



Press Release

Team Nunavik–Québec Returns Proud from the 2012 AWG

Nunavik, Québec, March 12, 2012 – From traditional sports to cultural performances, members of Team Nunavik–Québec (TNQ) represented the region well during the 2012 Arctic Winter Games from March 4–10 in Whitehorse, Yukon.

TNQ won a total of 36 ulus: 10 gold, 14 silver and 12 bronze. As the second smallest team at the Games, TNQ's ulu total compares favourably with much larger teams such as Greenland and Nunavut. For all the medal results, visit www.awg2012.org.

"The Arctic Winter Games are a chance to showcase not only the quality of our athletes, but also the region's incredible culture and creativity," said Maggie Emudluk, Chairperson of the Kativik Regional Government (KRG) who attended the games. "Participating in the Games helps us build both team and regional pride."

A number of the team's athletes posted excellent results. The team's first ulu was won by Celina Wapachee in the 2.5-km snowshoe event and two other snowshoe bronze ulus were earned on Friday. Also, the team's youngest member, Charlotte Aculiak, won a bronze ulu in the Table Tennis event with her partner Sasha Kokiapik. TNQ's Arctic Sports and Dene Games teams were particularly strong, winning almost ninety per cent of the team's ulus. Open category Arctic Sports athletes Aisa Pirti and Deseray Cumberbatch collected 2 and 7 ulus, respectively.

TNQ's badminton team exhibited great sportsmanship in every match, and a Fair Play pin was awarded to team member Marlene Kenaujuak. These pins recognize individuals who demonstrate exceptional respect for their teammates and fellow athletes. TNQ's Aisa Pirti (Arctic Sports), Edua Jones (Dene Games), Alec Saunders (Table Tennis) and Linda Kowcharlie (Arctic Sports) also received pins.

During the Games, Nunavik culture was also well represented. The TNQ cultural delegation from the communities of Kuujuaq, Salluit, Quaqtaq and Akulivik performed during the closing ceremony and in two gala events. Many athletes and mission staff from other contingents complimented the team on its Nunavik-designed team parkas and gear.

At the closing ceremony, there was no flag bearer for any of the teams as they walked in to the event together as a way to show unity among the athletes. More information about Team Nunavik–Québec and the 2012 Arctic Winter Games is available on the KRG website at www.krg.ca.

TNQ's participation in the 2012 Arctic Winter Games was made possible through the generous support of a number of financial sponsors. These include the Ungaluk Program for safer communities (coordinated jointly by the Makivik Corporation and the KRG), Air Inuit, Xstrata Nickel, the Regional Development Fund (managed by the KRG), the Québec *ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport* (education, recreation and sports) and the Federation of Cooperatives of Northern Québec.

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About the Kativik Regional Government

The Kativik Regional Government (KRG) 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.

About the Arctic Winter Games

The Arctic Winter Games (AWG) is a high profile circumpolar sport competition for northern and Arctic athletes. The world's largest northern multi-sport and cultural event, the AWG provides an opportunity to strengthen sport development while building partnerships and promoting culture and values.

There are nine circumpolar regions that send teams to compete at the Games – Alaska, Yukon, Northwest Territories, Alberta North, Nunavut, Greenland, Yamal (Russia), Nunavik Quebec and Sapmi (Scandinavia). Special emphasis is given to the circumpolar sports from each region, such as Arctic Sports and Dene Games; these events make the AWG a unique gathering as this is the only international sporting forum that officially recognizes these heritage sports.