



ULU News

The Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games

Wood Buffalo Edition | ISSUE 2 - JAN. 29, 2023 • The Official Newspaper of the Arctic Winter Games



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GRAHAM WHATMOUGH | 2023 ULU NEWS

ON THE COVER — Air Greenland's Airbus A330 arrives at the Fort McMurray International Airport on January 27. The airbus is the largest aircraft in YMM's history to land at the terminal. Over 100 Greenlanders were on the Friday afternoon flight. Read more on Page 13.

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't'a ʔą T'e (Dene)

The Arctic Winter Games Host Society, S̱anáts'dé betłas̱ hoʔą. Yanisoł'ine dene, Dene, Ena, Begahg̱aze benéné, tẖi bechaniye hotiye ẖotł'thé beghonoł'ta, Treaty #8 keyaghé.

Hotiye marci nederi nih beghé s̱anáts'ede ha noẖo nat'a, begẖalthene Yanisoł'ine bechaniye beta honowetł'no łat'e. T'a t'o Yanisoł'ine dene bahorenihele hodel kolo, bechaniyé kas̱i ẖotł'thé S̱anáts'dé ha tẖi eyita eḻcẖtan nowej̱iye neẕo heḻcẖi yonatẖi tẖá sekwi daniyáh cho ha ʔat'e.

Nederi Sa gheatho, Des heḻho, Tł'ogh neseho, hotiye ẖołethe nederi nih beghodi ẖą t'a.

Nitaskinan (Cree)

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

Nanaskomananak Otaskiwaw Entatamoyahk Ahkamemotwaw Opimachihonowaw Epimatisakwaw Miyoti Ototemkoyakwaw.

Esko Pisim Pimoteti Esko Sipiy Pimichowaki Esko 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

Athletes arrive at Athabasca Lodge

GREG BENNETT
2023 Ulu News

Civeo's Athabasca Lodge has transformed into the official Participants Village for the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games. Over 2,000 athletes, coaches, mission staff and officials have been arriving from across the Circumpolar North since Wednesday.

Tom Davies, Civeo's Vice President of Canadian Operations, said Civeo's hospitality and operations teams had been preparing for months with anticipation.

During normal operations, Civeo's lodge properties are primarily occupied by guests who travel into the region to work with one of the many oil and gas producers in the area. It's essentially their home away from home while they are working in Wood Buffalo.

With a broader range of age groups from different countries and with more guests expected in-house in the middle of the day, Civeo adjusted to support participants during their stay.

They have worked closely with the host committee to offer food and beverage services that address the unique needs of athletes and performers, developing a menu with a variety of healthy, nutrient-dense, high-protein, vegan, vegetarian, and gluten-free options. Participants will also be able to enjoy some featured traditional First Nations menu items including elk, bison, and salmon.

— WOOD BUFFALO PIN GUIDE —



2023 AWG Staff | GRAPHIC FILE

The 2023 AWG Official Pin Guide indicated all the pins to purchase, earn or track down from sponsors and officials. Collectors can stop by the Pin Trading Post at Suncor Community Leisure Centre at MacDonald Island Park from January 29 to February 4.

ON SALE NOW!

TICKETS LIVE FOR:

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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 PRESIDENT OF THE AWG INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Welcome to the 27th Arctic Winter Games

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Arctic Winter Games International Committee, to welcome all of you to the 27th Arctic Winter Games.

My sincere thanks to the amazing group of dedicated and committed volunteers who laid the groundwork leading up to the Opening Ceremony for the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games. Thank you to all our Games supporters, sponsors, volunteers, dedicated staff and the Wood Buffalo community for working hard towards a shared vision in the preparation of the 2023 Games.

The International Committee Board of Directors and staff extend our best wishes to all of the participants, officials, coaches and mission staff. As the Arctic Winter Games family, we have all waited a very long time to be able to come together and we are so happy to share this moment. Your Arctic Winter Games experience begins here; please enjoy welcoming old and new friends, alike, in the northern spirit of fair competition, social interaction and cultural collaboration.

Enjoy your week to celebrate and embrace the fun, the opportunity and your TIME TO SHINE!



Sincerely,

John H. Rodda, President
Arctic Winter Games International Committee



MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER FOR SPORT OF CANADA

Welcome to the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games!

The Government of Canada is committed to building stronger, healthier communities across the country. The transformative power of sport plays an important role in achieving this goal. Sport builds self-esteem and leadership skills and allows people to grow and thrive—physically, emotionally and socially.

The Arctic Winter Games are central to the development of young Northern athletes, offering them a valuable experience where they can test their limits and allowing them to come together through sport.

At the same time, the Games are a tremendous celebration of Northern culture. They invite us to discover and appreciate the diverse peoples, traditions and heritage of the world's circumpolar regions. Our government is proud to support the Arctic Winter Games, which are bringing economic, social and cultural benefits to Northern Alberta.

As Minister of Sport and Minister responsible for the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec, I would like to congratulate the Host Society and everyone who helped bring these Games to life. Best of luck to all the athletes taking part!



Sincerely,

Honourable Pascale St-Onge,
Minister for Sport of Canada

Canada



fmwb.ca

**FORT McMURRAY
WOOD BUFFALO**

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

Games flag up

The Arctic Winter Games International Committee's (AWGIC) flag is flying high at a newly opened park in downtown Fort McMurray.

On January 24, the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open Kiyām Community Park. The ceremony featured an Indigenous honour song, followed by the singing of the national anthem in Cree and English as five flags representing Canada, Alberta, RMWB, Treaty 8 and Métis were raised.

Host Society Board Chair Melissa Blake then raised the AWGIC flag as the Host Society's theme song played publicly for the first time. The International Committee's flag is the first to be raised on the community flagpole and it will remain there throughout the 2023 Arctic Winter Games. — 2023 Ulu News



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO | SUPPLIED PHOTO

Community leaders with more than 100 people celebrated the official opening of Kiyām Community Park, which included a ribbon-cutting and raising of the flags. The ceremony featured an Indigenous honour song, followed by the singing of the national anthem in Cree and English as five flags representing Canada, Alberta, RMWB, Treaty 8 and Métis were raised.

Sports Legend

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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/

MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO MAYOR

Tansi. Edlanete. Welcome!

The 2023 Wood Buffalo Arctic Winter Games is a truly special event for our northern region, and it is with excitement that we welcome all athletes, coaches, visitors, spectators and those representing the eight participating teams from January 29 to February 4.

It's Time to Shine!

While we have had an extra year to prepare for the Arctic Winter Games due to the postponement caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, this has only heightened our focus, dedication and anticipation for what will be an incredible sporting and cultural showcase.

A lot has changed in our region since we last hosted the Arctic Winter Games in 2004, but our collective commitment to delivering an exceptional experience for everyone involved has remained constant. Our region, located on the Treaty 8 territory, the traditional lands of the Cree, Dene and the unceded territory of the Métis Peoples, has a long history of hosting successful sports and cultural events and the 2023 Arctic Winter Games will only add to that rich and proud heritage.

On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank everyone with the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games Host Society, leadership, team, volunteers, and event and funding partners for all of your efforts in setting the stage for what will be an amazing week of competition, cultural expression and celebration. I also want to again express my appreciation to the Arctic Winter Games International Committee for putting your trust in our region – you will not be disappointed.

To the people that call our region home, I know that you will welcome our northern neighbours with open arms and be our greatest ambassadors. I hope that you will help guide our guests to places, businesses and landmarks all across the region while they are here while getting a chance to take in all the Arctic Winter Games has to offer.

To the visiting athletes, coaches, parents, supporters and everyone representing the eight teams at the Arctic Winter Games, I hope you leave here with lifelong memories and friendships while experiencing the true nature of our communities and the people that live here. Please enjoy your time here and know that our doors are always open if you ever want to return.

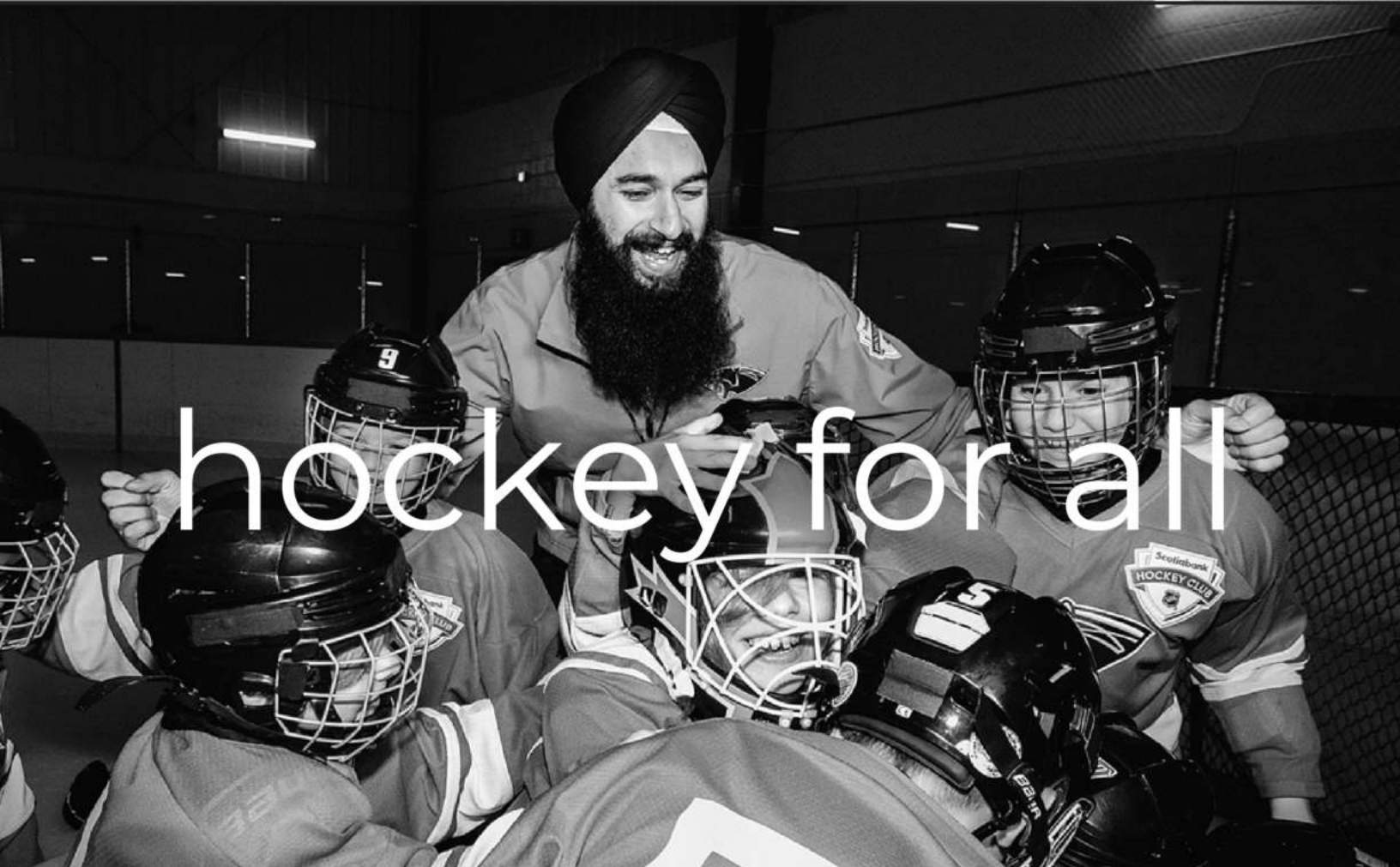
*Marsi Cho. Kinanaskomitin.
Thank you!*

Sandy Bowman, Mayor
Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO





Helping kids succeed on the ice means helping them succeed everywhere. That's why Scotiabank is on a mission to make hockey more diverse, more inclusive and more accessible for all.

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STEPHEN HARRIS | 2023 AWG STAFF

Team Greenland arrived on Air Greenland's Airbus A330 with over 100 athletes and participants on January 27. It was YMM's largest flight to land in its history.

YMM welcomes 2,000 Games passengers

The past week has been exciting at Fort McMurray International Airport (YMM) as over 2,000 participants arrived for the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games. Team Alaska was the last to set foot at YMM on Saturday night in the Alaska Airlines Salmon-30-Salmon, a Boeing 737-800 painted with a giant fish on the aircraft.

Air Greenland's Airbus A330 caught the most attention as it was the largest aircraft the airport had land at its terminal. Aviation enthusiasts from across Western Canada and residents came to witness the historic moment. The flight brought over 100 Greenland athletes and guests.

"YMM had the capacity to handle the Air Greenland Airbus A330 and the aircraft had its own designated parking lot to accommodate its size," said Cuyler Green, Fort McMurray Airport Authority's (FMAA) Vice President of Operations. "This was an exciting opportunity for YMM to be used at its full capacity."

Green explained that YMM staff had completed numerous surveys to ensure the Air Greenland Airbus could safely maneuver around the airport. New designated parking lines were painted to accommodate the aircraft and allow appropriate bridge positioning.

Specialized equipment was also brought to Fort McMurray to handle the baggage coming off the aircraft.

Thanks to the Fort McMurray Airport Authority and its YMM community, passengers received a warm welcome from 2023 AWG volunteers with music from DJ Jon QPid, cheer routines from Fort McMurray's Northern Cheerleading All Stars and handouts of Canadian treats, Tim Hortons Timbits.

FMAA is already working towards the next steps to help ensure excitement continues for their journey home, after the Closing Ceremonies on February 4.

— 2023 AWG Staff



JEFF VADER | FORT MCMURRAY AIRPORT AUTHORITY

Alaska Airlines Salmon-30-Salmon landed at YMM on Saturday night.



2023 ULU NEWS
Spectators watch Air Greenland's flight arrive from the YMM Observation Area on Friday afternoon.

CONTINGENT SHOWCASE: TEAM ALBERTA NORTH



2023 AWG STAFF | GRAPHIC SUPPLIED

Team Alberta North gains home advantage

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

Chef de Mission - Michelle Deering: Michelle has been involved in multi-sport games since 2000, beginning with the Special Olympics, then as a volunteer in 2005 at the Canada Summer Games. Her introduction to the Arctic Winter Games was in 2008 as a Mission staff.

"This is my seventh Arctic Winter Games that I've been involved in; as Chef de Mission, this will be my second, but it will be my first that I'll be able to see through to completion!" explained Michelle, as the 2020 Games were cancelled.

Magic of the AWG: "It's really about the athlete development and the cultural exchange," said Michelle on why these games are so special. "It's also highlighting those traditional sports, especially for us in Alberta North, we don't get to see a lot of this year-round so to expose others to these Dene games and traditional sports is a real experience." Michelle continues.

Home Games: It's going to be great for our athletes to have that home support that is so important but we're also just so proud to be able to compete and participate here in our home province, we're ready to welcome the other contingents!" said Michelle on being the host contingent. Alberta North joined the Arctic Winter Games in 1986 and hosted for the first time, back in 1994 in Slave Lake.

Message to Athletes: In a message to all the Alberta North athletes, Michelle said, "Congratulations on being named to Team Alberta North, you have earned the honour to represent our province at the 2023 Arctic Winter Games. The Arctic Winter Games are unique and unlike any other sports competition, you have the special privilege to compete in an international multi-sport game in front of a Northern Alberta crowd. Embrace every opportunity, make new friends, and do your best. You will make Albertans proud!" — **BECKI STORIE,**

2023 Ulu News
www.awg2023.org

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IS OUR
SPORT**

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THE MLAS OF FORT MCMURRAY-WOOD BUFFALO & FORT MCMURRAY- LAC LA BICHE

Welcome Arctic Winter Games Contingents

Welcome to the magnificent region of Wood Buffalo. A land where northern lights illuminate the sky, rivers intertwine and valleys provide unlimited sporting opportunity. Our community is unique and diverse, not unlike yourselves.

As the MLAs for this area, we, Brian Jean and Tany Yao, are excited to welcome you, your coaches and parents to this beautiful place we call home for the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games.

During the next week, more than 2,000 young athletes from across the north will strive to do their best in their selected sports. We are honoured to host you in our world-class venues. Our region is a cultural hub and befitting of this incredible international gathering. We look forward to seeing the positive elements of sports and sportsmanship displayed while you take this opportunity to network and build friendships.

The Arctic Winter Games' mission to promote athletic competition, cultural exhibition, and social connection among Northerners provides many benefits to the individuals and communities involved. These Games represent the respect we all have for one another, forging an attitude of acceptance, diversity, and friendly competition. As representatives of this region, we can't wait to see you exemplify these attributes - here in Wood Buffalo, we pride ourselves in being a cultural mosaic which values and includes all who come here.

We would also like to acknowledge the members of our local Wood Buffalo 2023 Alberta Winter Games coordinating team and Host Society. Thank you for your hard work and efforts; you are honouring the spirit of the Games and enriching the lives of our athletes. We are also grateful to all the volunteers; the gift of your time and efforts have made these Games a reality.

Best of luck to all the athletes. We are proud to have you here representing your regions. We welcome you today, and in the future, to our home. We hope you enjoy this celebration of Northern athletes and look forward to your return.

Sincerely,

Brian Jean & Tany Yao,
MLA of Fort McMurray - Lac La Biche &
Fort McMurray - Wood Buffalo



TORCH DESIGN FOR 2023 AWG

Meet the Torch Design Artist

The Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games Committee organized a torch wrap design contest in February 2021, where Trevor Snook was selected as the winning artist.

The design had to reflect traveling and connections, the interconnectedness of the communities in the Wood Buffalo region and celebrate everyone's time to shine. Snook is a gifted artist from the Flat Bay area in Newfoundland. While he usually paints with oil on canvas or hardboard, Trevor explores a variety of mediums such as antler sheds, helmets and even motorcycles.

Drawing on his Mi'kmaq (First Nation) heritage, he also creates culturally based crafts and tools, such as animal calls and snowshoes. His broad creativity and resourcefulness comes as no surprise to friends and family. Many say that he gets his creative side from his grandfather, Anthony White, who was a well-known carpenter and spruce root basket maker.

— 2023 Ulu News



GRAPHIC SUPPLIED

The Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games Torch Wrap design by Trevor Snook of the Qalipu First Nations Band 034. Snook brought a collection of Arctic Winter Games and Northern region elements to showcase this year's Games.

OPENING CEREMONIES

PRESENTED BY

BOUCHIER | **25TH ANNIVERSARY**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

Time to Shine

WOOD BUFFALO 2023 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

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THE FLAME IN FORT MCKAY — (Above, left top and bottom) Torchbearers of the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games from Fort McKay: Jayden Shott, Adam McDonald, Tayden Shott, Alicia Gladue, Cruz Fabian and Adonis Richards-L’Hommecourt gathered on January 18.

CRYSTAL MERCREDI

Carrying the Games flame

DAWN BOOTH
2023 Ulu News

Ambassadors of all ages have been rallying behind the official Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games torch for the past two weeks and it will make its way to the stage for the cauldron lighting at the Games’ Opening Ceremonies tonight at MacDonald Island Park in Fort McMurray.

Shania Desjarlais, Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games Torchbearer from Conklin and first-time Team Alberta North’s Dene Games coach, said the experience was “empowering.” “The relay was nice and very empowering, seeing the community come together and support everyone from each part of Conklin. It’s nice to feel that support and in that moment you feel like you can achieve anything you put your mind to,” she said. “It was a genuine feeling, too. It put me in the mindset of the Games since it will be my first time coaching in Dene Games!”

Since January 11, the torch has been passing through eight of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo’s rural communities starting in Fort Chipewyan and Fort Fitzgerald/Smith’s Landing First Nation.

The Torch Relay runners include: Tyrell Marcel, Angela Marcel, Rayelle Marcel, Matthew Marcel and RMWB Councillor Kendrick Cardinal of Fort Chipewyan, Demian Bourque and Detonaze Paulette of Fort Fitzgerald/Smith’s Landing First Nation, Alexa Cardinal, Emile Winterburn, Bobbie Brooks, Tanis Robillard and Shania Desjarlais of Conklin, President Raoul Montgrand, Elder Marie Agnes Herman, Lawless Herman, Jessica Read and Ida Stepanowich of Janvier, Jayden Shott, Adam McDonald, Tayden Shott, Alicia Gladue, Cruz Fabian and Adonis Richards-L’Hommecourt of Fort McKay, Riley Bourque, Brooklyn Wiltzen, Bear Croucher, Presley Hodgson, Rheimer Reid and Kate Platt of Anzac, RMWB Councillor Stu Wigle, Nicholas Bennett, Jasper Harper, Novella Haper and Everett Harper of Sapræe Creek and from Fort McMurray, Elder Anne Michalko, Melanie Walsh, Lucas Punko, Ava Ryan, Logan Flett, Darrel Laboucan, Trevor Snook, Dylan Elias, Kelli Stewart, Rachel Ivey and Mattea Adai.

Torchbearers were chosen for their outstanding community social involvement and are individuals who are actively engaged in the categories of youth, sport, culture or community.

PHOTO SUPPLIED
Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games Torchbearer Shania Desjarlais with her niece, Kadence, in Conklin on January 16.

— ULU NEWS SNAPSHOT OF THE DAY —



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Wood Buffalo 2023 Winter Games Torchbearer Mattea Adair with long-time community friend and local artist Sonia Burke-Smith at the last leg of the torch relay in downtown Fort McMurray yesterday. Have a photo to share? Send it to ulunews@awg2023.org



LOVE

The Seven Sacred Teachings

The powerful emotion felt for another person or being that shows itself with deep affection or devotion. Love Gift of the EAGLE. The Eagle is said to fly the highest closest to the creator and carries our prayers up. Eagles are loving parents and are always guiding their offspring.

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



On behalf of our member First Nations, the Athabasca Tribal Council welcomes all Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games athletes, coaches, officials, visitors, and spectators to our traditional lands. We wish all athletes success in achieving their goals and dreams.

ATC is proud to support the Shine on the Snye and we look forward to seeing you there.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHO WE ARE
AND WHAT WE OFFER VISIT
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FOLLOW US



Stay Well. Play Well.

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.





ATCO SALUTES THE VOLUNTEERS

We celebrate the vibrancy and passion that volunteers bring to the Games and to our communities. ATCO is proud to power the volunteer program and to continue our support as a Legacy Sponsor of the 2023 Arctic Winter Games.

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WOOD BUFFALO
2023
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