Arbor)	20:00 - 23:00 Mark Lyon, Old Skool, Linda Duford and The Sociables, 5/3 Mad (Back Eddy)	11:00 Maxence w/ French Artists (Arena Foyer)
FORT SMITH							
CULTURAL GALA						18:00-20:00 (St. Josephs Cathedral)	
EXHIBITS (Northern Life Museum & Cultural Centre)		10:00 - 20:00	10:00 - 20:00	10:00 - 20:00	10:00 - 20:00	10:00 - 20:00	
WORKSHOPS (Northern Life Museum & Cultural Centre)		15:30 - 17:00 Sealskin Oopik 18:30 - 20:00 Acrylic Painting	15:30 - 17:00 Dene Pin Dene Game 18:30 - 20:00 Beading Basics	15:30 - 17:00 Acrylic Painting 18:30 - 20:00 Sealskin Oopik	15:30 - 17:00 Beading Basics 18:30 - 20:00 Polymer Clay Pendant/Keychain	15:30 - 17:00 Polymer Clay Pendant/Keychain 18:30 - 20:00 Dene Pin Dene Games	
PERFORMANCES		15:00 Matt Coyle 19:00 Teams: Sapmi, NT, Nunavut, Alberata (Roaring Rapids Hall)	19:00 Teams: Yamal, Greenland, Nunavut, Yukon (Roaring Rapids Hall)	17:00 Matt Coyle (Rusty Raven)	19:00 Teams: Yukon, Alaska, Alberta, Krook the Kid (Roaring Rapids Hall)	18:00 - 22:00 Fort Smith Snow Bash (Riverside Park)	

Volunteers come from far and wide

Ottawa pair make the journey north to be part of the Games

by Dylan Short
Northern News Services

Volunteers at the 2018 Arctic Winter Games have come from near and far to help out.

Rebecca Bisson and Nick Gregg embarked on a five-day road trip from Ottawa to Hay River in order to volunteer at the Game's media centre.

"We just wanted to help out," Gregg said.

Bisson and Gregg heard

about the opportunity to volunteer at the Games from Thorsten Gohl, marketing manager with the 2018 AWG Host Society. They said once they were informed how exciting the Games would be, they knew they wanted to be part of it.

While they had heard about the Games before through their day jobs, working for the not-for-profit organization Northern Youth Abroad

(NYA), the 2018 Games will be the first that Bisson and Gregg have attended.

"A number of our participants (from NYA) are here as athletes, volunteers and ambassadors, so we've always known about the Games, but it's really awesome to be a part of them," Bisson said.

Both Bisson and Gregg agree that the trip has been worth the time it took to get here.

"It's been really cool. Again, it's a great atmosphere and everyone around the Games is very friendly and open and so we've been able to make a few connections

through people," Gregg said.

"I think there's a really awesome sense of community, even in the media centre. It's fun and people all know each other now," added Bisson. "Just getting out and bumping into people we know but also getting to know a lot of other people."

Bisson and Gregg are two out of a total 1,325 accredited volunteers.

While many of those volunteers are residents of the NWT or visitors from other parts of the North, Bisson and Gregg show that the reach of the AWG extends beyond the circumpolar world.



Dylan Short/NNSL photos

Rebecca Bisson stands beside an Arctic Winter Games poster inside the Game's Hay River media centre.

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Our community has been working hard to make everything ready for the games, sharing the responsibility with our co-host community, Fort Smith and the K'at'l'Odeche First Nation, who will be hosting the Dene Games. The entire South Slave has pulled together and we are proud of all that has been accomplished. We are ready to make the 25th Arctic Winter Games a memorable event for everyone involved.

We welcome the Circumpolar World to Hay River and we hope that you have the best week of sport, friendship and fun. Our community will be a hub of activity during the games and we have all hands on deck. Do not hesitate to ask for assistance or direction around our beautiful town. Many cultural events will be taking place throughout the week for all to enjoy. There will be the frenzy of collectable pin trading at the table that you will find at the Community Centre at the Recreation Complex.

A huge Hay River welcome to all our visitors for the games; I look forward to meeting as many as possible.

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Sincerely,

Mayor Brad Mapes



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