



Press release

Team Nunavik-Quebec well prepared for AWG

Whitehorse, Yukon, March 7, 2012 - Team Nunavik-Québec is making an impact at the Arctic Winter Games in Whitehorse, Yukon. Although it's the second smallest team at the games, TNQ has been performing incredibly well with eight wins as of Tuesday afternoon. Since the region's return to the biennial Arctic Winter Games as a guest contingent in 2000, TNQ has been growing stronger and stronger, both in terms of athletic performance as well as organization.

"The preparation by Team Nunavik-Quebec has been amazing. From athletes to cultural performers to coaches to mission staff, everyone's been training and getting ready for months and it really shows," said Maggie Emudluk, Chairperson of the Kativik Regional Government who's attending the games. "Also, the games are well organized and things are working really smoothly."

There are nearly 2,000 volunteers helping make the games happen and a total of 1,500 circumpolar athletes competing. Since arriving at the Whitehorse games on Saturday, the team's 53 athletes have been enjoying the great atmosphere, perfect weather, as well as the chance to interact with athletes and people from around the circumpolar world.

Information about the games has been flowing back to the region in a variety of ways. The team is producing a daily newsletter update that's posted on the KRG homepage, as well as the official website of the games. The team's Facebook group is also incredibly active with 650 members as of Tuesday afternoon with new requests being made regularly.

For more information or to arrange an interview with a member of Team Nunavik-Quebec:

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About Team Nunavik-Québec

Team Nunavik-Québec represented Nunavik at the Arctic Winter Games in 1972, 1974, 1976 and 1986 and has competed biennially since 2000.

Nunavik (also known as Arctic Québec) is the region of northern Québec located above the 55th parallel. The region is included in the Arctic Winter Games as a guest contingent because of the close cultural ties between its Inuit residents and those of Nunavut and Greenland.

To help prepare our athletes and give them something to work towards, the Recreation Department organizes local, coastal and regional levels of competition within the 2-year period between each Arctic Winter Games. Athletes that become part of Team Nunavik-Québec are selected based on athletic performance, sportsmanship, and leadership qualities.

The *ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport* (education, recreation and sports), the Saputiit Youth Association, the Kativik School Board, the Makivik Corporation and Air Inuit are important partners. Team Nunavik-Québec also receives sponsorship from organizations within the region.

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 in the participants' jurisdictions, to promote the benefits of sport, to build partnerships, and to promote culture and values.

There are nine (9) 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.