



Press Release

Destination Whitehorse, Yukon for the 2012 AWG

Nunavik, Québec, March 1, 2012 – Team Nunavik–Québec is assembling today in preparation for the Team's departure to Whitehorse, Yukon, to compete at the 2012 Arctic Winter Games from March 4 to 10. Team Nunavik–Québec will consist of 53 athletes, six cultural performers, 11 coaches and five mission staff.

A special send-off is being planned in Kuujuaq on Friday, March 2 at 4 p.m. Weather permitting, Team Nunavik–Québec will parade in full uniform from the Kuujuaq Forum to the Katittavik Town Hall and Cultural Centre. From 5 to 6:30 p.m., a pep rally will be held at Katittavik, including a *qullik*-lighting ceremony, speeches and a performance by the Team Nunavik–Québec cultural contingent. Community members are encouraged to attend and cheer on all the participants! Team Nunavik–Québec is scheduled to depart from Kuujuaq by air charter on March 3 at noon.

The official opening ceremonies for the 2012 Arctic Winter Games will be in Whitehorse on Sunday, March 4 at 6 p.m. Pacific standard time. Coverage of events throughout the week will be available on the KRG website, the Team Nunavik–Québec Facebook page, as well as regional radio broadcasting.

The members of Team Nunavik–Québec have been selected from 13 different communities. Athletes will be competing in five different disciplines: Arctic Sports, Dene Games, Badminton, Table Tennis and Snowshoeing. The selection of athletes is based on athletic performance, as well as participants' demonstration of sportsmanship and leadership qualities. The AWG is a biennial, international sports competition for athletes and cultural participants from Nunavik, Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, Yukon, northern Alberta, Alaska, Greenland, Yamal (Russia) and Sapmi (Scandinavia).

Team Nunavik–Québec's participation in the 2012 Arctic Winter Games has been made possible through the generous support of a number of financial sponsors. It is especially important to thank the Ungaluk Program for safer communities (coordinated jointly by the Makivik Corporation and the Kativik Regional Government), Air Inuit, Xstrata Nickel, the Regional Development Fund (managed by the Kativik Regional Government), the Québec *ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport* and the Federation of Cooperatives of Northern Québec.

The Kativik Regional Government is a non-ethnic public organization created in 1978, under the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement. The organization has jurisdiction over nearly the entire territory of Québec north of the 55th parallel in areas such as municipal matters, transportation, the environment, policing, employment, labour training, income security, childcare services, renewable resources, land-use planning, civil security and economic development. The KRG Recreation Department is dedicated to the delivery of recreational activities for all Nunavimmiut, promoting healthy and active living, as well as encouraging participation in many different sports and recreation opportunities.

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