



Press Release

Nunavik Karate Kids Win Medals at Montreal Tournament

Kuujuuaq, Québec, December 12, 2011 – Youth participants of the Nunavik Karate Program, also known as the Sustainable Martial Arts Recreational Training (SMART) Program, competed at the 7th annual Kentokukan Fall Classic tournament in Montreal on Saturday, December 3. The 16 participants (two from Inukjuak and 14 from Kuujuuaq) performed well. In particular:

- Annie-Caroline Palliser (Inukjuak) won silver in shiai and bronze in kata (white belt; 15 to 17 year olds);
- Mattiusie Oweetaluktuk (Inukjuak) won silver in kata and placed 4th in shiai (white belt; 15 to 17 year olds);
- Florance Jodoin (Kuujuuaq) won bronze in kata (yellow belt; 6 to 8 year olds);
- Malena Gordon (Kuujuuaq) won bronze in kata (yellow belt; 9 to 11 year olds);
- Lissa Deveaux (Kuujuuaq) won gold in shiai (yellow belt; 9 to 11 year olds);
- Patricia Deveaux (Kuujuuaq) won silver in shiai (yellow belt; 12 to 14 year olds).

This year's Kentokukan Fall Classic included 108 participants between the ages of five and 17. Open to all Shorinjiryu styles, the kata (technical exercises) and shiai (sparring) competitions were organized according to belt class and age group. Following the tournament, SMART Program instructors from Inukjuak and Kuujuuaq took part in an intensive training session organized by *senseis* (teachers) of Shorinjiryu Kentokukan Karatedo.

The SMART Program would like to acknowledge the tremendous support of Air Inuit (for providing reduced airfare for Nunavik participants and instructors travelling between Inukjuak and Montreal) and First Air (for reduced airfare for travel between Kuujuuaq and Montreal). Local fundraising activities were also carried out by the Kaizen Kai Dojo in Kuujuuaq in collaboration with Newviq'vi, SNC Lavalin, FCNQ Construction, Jaanimmarik School and individual volunteers, as well as the Société Kuujuumiut and the Northern Village of Kuujuuaq.

Since 2010, the SMART Program has been coordinated by the Recreation Department of the Kativik Regional Government (KRG) in cooperation with Shorinjiryu Kentokukan Karatedo. Two of the goals of the SMART Program are to create sustainable martial arts programs in Nunavik communities run by youth for youth, as well as to build self-confidence in participants and foster positive lifestyle choices.

The 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.

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