

# ULU News

The Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games

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NICK VARDY | 2023 ULU NEWS

**ON THE COVER** — Cultural participants had their time to shine in front of a sold-out crowd at the first of two Cultural Gala performances at Keyano Theatre and Arts Centre Thursday. Read more on page 4 & 5.

## 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 betłasł hoʔą. Yanisot'ine dene, Dene, Ena, Begahgaze benéné, thı bechaniye hotiye ẖtł'thé beghonołta, Treaty #8 keyaghé.*

Hotiye marci nederı nih beghé s̱anáts'ede ha nogho nat'a, begħalthene Yanisot'ine bechaniye beta honowelt'ino łat'e. T'a t'o Yanisot'ine dene bahorenihele hodel kolo, bechaniyé kasł ẖtł'thé S̱anáts'dé ha thı eyita elchłtan nowejıye nezq helchı yonathı thá sekwi daniyáh cho ha ʔat'e.

Nederı Sa gheatho, Des heljho, T'ogh neseho, hotiye ẖlethe nederı nih begħodı ẖą t'a.

### Nitaskinan (Cree)

Arctic Pipon 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*

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WOOD BUFFALO  
**2023**  
ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

# MMEIP activation brought to Games

**ELIZABETH PRIEST**

2023 Ulu News

Culture Committee Co-Chairs Allison Flett and Jes Croucher helped create awareness and honour those taken too soon at the Missing, Murdered & Exploited Indigenous Peoples (MMEIP) cultural activation presented by Athabasca Tribal Council.

Attendees had a chance to learn about MMEIP, listen to International Advocate Stephanie Harpe and write messages on cloth that will be sewn together to make a skirt that will rest in the region. The red dress pin was also handed out during the activation. Flett designed the pin for the Games as a way to keep the conversation going. It is one of three pins in the Truth and Reconciliation pin series.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

**Culture committee co-chairs held Missing, Murdered & Exploited Indigenous Peoples activation at MacDonald Island Park on February 2.**



SUPPLIED PHOTO

**CBC North speaks with MMEIP International Advocate Stephanie Harpe on February 2.**

## 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>	31	28	26	85
<a href="#">Alaska</a>	28	26	29	83
<a href="#">Alberta North</a>	15	27	19	61
<a href="#">Northwest Territories</a>	27	14	13	54
<a href="#">Greenland</a>	11	8	18	37
<a href="#">Nunavik</a>	4	9	5	18
<a href="#">Nunavut</a>	3	4	5	12
<a href="#">Sápmi</a>	2	6	3	11

# Cultural Gala delegates dazzle at Keyano Theatre

ELIZABETH PRIEST

2023 ULU News

Cultural participants had their time to shine in front of a sold-out crowd at the first of two Cultural Gala performances at Keyano Theatre and Arts Centre Thursday. Participants from six contingents have spent the last five days in rehearsals and learning from local artists to put together the two-night show under the guidance of Artistic Director Hanna Fridhed and choreographer Alexandra Durocher.

"Meeting and working with artists and cultural participants from across the circumpolar regions have been a whirlwind of beautiful talent coming together and learning about each other," said Fridhed.

"The arts are fundamental to the human experience and as a form of creative expression, the arts inspire, enrich and connect us all.

"It's been a privilege to be a part of the Arctic Winter Games Cultural Galas and work with such talented youth. Thank you for being here tonight and celebrating arts and culture with us!"

**Team Alaska:** The Team Alaska Cultural Group is honoured to perform a Yupik dance called "Taarvaarnauramkaan."

Choreographed by Papanguaq (Brentina Chanar), the Mother of David Chanar, the sacred song is meant to bless the audience.

It will be performed by David Chanar, Nemqeralria (Luke Layman), Qimagar (Anna Chanar), and Qualuataq (Jade Wren).

**Team Alberta North:** Team Alberta North describe the performance as, "Home; through chaos and agony, we can reside here, knowing those we surround ourselves with are supportive and welcoming. Our piece demonstrates the importance of connection within a community. Our team would like to thank Kim Hurley for choreographing this piece as well as Keyano College for allowing us to use their facilities. All of us have put in a tremendous amount of work to be able to perform at this gala, and we are honoured to present this piece to our community."

It will be performed by: Brianna House, Ella Holland, Madeline Boser.

**Team Northwest Territories:** The Tetlit Gwich'in Dancers will perform the red river jig, double jig, duck dance and handkerchief dance. Performed by: Rhianna Firth, Jenelle Vaneltsi, Jolynn Vittrekwa, Connor Charlie, Donavyn Koe, Brandon Firth, Michael Francis, and Edwin Kay.

**Team Nunavik:** Cirqiniq is a social circus in Nunavik that began in 2009 with a mandate to integrate Inuit culture and circus arts alongside supporting positive social development and promoting leadership for young people in Nunavik. The magic of the Northern lights inspires our show. We use stilts, dance, diabolo, club and ball juggling, hoola hoops, contortion, human pyramids and partner balancing underscored by live throat singing, drum dance and a musical soundtrack featuring artists who have their roots in Nunavik." — CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



NICK VARDY | 2023 ULU NEWS

The second show of the Cultural Gala is tonight at 7 p.m. Guests will see a showcase of talents from six contingents. Tickets are available at [tickets.keyano.ca](https://tickets.keyano.ca)



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE — DELEGATES DAZZLE



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**Team Yukon stage at the first performance of the two-day Cultural Gala.**

## Overview on the Gala performances

**Team Nunavut:** The Inuksuk Drum Dancers would now like to take you on a musical journey through time—beginning with a very old, well-known traditional Inuit pisiq from the Mittimatlik area of Nunavut and closing with a very new, contemporary drum dance song written by the Inuksuk Drum Dancers in Iqaluit back in 2015. It will be performed by Mackenzie O'Dell, Mia Maurice, Aura Kwon, Taiga Las, Kristy Kanayuk and Ella Estey.

**Team Sápmi-Yoik:** Sara Nilut from Team Sápmi is performing traditional yoik acapella. It will be performed by Sara Nilut.

**Team Yukon:** "Many times, over the past two-and-a-half years, so many of us have felt isolated and alone. Now, we are slowly emerging out of the isolation that has defined these past few years of our collective existence, and, for better or worse, it seems that things are beginning to return to a pre-pandemic "normal." We have created an original dance piece to bring to the 2023 Arctic Winter Games, which was inspired by the idea of connection – to each other as individuals, to our community, and to our land. We wanted our piece to feel like a celebration of our resilience as a community. Though the news is still full of sadness as people the world over face all kinds of tragedies, we set out to create a piece that focuses on positivity and feels hopeful and uplifting," as described by Team Yukon. The dancers worked with mentors from The Heart of Riverdale, Oleksii Ogarov and Violetta Umanes, to create a soundscape and choreography for the piece." It will be performed by Luca Squires, Andrew Matheson, Daniel Pike, Chelsie Organ, Will Taylor and Oleksandra Trofimova.

# 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

### 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.

## Fort McMurray's #1 for Country

Play Stream Listen



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Athletes from the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games speak with the Prince of Wales over a Zoom call on January 31.

## Prince William makes virtual call to athletes

Eight Arctic Winter Games participants got the royal treatment on Tuesday. Participants from USA, Canada, Greenland and Sapmi took a break from the competition to speak with the Prince of Wales over Zoom. Prince William asked the group about the sports they were competing in and questioned them about their experience of the Games and the friends they'd made.

You can find a short video summarizing the virtual meeting on YouTube. Search "The Prince of Wales meets participants of The Arctic Winter Games" on the Royal Family Channel. — 2023 Ulu News



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# Athlete of the Day

# Life at the top of Nunavik

**ATHLETE:** Kelly Saviadjuk, 17  
**TEAM NUNAVIK**  
**SPORT: DENE GAMES**

*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.*

Seventeen-year-old Kelly Saviadjuk came to the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games to participate in several events of the Dene Games. The soft-spoken young man comes from a community called Salluit, the most northern point of Quebec. Getting to Fort McMurray was a trek. It was four hours from Salluit to Kuujuaq on a plane. (Kuujuaq is the largest community in Nunavik.) Then, it was another three or four hours flying from Kuujuaq to Fort McMurray.

### **Is this your first time in the Arctic Winter Games?**

"Yes. I was pretty small when the last tryouts happened. I was 13, and I did not get selected because I was pretty small."

### **Tell me about life in Nunavik. What are your summers and winters like?**

"It's been pretty cold up there, minus 57 degrees Celsius. The summers get hot. Maybe not thirty degrees, but they get warm."

### **How are your groceries and supplies coming into Salluit?**

"Every summer, we get ships. And groceries can come through with a plane. The gas ship comes every year in the summer."

### **What is the main source of protein for your diet?**

"I think caribou."



**Do you hunt?** "Yes."

### **How old were you when you started hunting?**

"Ever since I was a kid. I started following my parents and grandfather when I was five or six. Then I started liking it and going caribou hunting on my own when I was about 12. When it is wintertime, I had a snowmobile. In the summer I can go in a canoe. In the summer, I am in the canoe most of the time. I am hunting seals, and belugas. I even go caribou hunting with the canoe."

### **Is the meat shared within the family or is it within the community?**

"We share it. We have a community freezer for the community too. People go hunting and they fill the community freezer with meat that is free to the people."

### **What is your favourite thing to eat?**

"I'd say mattak, beluga whale blubber. The lower skin is soft. The middle part is hard. The top is the fat. We cut them into cubes, so we can eat them just like that. We can freeze it or boil it."



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SUPPLIED PHOTO

Pride YMM representatives Cristina Rensizag, Mitchel Bowers and Colleen Stewart with Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Mayor Sandy Bowman, third from left, at MacDonald Island Park on January 31.

## Pride YMM promotes inclusion in sports

Pride YMM, has been engaging with the Arctic Winter Games athletes and participants to promote inclusion in sport. The Fort McMurray-based 2SLGBTQIA+ group has been to MacDonald Island Park to ask the question “how can you make sports safe and inclusive for queer people?”. The group gave out almost 500 prizes to those who answered.

Mitchel Bowers, Board Chair of Pride YMM said, “Studies show that 80 percent of people have witnessed or experienced homophobia in sport, Pride YMM hopes that by doing our part to raise awareness we can create positive change and make sports a safe and inclusive space for everyone.” Go to [www.prideymm.ca](http://www.prideymm.ca) to learn more. — 2023 Ulu News

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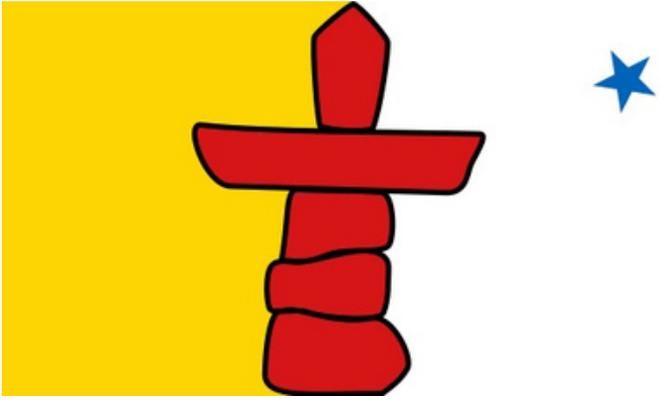


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## CONTINGENT SHOWCASE: TEAM NUNAVUT



## Team Nunavut talks of the Games comeback

*Eight contingents are participating in the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games. Every edition of the Ulu News will feature each contingent.*

### Chef de Mission: Mariele Depeuter

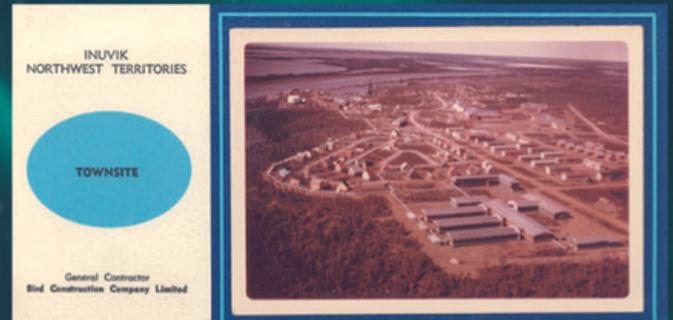
Mariele Depeuter, Chef de Mission has been in the position since 2014 after initially getting involved with the Games over a decade ago while supporting her brother, who was an athlete. Team Nunavut is the newest team in the Winter Games, they had previously competed under the Northwest Territories team until Nunavut became a recognized Canadian territory in 1999. Shortly after this, Nunavut and Greenland co-hosted the Games in 2002.

**The COVID-19 Comeback:** After the disappointing cancellation of the 2020 Games Team Nunavut is raring to go! "There's a lot of excitement for this year's competition, even last winter, a lot of public health measures were still in place making training a challenge", explained Mariele. This year, Team Nunavut will be bringing around 290 participants to Wood Buffalo, including staff, coaches, youth ambassadors, and athletes, "It's going to be a comeback year and re-establish what it looks like to be an athlete in Nunavut and across the north," she continued.

**2023 Team Nunavut Aspirations:** "They're representing not just their territory but their communities and that's really special. It's an honour for these athletes, an incredible opportunity for them to compete internationally and bring that experience back to their community." said Mariele, when speaking about the upcoming Games. "My hope is that these athletes inspire the next generation of athletes." Team Nunavut is hoping to build off of the recent successes in Volleyball and Wrestling at the Canada Games. "We hope to build off of this momentum while also recognizing the incredible efforts of all athletes competing after the pandemic hiatus." — **BECKI STORIE, 2023 Ulu News**

# bird stuartolson

## HISTORY



Bird Construction was awarded the major public works contract to build a number of structures in the newly founded town of Inuvik on September 6, 1958. Essentially building a town in one of the world's remotest regions, Bird Construction had to contend with extremes and find workable solutions.



Photo credit: Bill Williams

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# Greenland broadcaster live in Fort McMurray for Games

**ELIZABETH PRIEST**  
 2023 ULU News

A Greenland media contingent is keeping Greenlanders back home up to speed on all the news of the Arctic Winter Games. Along with Team Greenland participants, a number of the media have also travelled to Fort McMurray to report live Games coverage for those back home.

A contingent of ten journalists and technical crew and over 400 kilos of equipment from KNR, arrived on the charter flight, tasked with delivering live coverage of the Games.

Among the broadcasters here is Birgitte Kleist, a journalist for an evening show called Illeq.

The evening show is famous in Greenland and is spoken in their own dialect. "It's new for us, Canada's weather is very extreme. We had all our equipment to cover the opening ceremonies, but it was too cold!" Explained Birgitte.

KNR is the national broadcasting corporation of Greenland, offering information primarily in Greenlandic.

Through teamwork with both Greenland media and local Games support, they've been able to keep reporting all Games news. The team have been delivering on-camera broadcast shows as well as real-time medal tables and news stories on all Games events.

Viewers can watch the show and read their stories at knr.gl.

SUPPLIED PHOTO

'Kalaallit Nunaata Radioa, also known by its abbreviation KNR, is Greenland's national public broadcasting organization.



## A LEGACY OF IMPACT

From operating and maintaining the North Warning System to installing solar infrastructure in Fort McKay, ATCO has spent more than a century making an impact on Canada's North and the communities that call it home.

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GREG HALINDA | 2023 ULU NEWS

**CELEBRATORY WIN FOR TEAM ALASKA** — Snapshot from the U18 Boys Hockey Game with Team Alaska celebrating after beating Team Alberta North on February 2. It was a big comeback for Alaska, who lost against the team on the previous day by a 6-goal margin. The final score was 5-4 for Team Alaska.



## 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.*

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