

ULU News

The Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games

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NICK VARDY | 2023 ULU NEWS

ON THE COVER — Cultural participants had their time to shine in front of a sold-out crowd at the first of two Cultural Gala performances at Keyano Theatre and Arts Centre Thursday. Read more on page 4 & 5.

Treaty 8 Land Acknowledgement

The Arctic Winter Games Host Society acknowledges Treaty 8 Territory, ancestral and traditional land of the Cree, Dene and Métis people.

We are thankful for these borrowed lands along with the traditional teachings and lessons of resilience they offer us in the spirit of maintaining good relations with others for future generations.

As long as the sun shines, the river flows
and the grass grows, we will honour these lands.

Nih Beghonołt'a ?q T'e (Dene)

The Arctic Winter Games Host Society, Sənáts'dé betłaslı hoqá. Yanisot'ine dene, Dene, Ena, Begahgaze benéné, thi bechaniye hotiye hotł'thé beghonołta, Treaty #8 keyaghé.

Hotiye marcí nederi nih beghé sənáts'ede ha nohqó nat'a, begħałthene Yanisot'ine bechanye beta honoweltlino ląt'e. T'q t'o Yanisot'ine dene bahorenihéhé hodel kolo, bechanié kasí hotł'thé Sənáts'dé ha thi eyita eħċiżtan nowejiye nezq helchi yonathí thá sekwi daniyáh cho ha ?qat'e.

Nederi Sa għealho, Des heljho, T'loġħ neseħo,
hotiye hoħetħe nederi nih begħodxi hą t'a.

Nitaskinan (Cree)

Arctic Pipon Metawiwin Society Emamiskotakwaw
Treaty 8 Nehiyo, Ochiponiw, Métis Askiy.

Nanaskomananak Otaskiwaw Entatamoyahk Ahkamemotwaw
Opimachihonaw Epimatisakwaw Miyoti Ototemkoyakwaw.

Esko Pisim Pimoteti Esko Sipiy Pimichowaki
Ekso Maskosiya Opikikwawe

Treaty 8 Adhesion 1899 Signed by Chiefs of RMWB.

*Land Acknowledgement Developed by Allison Flett and Elder Alice Martin
Translated by Elder Rita Marten*

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WOOD BUFFALO
2023
ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

MMEIP activation brought to Games

ELIZABETH PRIEST

2023 Ulu News

Culture Committee Co-Chairs Allison Flett and Jes Croucher helped create awareness and honour those taken too soon at the Missing, Murdered & Exploited Indigenous Peoples (MMEIP) cultural activation presented by Athabasca Tribal Council.

Attendees had a chance to learn about MMEIP, listen to International Advocate Stephanie Harpe and write messages on cloth that will be sewn together to make a skirt that will rest in the region.

The red dress pin was also handed out during the activation.

Flett designed the pin for the Games as a way to keep the conversation going. It is one of three pins in the Truth and Reconciliation pin series.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Culture committee co-chairs held Missing, Murdered & Exploited Indigenous Peoples activation at MacDonald Island Park on February 2.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

CBC North speaks with MMEIP International Advocate Stephanie Harpe on February 2.

In Every ULU News

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Contingent	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Yukon	31	28	26	85
Alaska	28	26	29	83
Alberta North	15	27	19	61
Northwest Territories	27	14	13	54
Greenland	11	8	18	37
Nunavik	4	9	5	18
Nunavut	3	4	5	12
Sápmi	2	6	3	11

Cultural Gala delegates dazzle at Keyano Theatre

ELIZABETH PRIEST

2023 ULU News

Cultural participants had their time to shine in front of a sold-out crowd at the first of two Cultural Gala performances at Keyano Theatre and Arts Centre Thursday. Participants from six contingents have spent the last five days in rehearsals and learning from local artists to put together the two-night show under the guidance of Artistic Director Hanna Fridhed and choreographer Alexandra Durocher.

"Meeting and working with artists and cultural participants from across the circumpolar regions have been a whirlwind of beautiful talent coming together and learning about each other," said Fridhed.

"The arts are fundamental to the human experience and as a form of creative expression, the arts inspire, enrich and connect us all."

"It's been a privilege to be a part of the Arctic Winter Games Cultural Galas and work with such talented youth. Thank you for being here tonight and celebrating arts and culture with us!"

Team Alaska: The Team Alaska Cultural Group is honoured to perform a Yupik dance called "Taarvaarnauramkaan."

Choreographed by Papangluaq (Brentina Chanar), the Mother of David Charnar, the sacred song is meant to bless the audience.

It will be performed by David Charnar, Nemqeralria (Luke Layman), Qimagar (Anna Charnar), and Qualuataq (Jade Wren).

Team Alberta North: Team Alberta North describe the performance as, "Home; through chaos and agony, we can reside here, knowing those we surround ourselves with are supportive and welcoming. Our piece demonstrates the importance of connection within a community. Our team would like to thank Kim Hurley for choreographing this piece as well as Keyano College for allowing us to use their facilities. All of us have put in a tremendous amount of work to be able to perform at this gala, and we are honoured to present this piece to our community."

It will be performed by: Brianna House, Ella Holland, Madeline Boser.

Team Northwest Territories: The Tetlit Gwich'in Dancers will perform the red river jig, double jig, duck dance and handkerchief dance. Performed by: Rhianna Firth, Jenelle Vaneltsi, Jolynn Vittrekwa, Connor Charlie, Donavyn Koe, Brandon Firth, Michael Francis, and Edwin Kay.

Team Nunavik: Cirqniq is a social circus in Nunavik that began in 2009 with a mandate to integrate Inuit culture and circus arts alongside supporting positive social development and promoting leadership for young people in Nunavik. The magic of the Northern lights inspires our show. We use stilts, dance, diabolo, club and ball juggling, hoola hoops, contortion, human pyramids and partner balancing underscored by live throat singing, drum dance and a musical soundtrack featuring artists who have their roots in Nunavik." —*CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE*



NICK VARDY | 2023 ULU NEWS

The second show of the Cultural Gala is tonight at 7 p.m. Guests will see a showcase of talents from six contingents. Tickets are available at tickets.keyano.ca



CONTINUED FROM PAGE — DELEGATES DAZZLE



NICK VARDY | 2023 ULU NEWS

Team Yukon stage at the first performance of the two-day Cultural Gala.

Overview on the Gala performances

Team Nunavut: The Inuksuk Drum Dancers would now like to take you on a musical journey through time—beginning with a very old, well-known traditional Inuit pisiq from the Mittimatalik area of Nunavut and closing with a very new, contemporary drum dance song written by the Inuksuk Drum Dancers in Iqaluit back in 2015. It will be performed by Mackenzie O'Dell, Mia Maurice, Aura Kwon, Taiga Las, Kristy Kanayuk and Ella Estey.

Team Sápmi-Yoik: Sara Nilut from Team Sápmi is performing traditional yoik acapella. It will be performed by Sara Nilut.

Team Yukon: "Many times, over the past two-and-a-half years, so many of us have felt isolated and alone. Now, we are slowly emerging out of the isolation that has defined these past few years of our collective existence, and, for better or worse, it seems that things are beginning to return to a pre-pandemic "normal." We have created an original dance piece to bring to the 2023 Arctic Winter Games, which was inspired by the idea of connection – to each other as individuals, to our community, and to our land. We wanted our piece to feel like a celebration of our resilience as a community. Though the news is still full of sadness as people the world over face all kinds of tragedies, we set out to create a piece that focuses on positivity and feels hopeful and uplifting," as described by Team Yukon. The dancers worked with mentors from The Heart of Riverdale, Oleksii Ogarov and Violetta Umanes, to create a soundscape and choreography for the piece." It will be performed by Luca Squires, Andrew Matheson, Daniel Pike, Chelsie Organ, Will Taylor and Oleksandra Trofimova.

Visit the **Mental Health and Sport Resource Hub** to learn how to integrate positive mental health practices into your sport.



#MentalHealthIsOurSport



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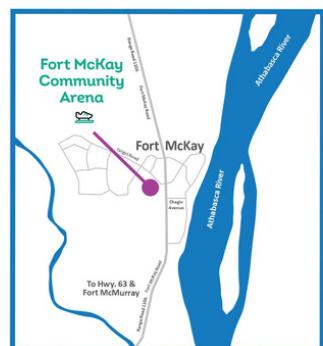
2023 SPORTS SCHEDULE

SPORT	VENUE	28-JAN	29-JAN	30-JAN	31-JAN	1-FEB	2-FEB	3-FEB	4-FEB
ALPINE SKI	Vista Ridge		T	C	C	C	W	W	W
ARCHERY	Shell Place - MIP*		NC	T	C	C	C	C	NC
ARCTIC SPORTS	CNOOC Fieldhouse #1 - MIP*		T	C	C	C	C	C	NC
BADMINTON	Anzac Recreation Centre		T	C	C	C	C	C	C
BASKETBALL	Ecole McTavish & Holy Trinity High School		T	C	C	C	C	C	C
BIATHLON (SKI)	Fort McMurray Golf Club		T	C	C	W	C	C	NC
BIATHLON (SNOWSHOE)	Fort McMurray Golf Club		T	C	C	W	C	C	NC
CROSS COUNTRY SKIING	Birchwood Trail/Doug Barnes Cabin		T	C	C	C	C	C	W
CURLING	Suncor Community Leisure Centre - MIP*		C	C	C	C	C	C	C
DENE GAMES	CNOOC Fieldhouse #2 - MIP*		NC	C	C	C	C	C	NC
FIGURE SKATING	Frank Lacroix Arena		T	T	C	C	C	C	NC
FUTSAL	Fieldhouse 3, SSWC**		C	C	C	C	C	C	C
GYMNASTICS	Norfort Gymnastics		T	T	T	C	T	C	NC
HOCKEY - FEMALE	Centerfire Place		C	C	C	C	C	C	NC
HOCKEY - MALE	Arena #1 & #2 - MIP*		C	C	C	C	C	C	C
SNOWBOARDING	Vista Ridge		T	C	C	C	C	W	NC
SNOWSHOEING	Birchwood Trails/Doug Barnes Cabin		T	C	W	C	W	C	NC
SPEED SKATING	Fort McKay Arena		T	T	C	C	C	C	NC
TABLE TENNIS	Shell Place, MIP*		T	D	C	C	C	C	NC
VOLLEYBALL	Composite High School & SSWC**		T	C	C	C	C	C	C
WRESTLING	Fieldhouse 2, SSWC**		T	C	C	D	C	C	T

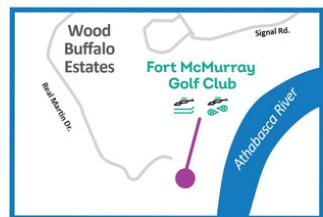
ARRIVAL DAY

C COMPETITION DAY**NC** NON-COMPETITION DAY**T** TRAINING**W** WEATHER DAY**D** DEMONSTRATION/CLINIC

*MacDonald Island Park | **Syncrude Sport & Wellness Centre



Sports Legend



GROUND TRANSPORTATION: All accredited volunteers and participants have complimentary access to The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) transit system, WOOSH, during Games week. Volunteers must show their accreditation badge to ride for free.



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Athletes from the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games speak with the Prince of Wales over a Zoom call on January 31.

Prince William makes virtual call to athletes

Eight Arctic Winter Games participants got the royal treatment on Tuesday.

Participants from USA, Canada, Greenland and Sapmi took a break from the competition to speak with the Prince of Wales over Zoom. Prince William asked the group about the sports they were competing in and questioned them about their experience of the Games and the friends they'd made.

You can find a short video summarizing the virtual meeting on YouTube. Search "The Prince of Wales meets participants of The Arctic Winter Games" on the Royal Family Channel. — 2023 *Ulu News*



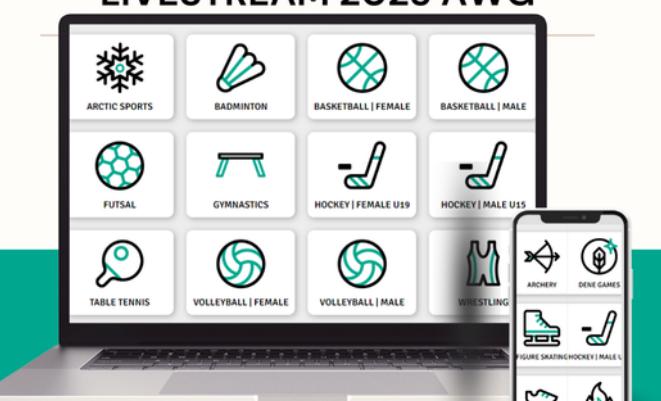
LIVESTREAM 2023 AWG

ARCTIC SPORTS	BADMINTON	BASKETBALL FEMALE	BASKETBALL MALE
FUTSAL	GYMNASICS	HOCKEY FEMALE U15	HOCKEY MALE U15
TABLE TENNIS	VOLLEYBALL FEMALE	VOLLEYBALL MALE	WRESTLING

ARROW
DENE GAMES

FIGURE SKATING
HOCKEY | MALE U15

SPEED SKATING
CEREMONIES



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Athlete of the Day

Life at the top of Nunavik

ATHLETE: Kelly Saviadjuk, 17

TEAM NUNAVIK

SPORT: DENE GAMES

In every Ulu News edition, our field reporter Stephen Harris will feature an Athlete of the Day to learn a little more about the athletes participating in the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games.

Seventeen-year-old Kelly Saviadjuk came to the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games to participate in several events of the Dene Games. The soft-spoken young man comes from a community called Salluit, the most northern point of Quebec. Getting to Fort McMurray was a trek. It was four hours from Salluit to Kuujjuaq on a plane. (Kuujjuaq is the largest community in Nunavik.) Then, it was another three or four hours flying from Kuujjuaq to Fort McMurray.

Is this your first time in the Arctic Winter Games?

"Yes. I was pretty small when the last tryouts happened. I was 13, and I did not get selected because I was pretty small."

Tell me about life in Nunavik. What are your summers and winters like?

"It's been pretty cold up there, minus 57 degrees Celsius. The summers get hot. Maybe not thirty degrees, but they get warm."

How are your groceries and supplies coming into Salluit?

"Every summer, we get ships. And groceries can come through with a plane. The gas ship comes every year in the summer."

What is the main source of protein for your diet?

"I think caribou."



Do you hunt? "Yes."

How old were you when you started hunting?

"Ever since I was a kid. I started following my parents and grandfather when I was five or six. Then I started liking it and going caribou hunting on my own when I was about 12. When it is wintertime, I had a snowmobile. In the summer I can go in a canoe. In the summer, I am in the canoe most of the time. I am hunting seals, and belugas. I even go caribou hunting with the canoe."

Is the meat shared within the family or is it within the community?

"We share it. We have a community freezer for the community too. People go hunting and they fill the community freezer with meat that is free to the people."

What is your favourite thing to eat?

"I'd say mattak, beluga whale blubber. The lower skin is soft. The middle part is hard. The top is the fat. We cut them into cubes, so we can eat them just like that. We can freeze it or boil it."



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SUPPLIED PHOTO
Pride YMM representatives Cristina Rensizag, Mitchel Bowers and Colleen Stewart with Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Mayor Sandy Bowman, third from left, at MacDonald Island Park on January 31.

Pride YMM promotes inclusion in sports

Pride YMM, has been engaging with the Arctic Winter Games athletes and participants to promote inclusion in sport. The Fort McMurray-based 2SLGBTQIA+ group has been to MacDonald Island Park to ask the question "how can you make sports safe and inclusive for queer people?". The group gave out almost 500 prizes to those who answered.

Mitchel Bowers, Board Chair of Pride YMM said, "Studies show that 80 percent of people have witnessed or experienced homophobia in sport, Pride YMM hopes that by doing our part to raise awareness we can create positive change and make sports a safe and inclusive space for everyone." Go to www.pridemm.ca to learn more. — **2023 Ulu News**



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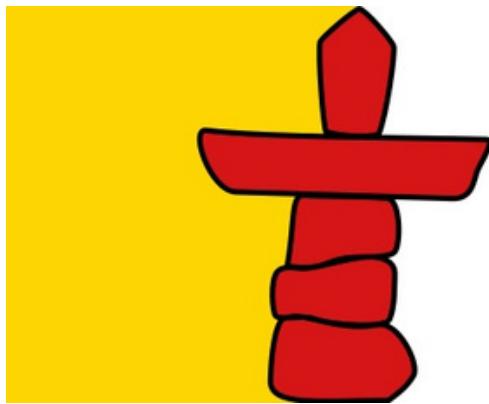
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**JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 3
MACDONALD ISLAND PARK**

CONTIGENT SHOWCASE: TEAM NUNAVUT



Team Nunavut talks of the Games comeback

Eight contingents are participating in the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games. Every edition of the Ulu News will feature each contingent.

Chef de Mission: Marièle Depeuter

Marièle Depeuter, Chef de Mission has been in the position since 2014 after initially getting involved with the Games over a decade ago while supporting her brother, who was an athlete. Team Nunavut is the newest team in the Winter Games, they had previously competed under the Northwest Territories team until Nunavut became a recognized Canadian territory in 1999. Shortly after this, Nunavut and Greenland co-hosted the Games in 2002.

The COVID-19 Comeback: After the disappointing cancellation of the 2020 Games Team Nunavut is raring to go! "There's a lot of excitement for this year's competition, even last winter, a lot of public health measures were still in place making training a challenge", explained Marièle.

This year, Team Nunavut will be bringing around 290 participants to Wood Buffalo, including staff, coaches, youth ambassadors, and athletes, "It's going to be a comeback year and re-establish what it looks like to be an athlete in Nunavut and across the north," she continued.

2023 Team Nunavut Aspirations: "They're representing not just their territory but their communities and that's really special. It's an honour for these athletes, an incredible opportunity for them to compete internationally and bring that experience back to their community." said Marièle, when speaking about the upcoming Games. "My hope is that these athletes inspire the next generation of athletes." Team Nunavut is hoping to build off of the recent successes in Volleyball and Wrestling at the Canada Games. "We hope to build off of this momentum while also recognizing the incredible efforts of all athletes competing after the pandemic hiatus." — **BECKI STORIE, 2023 Ulu News**

bird stuartolson

HISTORY



Bird Construction was awarded the major public works contract to build a number of structures in the newly founded town of Inuvik on September 6, 1958. Essentially building a town in one of the world's remotest regions, Bird Construction had to contend with extremes and find workable solutions.



Photo credit: Bill Williams

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**DARE TO
STAND
OUT**

A dynamic photograph of a skier in a red jacket and helmet performing a high kick turn, kicking up a spray of snow. The background is a bright, snowy landscape.

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KNR2: Arctic Winter Games

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Arctic Winter Games 2023

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SUPPLIED PHOTO

'Kalaallit Nunaata Radioa, also known by its abbreviation KNR, is Greenland's national public broadcasting organization.

Greenland broadcaster live in Fort McMurray for Games

ELIZABETH PRIEST

2023 ULU News

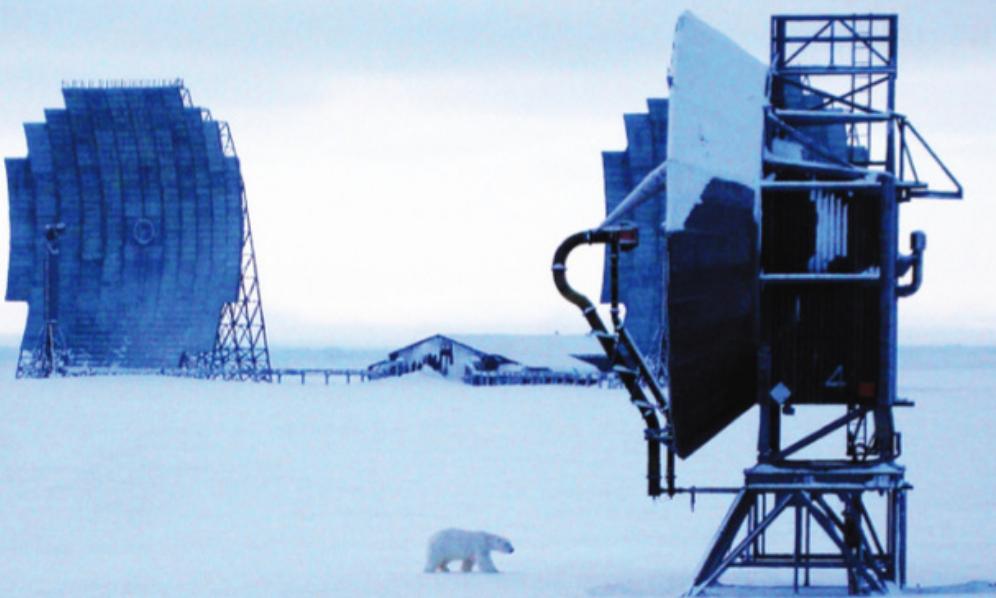
A Greenland media contingent is keeping Greenlanders back home up to speed on all the news of the Arctic Winter Games. Along with Team Greenland participants, a number of the media have also travelled to Fort McMurray to report live Games coverage for those back home. A contingent of ten journalists and technical crew and over 400 kilos of equipment from KNR, arrived on the charter flight, tasked with delivering live coverage of the Games.

Among the broadcasters here is Birgitte Kleist, a journalist for an evening show called Illeq.

The evening show is famous in Greenland and is spoken in their own dialect. "It's new for us, Canada's weather is very extreme. We had all our equipment to cover the opening ceremonies, but it was too cold!" Explained Birgitte.

KNR is the national broadcasting corporation of Greenland, offering information primarily in Greenlandic. Through teamwork with both Greenland media and local Games support, they've been able to keep reporting all Games news. The team have been delivering on-camera broadcast shows as well as real-time medal tables and news stories on all Games events.

Viewers can watch the show and read their stories at knr.gl.



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GREG HALINDA | 2023 ULU NEWS

CELEBRATORY WIN FOR TEAM ALASKA — Snapshot from the U18 Boys Hockey Game with Team Alaska celebrating after beating Team Alberta North on February 2. It was a big comeback for Alaska, who lost against the team on the previous day by a 6-goal margin. The final score was 5-4 for Team Alaska.



HUMILITY

The Seven Sacred Teachings

The quality of being without arrogance and having proper self-respect. The gift of the WOLF. The Wolf represents humility because of its giving nature and devotion to protecting and working for the betterment of the pack. Wolves are mates for life and are generous and loving parents, setting great examples of what our community systems should be.

The Seven Sacred Teachings will be highlighted in each edition of Ulu News to honour the land the Games are played on.

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Participants Village Presented by Civeo

Civeo warmly welcomes all Arctic Winter Games participants visiting the region. We look forward to hosting you in the Participants Village.

