



ULU News

The Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games

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GREG HALINDA | 2023 ULU NEWS

ON THE COVER — Final Torchbearer Elder Lina Gallup, Fort McKay First Nation, lit the cauldron to officially begin the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games. They were escorted into the event by a sled dog team led by Christina Traverse of Mush McMurray. **ABOVE:** The Halluci Nation performs for athletes and guests during the ceremony.

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 Beghonoł'a ʔą T'e (Dene)

The Arctic Winter Games Host Society, S̱anáts'dé betłası hoʔą. Yanisoł'ine dene, Dene, Ena, Begahgaze benéné, thı bechaniye hotiye ẖotł'thé beghonołta, Treaty #8 keyaghé.

Hotiye marci nederı nih beghé s̱anáts'ede ha nogho nat'a, begħalthene Yanisoł'ine bechaniye beta honowetłıno łat'e. T'a t'o Yanisoł'ine dene bahorenihele hodel kolo, bechaniyé kası ẖotł'thé S̱anáts'dé ha thı eyita elchıtan nowejıye nezq helchı yonathı thá sekwi daniyáh cho ha ʔat'e.

Nederı Sa gheatho, Des helıho, T'ogh neseho, hotiye ẖotlethe nederı nih begħodi ẖa t'a.

Nitaskinan (Cree)

Arctic Pison Metawiwın Society Emamiskotakwaw Treaty 8 Nehıyo, Ochıponıw, Métis Askıy.

Nanaskomananak Otaskıwaw Entatamoyahk Ahkamemotwaw Opımachıhonowaw Epımatisakwaw Mıyoti Ototemkoyakwaw.

Esko Pisım Pımoteti Esko Sıpiy Pımıchowakı Esko Maskosıya Opıkıkwawe

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

Games Edition - Word on the Street

with Stephen Harris, Ulu News



George Maratos
From Whitehorse, Yukon

How did you get from Whitehorse to Fort McMurray?

"I work for CBC Yukon. My name was drawn to get on the Yukon charter flight. We flew direct. I was the only media member on my flight. There were three charters. We flew for two hours to get here by Air North. There was no in-flight entertainment but the teenagers were in-flight entertainment."



Nora Pameolik
From Coral Harbour, Nunavut

Who made this beautiful jacket?
I made it myself.

— ULU NEWS SNAPSHOT OF THE DAY —



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Jordan Fitzpatrick, 19, played hockey for Team Alberta North in the 2018 South Slave Arctic Winter Games. Today, he's part of the eight-man maintenance and operations crew at Centrefire Place. He wore his jersey to work during Sunday's hockey competitions. "Our crew surprisingly does more than meets the eye, from repairing broken equipment to maintaining the cleanliness around the inside and outside of the building," Fitzpatrick said. "I'm so excited for the Arctic Winter Games to be taking place in my hometown. It almost feels like I'm back as a part of the team again. It's pure joy."

In Every ULU News

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ULU TRACKER

The Wood Buffalo
2023 Arctic Winter

Track the medal count in ULU News and online at www.awg2023.org

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE WOOD BUFFALO 2023 AWG BOARD

It's Time to Shine!

On behalf of the Host Society Board of Directors, it is with great pride that we welcome you to the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games.

This multisport event brings the circumpolar world together to celebrate the north through athletic competition, cultural exchange and social interaction and we are thrilled to carry on the Arctic Winter Games legacy.

As hosts of the first Arctic Winter Games in five years, we are determined to provide an unforgettable week for everyone involved from participants and mission staff to volunteers and visitors. Although the pandemic delayed us by a year, it only made us more excited to welcome the circumpolar North to our region, showcase our world-class facilities and work together to create memories that will last a lifetime.

To the participants and coaches, we commend your dedication and commitment to your sport – it does not go unnoticed. To the visitors, we hope you get to enjoy all we have to offer in Wood Buffalo and that you feel the warmth and passion of our community. And to the community and partners, thank you for your ongoing support and eagerness to volunteer. You are what makes this event a reality and we couldn't be prouder of how Wood Buffalo has joined together to welcome the circumpolar North.

Our slogan for the Games is "Time to Shine" as we believe that we all deserve a moment to shine. Whether you're an athlete with dreams of the podium, a volunteer with the spirit to give back, or an organization with the drive to support, the Games are your TIME TO SHINE!



WOOD BUFFALO
2023
ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

Sincerely,

Melissa Blake, Board of Directors Chair
Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games Host Society

93.3 COUNTRY

Fort McMurray's #1 for Country

Play Stream Listen

MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER OF ALBERTA

Welcome to Alberta and the 2023 Arctic Winter Games

On behalf of the Government of Alberta, it is my pleasure to welcome everyone to Alberta for the 2023 Arctic Winter Games.

There is a unique quality to the north and northern people. These games are a wonderful expression of that special character, the diverse cultures represented in this part of the world, and the talented athletes who call it home.

Our province is proud once again to host the Arctic Winter Games and to welcome competitors, artists, performers, coaches, family, friends and fans from around the world to the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. I have no doubt we are in for seven days of thrilling competition. Enjoy the warmth of the local hospitality during your visit, and—if you have time—be sure to take in some of the amazing sights and activities in the area.

My sincere thanks to the Wood Buffalo Arctic Winter Games Host Society Board of Directors and all the staff and volunteers who have worked so hard to make this event a success.

Best wishes to all the participants. Good luck, and have fun!

Sincerely,

Honourable Danielle Smith,
Government of Alberta



**WOOD BUFFALO
ENTERPRISES
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**WOOD BUFFALO
2023
ARCTIC WINTER GAMES**

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	ARRIVAL DAY	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	

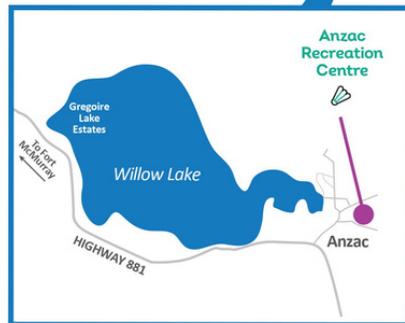
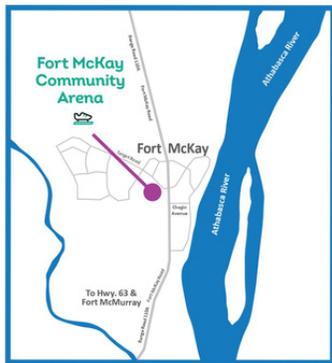
C COMPETITION DAY **NC** NON-COMPETITION DAY **T** TRAINING **W** WEATHER DAY **D** DEMONSTRATION/CLINIC

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



TEAM ALBERTA NORTH

Team Alberta North Futsal Teams cheer strong before yesterday's Opening Ceremonies at MacDonald Island Park. Three of the four teams started Games play earlier and all took home wins including both the Junior and Juvenile Male teams and the Junior Female team, which won 18-0 against Team Nunavut.



Sports Legend

- Alpine Skiing
- Archery
- Arctic Sports
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Biathlon Ski
- Biathlon Snowshoe
- Curling
- Cros Country Ski
- Dene Games
- Figure Skating
- Futsal
- Gymnastics
- Hockey
- Snowboarding
- Snowshoeing
- Speed Skating
- Table Tennis
- Volleyball
- Wrestling



WOOD BUFFALO
2023
ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

Venues

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. Learn more at awg2023.org/ground-transportation/



Athlete of the Day

ATHLETE: Ethan Bowerman, 17
TEAM NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
SPORT: Junior Hockey - Team Captain

In every Ulu News edition, our field reporter Stephen Harris will feature an Athlete of the Day to get to know a little more about the participants taking part in the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games.

What is your favourite meal that your mom made for you as a kid? Spring rolls. Everyone on the team loves them.

What is your favourite wild animal from home? The wolverine

If civilization ended, what team do you think would have the best chance of survival? Us or Nunavut

What would your dream job be? Chiropractor for an NHL team.

If you could choose any superpower, what would it be? The ability to manipulate time.



RESPECT

The Seven Sacred Teachings

The special esteem or consideration in which one holds another person. Respect Gift of the BISON. The Bison gives every part of its being to sustain human life not because he is of less value, but he respects the balance and needs of others to honour all creation both beings 2 legs and 4 is to have respect.

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



WELCOME TO THE 2023 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

For more than 100 years, we've been committed to working with communities in Canada's North.

As a proud Legacy Sponsor, ATCO welcomes all the athletes, coaches and cultural participants to celebrate sport, social exchange and traditions.

Remembering Lennie

The Father of the Northern Games

GREG BENNETT

2023 Ulu News

Part of the unique northern character of the Arctic Winter Games are the events rooted in traditional and cultural values.

Traditional Arctic Sports became a unique part of the Arctic Winter Games through the efforts of advocates and instrumental northern leaders like the late Edward Lennie. Dubbed the father of the northern games, reviving it late 60s early 70s, Lennie joined other leaders and elders in encouraging young people to continue the traditional games and practises, designed to build strength and agility. A revitalization of the Inuvialuit games, the earliest versions of the games were held at his house.

His son Hans Lennie says his father and others fought hard to include traditional games as a part of what would become the Arctic Winter Games. After 1988, traditional Dene Games were officially introduced to the Arctic Winter Games.

There is also an all-around event, with Ulu awarded based on top combined scores for the three individual events.

“He wanted to ensure that some of the games continued on, and he wanted to showcase how the games were played ... that competition was helping each other to do the best you can,” said Hans.

Hans got involved at a young age, four or five years old. Until he was old enough to take part himself, he served in any role he could.

“I remember sitting on the backs of guys as a weight,” he chuckled. “Lots of young people around were eager to do the games, and they relied on local elders ... elders who pushed the younger generation to do their best.”

He eventually joined other family members in a supporting role, assisting with the Northern Games Society.

There have been many successes along the way. A significant milestone was reached in 2010, when Arctic winter sports were included as a demonstration sport in the 2010 Olympic.



CANADA SPORTS HALL OF FAME | FILE PHOTO
Edward Lennie, known today as the “Father of the Northern Games.”

“It was a moment to remember,” said Hans. “All the hard work of past board members ... it was heartwarming to realize their dreams did come true. Hard work and dedication do pay off.”

Last year, Edward Lennie was posthumously inducted into Canada’s Sports Hall of Fame, a distinction and honour that Hans and other family members very much appreciated.

“My father really helped a lot of young kids. ... he was a father to many,” Hans said.

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CONTINGENT SHOWCASE: TEAM ALASKA



2023 ULU NEWS | GRAPHIC SUPPLIED

Team Alaska next up as Games Host for 2024

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

Chef de Mission - Sarah Frampton: Sarah has been the Chef since April 2022 after serving on the board for over ten years, including two years as President. “Our role is to get the team together and get them to the games” (no small task!) “This is an all-encompassing role, basically, if it’s not done by a volunteer, it’ll be my responsibly!”, explained Sarah.

Sarah was first exposed to competitive multi-sport events in Salt Lake City, Utah, where she grew up. Salt Lake City was the host of the 2002 Olympics. “There’s definitely a similar feel with these events, the pride, the comradery, it’s the same.”

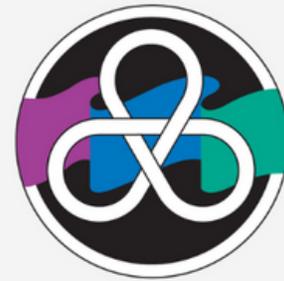
Back-to-Back Games: Due to the pandemic, the 2022 Games were delayed, which means the 2024 Games will be a back-to-back year of competition, making it all the more exciting but also a lot for a Chef de Mission to organize. Especially as Alaska is the host community for the 2024 Games. “It’s been crazy!” Sarah continues, “trying to make sure all the athletes are prepared for these Games, coming out the pandemic.”

2024 Preparations: The Winter Games are a massive undertaking for the host community, while the athletes are focussed on this competition, Sarah and her team also have 2024 preparations in mind. “It’s exciting for sure, when it’s on your own turf is front of mind, the athletes get more excited.”

“Sport athletics and culture are at the forefront but I hope they can all be their best selves and accomplish something incredible, it’s a unique experience, and they should all be proud.” She concludes, “getting involved in sports is such a positive thing and gives you these great experiences and life skills.” — **BECKI STORIE, 2023 Ulu News**

W B E
WOOD BUFFALO ENTERPRISE
W B E

PROUDLY
SUPPORTS
THE



WOOD BUFFALO
2023
ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

MESSAGE FROM THE MP OF FORT MCMURRAY - COLD LAKE

Welcome to the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games

As the Member of Parliament for Fort McMurray-Cold Lake, and on behalf of our entire Fort McMurray – Wood Buffalo region, I take great pleasure in welcoming all competitors, athletes, cultural ambassadors, coaches and spectators who are visiting Fort McMurray - Wood Buffalo as part of the 2023 Arctic Winter Games.

We are thrilled to host over 2,100 athletes from eight contingents: Alberta North, the Northwest Territories, Yukon, Nunavut, Nunavik-Quebec, Alaska, Greenland, Northern Alberta and the Indigenous people (Sami) of Norway, Sweden and Finland.

Our entire region is overjoyed to once again host an Arctic Winter Games. Personally, I loved being involved as a volunteer the last time we hosted back in 2004, as a high school student and collecting pins from each delegation. I can't wait to welcome each and every one of you to our spectacular region and maybe even trade some pins!

The power of sport and culture is transformative. It enriches our lives, unlocks our potential, and inspires us to continue to progress. Without passion and drive, no one would wake up at the crack of dawn to train, push for that next rep, or do all the extra work that separates good from great.

The Arctic Winter Games serve not only as a celebration of sport – it's an opportunity to showcase cultural pride, self-confidence, and leadership abilities in a friendly competitive setting.

These Games will open your eyes to different cultures and meeting fellow athletes from the Circumpolar North will surely create lifelong memories and friendships. Over the course of this week, I welcome everyone to share the connecting power of sport, culture and community spirit; making lifelong memories and friendships that will spring from the Games.

Like any athletic endeavour, this event is a true team effort. I want to commend the Board of Directors, Host Society staff, committees and volunteers for their hard work and dedication to ensuring a thrilling and unique experience for participants.

Good Luck to All!

Laila Goodridge, Member of Parliament
Fort McMurray - Cold Lake





FORT MCKAY
FIRST NATION

Fort McKay First Nation welcomes the Arctic Winter Games to our Community!

We are a proud sponsor and host facility for the Speed Skating events.



Fort McKay First Nation, Nistawoyaw Kinanasokmitinan ota kapi Metoweek netaskinaw.

Nimewehtenan Etipahma oma kawé soki soonkwatami ota.



Fort McKay First Nation nùhëba Arctic hhayá şanáts'ëdè k'a nódá hésá.

Hoyte kolá ełts'ëts'edi sponsors dałë chú elnik'ëzi eghaleda ha dené tsáke nódahá.



Balsom Communications is the publisher of:



Welcoming the Arctic to **WOOD BUFFALO**

On behalf of the team at Balsom, a warm welcome to all the visitors to our region during the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games!

**GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE ATHLETES
AND THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS!**



Proud publisher of the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games commemorative edition of Your McMurray Magazine

balsom.ca



Local artist designs helmet for Team Alberta North Goalie

BECKI STORIE

2023 Ulu News

Custom goalie helmets are one of the more recognizable traditions of competitive hockey with goalies using their helmets to express themselves with art, nicknames, memorials, really anything- the only limit is the creativity of the goalie. That is the case of Team Alberta' North's hockey goalie, Noah Parker, 14, when he commissioned his one-of-a-kind helmet for the 2023 Arctic Winter Games.

The goalie was inspired by community Indigenous artist Amy Keller-Rempp, who has her work throughout the Wood Buffalo region in many of its most iconic locations.

"My whole family likes art, and they're all included on the chin of my helmet as a wolf pack. I got together with Amy and discussed ideas that I had and we created it together from there," Parker said.

"Goalies get this creativity and freedom to represent themselves the way other players don't. I've also included a polar bear, my favourite animal and my favourite existing piece from the artist, a moose, representing my grandparents and an eagle with the northern lights." He explained.

Keller-Rempp is an award-winning artist, known for capturing Canada's natural beauty and wildlife. She's also a close family friend of the Parker family. Parker continued, "I've always loved her work. I've never had the opportunity to commission anything for myself and to have it on a helmet is really special."

This was a first for the artist, as well, Keller-Rempp said, "I've never done a hockey helmet before. I'd done an ATV helmet but Goalie helmets are different. We started the design concept by looking through pieces. He picked out his favourite, fire and ice, which features a polar bear and we went from there."

Parker has been playing hockey since he was two years old, making his first rep team at 11. He currently plays on the U15AA Junior Oil Barons and, now, with Team Alberta North U15 Hockey at this week's Games.

"I'm excited that I'll be representing Team Alberta North at home games. There are six teammates, including myself who play for the Junior Oil Barons, who will also be representing Team Alberta North, which makes it extra exciting for us," said Parker.



NATASHA NICHOLSON | SUPPLIED PHOTO

Team Alberta North U15 Hockey Goalie Noah Park is bringing artwork to the ice with his custom-made Arctic Winter helmet designed by Indigenous artist Amy Keller-Rempp.



CHRISTINE GOGOLINSKI | SUPPLIED PHOTO

The side look of Team Alberta North U15 Hockey Goalie Noah Parker's helmet.

FORT McMURRAY'S ROCK STATION

FORT McMURRAY'S ROCK STATION



FORT McMURRAY'S ROCK STATION