



Press Release

2014 Team Nunavik–Québec: Ungava Coastal Trials

Kangiqsualujjuaq, Québec, April 29, 2013 – From April 26 to 29, 116 youth athletes from all over the Ungava coast gathered in Kangiqsualujjuaq to take part in coastal trials for Team Nunavik–Québec, hoping to eventually secure one of the coveted spots for the 2014 Arctic Winter Games. Focus at the coastal trials was placed on achieving the best possible participation of all athletes.

Beginning with an opening ceremony on Friday night, the Ungava coastal trials saw the athletes compete in Arctic Sports, Dene Games, Snowshoeing, Badminton and Table Tennis. The event ended on Sunday night with a feast organized by the community, followed by a closing ceremony featuring cultural performances. Hilda Snowball, mayor of the Northern Village of Kangiqsualujjuaq noted, "These young athletes have demonstrated a strong desire to excel and the true spirit of friendship throughout the past few days. Kangiqsualujjuamiut are very proud to have been a part of this amazing event."

These coastal trials represent a second round of competitions for Team Nunavik–Québec. Community tryouts began in 2012 and regional trials are planned for this fall. Evaluation criteria for the selection of athletes for the regional trials will include performance, time devoted to training, as well as overall behaviour and attitude. Regional trial selections will take place this summer following the completion of the Hudson coastal trials. Due to circumstances beyond the control of the Kativik Regional Government (KRG), the Hudson coastal trials scheduled for Salluit from May 3 to 6 have been postponed.

The Ungava coastal trials were especially made possible by the Northern Village of Kangiqsualujjuaq, which hosted the event in cooperation with the KRG Recreation Department. A thank you is also extended to Ulluriaq School, the community of Kangiqsualujjuaq and volunteers for their important contributions to making this event a success. Kangiqsualujjuaq youth made up the largest contingent at the coastal trials, as the event was hosted in their community.

The Arctic Winter Games is a biennial, international sports competition for athletes from Nunavik, Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, Yukon, northern Alberta, Alaska, Greenland, Yamal (Russia) and Sapmi (Scandinavia). The next Arctic Winter Games will be held in Fairbanks, Alaska, from March 15 to 22, 2014. Team Nunavik–Québec for the 2014 Arctic

Winter Games will comprise 64 athletes, six cultural performers, 13 coaches and six mission staff. Québec sent athletes to the AWG in 1972, 1974, 1976 and 1986, and Team Nunavik–Québec has continued this participation every other year since 2000.

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 responsible for coordinating the preparations of Team Nunavik–Québec for the Arctic Winter Games and its participation at the event.

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