



**NUUK 2016**  
Arctic Winter Games



7 - March 11 2016

# ULU NEWS



Photo: AWG2016

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Photo: Nathan Kreutzmann

Ivik Nielsen usually lives at a boarding school in Denmark and spends most of his time practicing table tennis. He's back home to compete in AWG2016

## Athlete of the day: **Ivik Nielsen**

By Nathan Kreutzmann  
ulunews@awg2016

**Ivik Nielsen, 18**  
**Team Greenland**  
**Table tennis**

Ivik Nielsen, junior male, won all of his matches yesterday, collecting gold ulus in single junior male, double junior male and double junior mixed.

*How has your Arctic Winter Games gone so far?*

It's going really well. I haven't lost a match yet.

*How did you like the Opening Ceremonies?*  
The musicians were really good, but it was too warm inside.

*What's the best experience you've had so far during AWG2016?*

The best part was winning the different matches. I played single and mix double and I won all of them.

*What is your best sports result so far?*

Until now I've won all matches without losing a single game, so I'm quite pleased.

*How did you prepare for AWG 2016?*

I practiced four times a week at my boarding school in Denmark. I will be back in Denmark after the Greenlandic national championships at the end of this month.

*Does your school allow you to be away from classes for this long?*

Yeah. I'm glad that my school supports me.

### Arctic Winter Games 2016

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# The North Atlantic Champion

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Contingent	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
 Alaska	65	55	49	169
 Alberta North	22	25	19	66
 Greenland	30	19	13	62
 NWT	8	6	18	32
 Nunavik-Quebec	5	4	4	13
 Nunavut	4	14	23	41
 Sapmi	5	4	4	13
 Yamal	0	2	0	2
 Yukon	22	34	28	84

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PHOTO: Mads Pihl, Vest Greenland



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PHOTO: Mads Pihl, Vest Greenland

# Greenland vs. Greenland

Bouncing balls and squeaking sneakers drowned out the audience during the men's junior table-tennis final

By Ane-Marie Petersen  
ulunews@awg2016.gl

The more he fell behind, the more Poul Petersen did what he could to beat his opponent on the other side of the table, but Ivik Nielsen was not to be stopped.

Nielsen had already won two gold ulus in table tennis without losing a game and was cruising towards his third. No matter how much Petersen frowned, Nielsen refused to relent, smashing the ball again and again and again.

Even though there was a full house at GUX Minihallen, the audience was quiet considering the country was guaranteed both the gold and silver ulus.

"When both participants are from Team Greenland, there isn't much for the crowd to cheer about," said Daniel Thorleifsen, the committee chair for table tennis. "It's only when they play against other teams they get excited."

Nielsen won, securing all three gold ulus for a Team Greenland that has all in all won 12 gold ulus in the sport, more than one third of the country's total gold-ulu count.

And if the crowd was complacent during play, when the winners were called up to the podium, it became obvious they were in front of a home crowd.

Suddenly someone in the crowd yelled "pagga!" and a middle-aged woman started tossing coins towards the floor, an indication of her excitement about the one-two finish.

Pagga in Greenlandic means 'the first one to get the money'. And even Ulu News got caught up in the turmoil and joined the crowd as it dove after the coins as they hit the floor.

Ivik Nielsen on the podium with silver-ulu winner Poul Petersen, and Alaskan Jimmy Gao



Photo: AWG2016/Nukaaka Tobiassen





Photo: AWG2016/Algunnguaq Sethsen



Photo: AWG2016/Nukaaka Tobiasen



Photo: AWG2016/Anguninguaq Setnisen



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# Promising weather forecast for flights home

The snowstorm that postponed some finals yesterday will likely end well before the first participants are scheduled to depart

Af Martine Lind Krebs  
ulunews@awg2016.gl

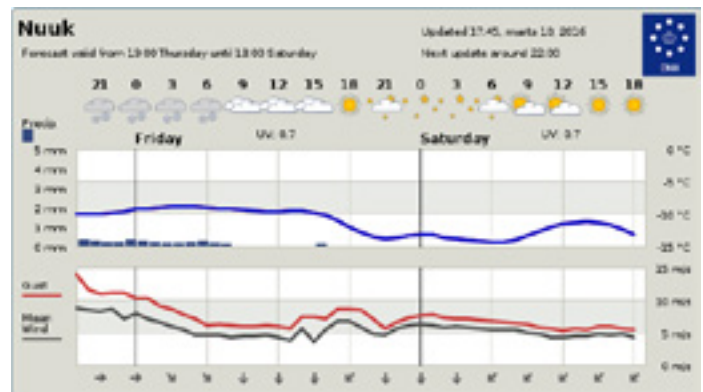
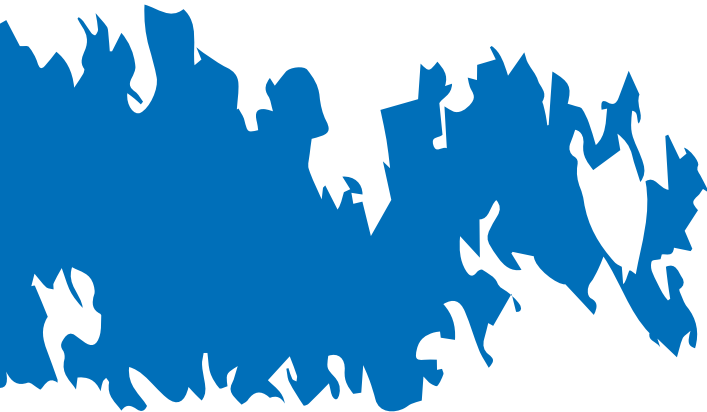
With the major delays that disrupted their arrival to Nuuk fresh in mind, many AWG participants cast a worried look towards the heavens on Thursday, when a front delivering snow and gusty winds hit the west coast of Greenland.

Luckily, Friday afternoon and Saturday are shaping up to be clear, allowing for a smooth departure for AWG2016's 2,200 participants.

"It looks like the wind and snow will diminish after noon on Friday, even though there will be quite a lot of snow early," said Stine Buhl, the leading meteorologist at Kangerlussuaq weather station.

The weather forecast for Saturday is calling for fair weather with some sun and maybe a little snow.

Then again, with the weather in Greenland, one never knows.



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# It's about quality not quantity

When you only have four athletes, winning two silver ulus is something to be proud of, says Team Yamal Arctic Sports competitor Sergei Khudi

By Paninnguaq Steenholdt  
ulunews@awg2016.gl

Even though Team Yamal is the smallest contingent this AWG2016, (it has just two junior girls and two senior men competing in Arctic Sports) they've already taken home two silver ulus and one gold.

Ekaterina Evay, the team's chaperone, was proud of the ulus, but felt the team had achieved something more important this year.

"They have supported each other and they've known each other for a long time, so despite the fact they are only four, it's been quite okay for us," Evay said.

Team Yamal-Russia sent 80 delegates to AWG2014, in Fairbanks. This time there're are only 10 in the entire contingent, which also includes cultural performers.

The participants have been working so hard that team members were asleep at the Nuussuaq Gym between events.

After waking up, Sergei Khudi, 17, a silver-ulu winner in triple jump and gold in sledge jump, said making the podium had been an exciting experience.

Even though he is shorter than his competitors, Khudi emphasized that height is very important in the jumping events in Arctic Sports. But what Khudi lacks in height, he makes up for in discipline.

"I practice four or five hours each day," he said.

The long hours appear to have paid off: Khudi will be participating in a nine Arctic Sports events.



Yamal participant asleep between events





Photo: Nita Jui Larsen



**Sergei Khudi's  
Arctic Winter Games**

- One foot high kick
- Two foot high kick
- Kneel jump
- Airplane
- One hand reach
- Head pull
- Knuckle hop
- Sledge jump (gold-ulu winner)
- Triple jump (silver-ulu winner)

Photo: AWG2016





Photo: AWG2016

# Alberta North aces volleyball tourney

None of the other teams could keep up with Team Alberta North in the volleyball tournament. Both the junior boys and girls took gold ulus undefeated

By Martine Lind Krebs  
ulunews@awg2016.gl

Lots of touches and repetition. That was the recipe for Team Alberta North's success in the junior boys' volleyball competition, according to libero Carter Nadkrynechny, 16. With six wins in a row and no losses Team Alberta North took the gold ulu in yesterday's final.

Experience practicing with each other also played a big role. The team, Nadkrynechny said, practices three times a weekly in Grande Prairie and has been playing together for four years.

When it comes to practice other teams are more challenged. The members of Team Greenland come from all over the country, for example, and are only together at training camps.

Nevertheless, center Christoph Knud-

sen, 18, didn't try to blame the geography for his team's 0-5 record this AWG.

"We expected them to be tough, but we made too many technical errors and too many bad touches," said Knudsen.

He praised Team Alberta North for their talent and their experience.

"We're trying to get the best out of it – meeting new people and having fun. Of course I'm disappointed, but the other teams were just better," said Knudsen.

The Team Greenland volleyball team, Knudsen admits, was probably the worst the country had ever fielded.

Team Alberta North's junior girls also took the gold undefeated.



Photo: Martine Lind Krebs

Carter Nadkrynechny said Team Alberta North team gets lots of practice together





Photo: Martine Lind Krebs

Christoph Knudsen was disappointed at Team Greenland's 0-5 AWG



Photo: Martine Lind Krebs

Team Nunavut beat Team Greenland in the fifth-place match





Photo: Martine Lind Krebs

Team Greenland (blue uniforms) and Team Nunavut in the fifth-place match



Photo: Claus Andersen-Aagaard

Team Alberta North on its way to a semifinal victory against Team NWT. [Click to watch the match point](#)





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# Jump! Jump!

One foot high kick is one of the impressive disciplines of Arctic Sports. It takes a lot of strength, flexibility and agility to do to kick a ball that is suspended above your head.

The video shows a competitor in the early stages of yesterday's final.

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# Greenlander dethrones Alaskans from namesake sport

Team Alaska has dominated Alaskan high kick for years. This year it had to settle for silver

By Winnie Filemonsen  
ulunews@awg2016.gl

After setting a new record in the sport named after the state during AWG2014, Team Alaska had expected that it would continue its domination of Alaskan High Kick, an Arctic Sports event.

What they didn't expect was Team Greenland's Bent Jakobsen. He became the first ever non-Alaskan winner in the event on Wednesday.

Makiyan Jay Ivanoff, the Team Alaska silver-ulu winner knew Jakobsen would be a tough competitor, and had trained with him in mind.

"I knew Bent was doing really good, and I was like 'Okay, that's my competition'," Ivanoff said.

Ivanoff felt Jakobsen's victory was deserved. And silver, he said, is still an accomplishment.

For Inooraq Brandt, the chair of Arctic Sports for AWG2016 and a personal friend of Jakobsen, the win was something Greenland ought to be proud of.

"Bent is still young, and as he gets older his results are getting better and better. He has great technical skill in the event," Brandt said.

He hopes that Jakobsen's gold ulu will encourage more Greenlanders to enter Alaskan high kick in future Arctic Winter Games.



Jakobsen checking out the competition

Photo: AWG2016





Photo: AWG2016

The height of the target is raised inch for inch and contestants are defeated one by one



Photo: AWG2016

Bent Jakobsen kicks his way to a gold ulu

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To make the game more challenging athletes must show control by landing on their kicking foot

Photo: AWG2016

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# Smooth operator

A lack of snow at home this winter hasn't hindered Team Alaska from earning a number of ulus in cross-country skiing during AWG2016. The secret may be in the wax

By Noah Mølgaard  
ulunews@awg2016.gl

The first step to a faster cross-country ski performance is taken in waxing room. (Here in Nuuk, the room is actually a shipping container on the hilltop near the cross country trails in Ravnedalen.)

Coaches are responsible for the waxing and testing a set of skis the morning of a race. But, the wax job is the last step in a process that begins the night before, when a decision about which type of wax to use is made.

"Finding the balance is the key. Today there is a bit of climbing, so having a good kick is very important," Dylan Johnston, the Team Alaska coach, said after testing skis for 15 minutes once they had received three layers of wax. The test will confirm whether or not Johnston and Adam Verrier, an assistant coach and a former US Olympian, have chosen their wax properly.

Waxing is a constant activity. The Team Alaska cross-country ski team brought no less than 96 skis, two sets

for each competitor (one for classic style, and one for skating). Add to that the skis coaches bring, and the work can pile up quick.

Johnston starts with basic wax. He then adds a layer that will give a kick mid-race when skiers need it. Then finally, a layer that will give a fast glide when skiers go down hill.

Once he returns from testing the skis, the skiers try them out and then ask to have adjustments made. Some need more kick, some faster wax.

"If you feel that you are getting a good glide and your skis are quick, then you know the waxing is good. So far, that has been the case for our first two individual races," said Kaya Ratzlaff, a gold-ulu winner in the sprint event and the 3.75k mass start.

Having coaches do the waxing is a relatively new development in the world of skiing. Verrier, for example, waxed his own skis during his career.

Waxers put on three layers



Photo: Noah Mølgaard





Adam Verrier starts early in morning waxing skis

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# Nuuk, here we come

Iqaluit has been an intense experience for the hockey players. With the tournament wound down, they are looking forward to returning to Nuuk

Trine Juncher Jørgensen  
ulunews@awg2016.gl

The Team Yukon bantam boys finished last in the hockey tournament. Now, they are ready to leave Iqaluit and meet up with their teammates in Nuuk.

"It's been really fun meeting new people and friends. The hockey result wasn't so good, but the team tried hard. It will be cool to see the culture in Greenland now. I look forward to see the houses and the views. We are only staying for a day or two, but it will for sure be fun", said Brandon Petelski, 14, from Whitehorse.

Team Yukon's coaches are also looking forward to getting a break from hockey. Tim Ekholm and A. J. Beacon have been busy since February selecting players, practicing and preparing for AWG2016.

"We have tried to get players from all over Yukon so they get a chance to meet with new players and work together as an Arctic group. We have tried to take something positive away from our ga-

mes. Working as a group, staying up and still playing even when the score is not in your favour. It's a part of hockey. It goes up and it goes down," Beacon said.

For Ekholm, being away from home was as big a part of the experience as being on the ice.

"We feel part of a cultural exchange," he said. "Kids get attracted and inspired by wildlife, travelling and other countries and cultures. We know the kids have been so excited to be here in Iqaluit. They all went out in the blizzard with their Go-Pros to film each other.

Even so, he too is looking forward to touching down in Nuuk.

"We are pretty excited to go to Greenland and see the other athletes, the sports, the climate. We want to go out and do some sightseeing. See what it's all about. Why they call it Greenland, when it's all ice."

Team Yukon is looking forward to going to Nuuk. Coaches Tim Ekholm and A.J. Beacon have put a visit to a steakhouse on the top of their to-do list



Photo: Trine Juncher Jørgensen





Photo: Trine Jørgensen

Brandon Petelski has been playing hockey for six years. This is his first, but not last, AWG

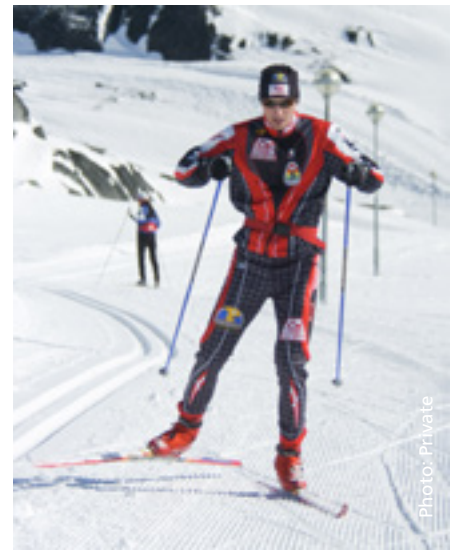
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Martin Møller now participates in various European cross-country competitions.

Martin Møller receiving his golden ulu in the 1996 Games.

# From AWG to the Olympics

Greenland's best cross-country athlete started his sports career as an AWG contestant

Noah Mølgaard  
ulunews@awg2016.gl

Martin Møller participated in Arctic Winter Games 1996 in Chugiak/Eagle River, Alaska. Two decades later he qualified for the Olympics.

"I won four gold ulus in 1996, but I can recall it being a tight race. I had to work really hard for those ulus," said Møller.

1996 was the year when sprint in cross-country was introduced into the AWG.

Møller lived in Aasiaat in Northern Greenland at the time. The city holds a little more than 2,000, and the cross-country club ASP is well established. ASP has had participants in AWG since Greenland's first participation in 1992.

"It was exciting to participate in the Arctic Winter Games for the first time – it provided me with motivation to train even more," Møller said.

Still it was a long road to the Olympics.

"The AWG participants probably will need ten more years of training. It takes a lot of self-discipline to train cross-country skiing. My best advice to the AWG athletes who dream of an international career, is to keep training and training," said Møller.

He moved from Greenland to Norway in 1997 to study at a skiing college in Geilo. Since then, he participated at the World Championship, and in 2014 he participated in the Winter Olympics in Sochi, ending 45th on the 50 kilometer distance.

"I still don't feel I have achieved my full potential. I now train to qualify for the 2018 Olympics. I would like to improve my results from 2014," said Møller.





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Photo: AWG2016/Vagn Hansen

# Tattoo Artist-Turned-Painter Exhibits in Culture House

Paninnguaq Lind Jensen will have her first big exhibition during the Arctic Winter Games 2016

By Paninnguaq Steenholdt  
 ulunews@awg2016.gl

Dreadlocks, piercings and tattoos – these are some of the characteristics of the artist Paninnguaq Lind Jensen.

During AWG2016 her painting can be seen in Culture Center Katuaq.

“I’m very excited about the exhibition. In comparison to the more traditional use of, for instance, the ulu, my paintings are different than others, so I am very excited about how people are going to react to them.”

One of her main goals is to impress as many people as possible. It is important to her to get a positive reaction from people, which is stressing her out a bit.

Her paintings are based on her skills as a tattoo artist and her techniques as

a tattoo artist have influenced her work as a painter. She likes lithographic art because the workflow can be a lot like tattooing.

“I tried to be a little provocative with my painting”, said Jensen with a smile.

The exhibition consists of only eight paintings in heavy colors. The colors she uses rely on the characteristics of the Arctic, for example blue and brown.

A lot of her work is inspired by Greenlandic culture, for example the Inuit myths. Hence, in one of her paintings, she references the famous Greenlandic myth of Sassuma Arnaa (The Legend of the Mother of the Sea).

**Name:** Paninnguaq Lind Jensen  
**Age:** 25  
**Family:** Mother of Hinata, age 5  
**From:** Narsaq, city in South of Greenland  
**Education:** Arts



Photo: Paninnguaq Steenholdt

Paninnguaq Lind Jensen with her daughter Hinata surrounded by her paintings



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TELE POST



Photo: AWG2016/Bo Kristensen

## 'Coffee-Mik' and Buddy-scheme

It is important for Ruth Montgomery-Andersen, Culture Director of the Arctic Winter Games 2016, that the Games leave traces in Nuuk once they are over and the city is back to normal

By Katja Vahl  
ulunews@awg2016.gl

Special occasions in Greenland, like birthdays, graduations, or weddings, are traditionally celebrated by having an open house – a 'coffee-mik' – with an abundance of guests, coffee and most importantly cakes of all flavors and sorts or local produce.

Guests from visiting continents will be able to experience exactly that, by being a part of a buddy-scheme. Cultural delegates of each continent will have a buddy-institution, either a local child care center, nursing home or the likes.

– The cultural delegates will be invited to join a traditional Greenlandic 'coffee-mik' at their buddy-institution, where they'll perform for the audience. For instance, Team Yamal will visit the local children's home Meeqqat Illuat, Cultural Director, Ruth Montgomery-Andersen explains.

Not only cultural exchange, but also

new skills and output is a goal for Ruth Montgomery-Andersen. She has a special focus on the youth:

"Being able to include as many local participants as possible has been one of the most important efforts. The young artists I have been working with over the years finally get to display all of the capacity they've built up through participating in the cultural programs during earlier Arctic Winter Games."

Not only local artists but also Nordic colleagues will participate, and Montgomery-Andersen trusts this exchange will benefit the future careers of the young artists in Nuuk.

"We have brought in artists from other parts of the Nordic countries in order to give our local youngsters new skills, for instance, stage production during the Games."



# PROVIDING ENERGY NUKISSAMIK TUNISISUT



## Providing Energy/Nukissamik tunisisut

Nanoq sponsorit Brugseni peqataasunut tamanut kajumissutsiminnillu suleqataasunut nerisassanik mamartunik peqqinnartunillu isumaginillunilu sassaalliissaaq.

Oqaasinnaatut sanatissimasarput tassaalluni »Providing Energy/Nukissamik tunisisut«, tassuuna takutinniarlugu Brugseni nukissamik tunisisuusoq ukununga timersortartunut, kulturikkut suliniutilinnut kajumissutsiminnillu suleqataasunut, taakkua piffissartik, sapinngisatik piginnaasatillu atorlugit peqataalluarmata.

## Suleqatigiit Brugseni piareerput

Brugseni Arctic Winter Games-imut peqataasorpasuarput nerisassanik peqqinnartunik mamarunartunillu sassaalliinissaminut piareerpoq.

## Providing Energy

As Nanoq sponsor, Brugseni will provide delicious and healthy food to all the participants and volunteers, and take care of all the food serving.

We have created the slogan »Providing Energy/Nukissamik tunisisut« to show that Brugseni supplies good energy to the athletes, the cultural representatives, and all the volunteers who diligently give of their time, their talents and their skills.

## The Brugseni team is ready

Brugseni is ready to serve healthy and delicious food to the many people participating in the Arctic Winter Games.

# Brugseni

# A last look at Iqaluit

Ulu News correspondent Trine Juncher Jørgensen has been in frigid Iqaluit this week following the hockey tournament. The tournament is drawing to a close, and as she prepared to leave, she sent us this photo journal

Trine Juncher Jørgensen  
ulunews@awg2016.gl



Photo: Trine Juncher Jørgensen

Team Alberta North boys are ready for the final a close semifinal against Team Alaska



Photo: Trine Juncher Jørgensen





Photo: Trine Junccher Jørgensen

Team NWT beat Team Nunavut in the semifinals



Photo: Trine Junccher Jørgensen

AWG Arena outside town is the newest ice arena in Iqaluit. Teams are transported to and from the arena and Inuksuk High School, where they have been staying





Photo: Trine Juncher Jørgensen

Iqaluit's Qikiqtani Hospital has a creative and unique mural on it painted by artist Jonathan Cruz



Photo: Trine Juncher Jørgensen

Inuktitut culture pervades Iqaluit. Another mural graces the wall of Qikiqtani Hospital





Photo: Trine Juncher Jørgensen

Iqaluit's AWG2016 cultural program ended with a big show played in front of a full house Wednesday night at the Nakasuk High School. Greenlandic musicians Jens Nielsen, Jaakooq Joelsen and Jaakuu Sørensen performed together with local musician Joshua Haulli and drum dancers.



Photo: Trine Juncher Jørgensen

Iqalumiut of all ages were welcome to the show.

# These boots were made for walking...

"...one of these days these boots are gonna walk all over Nuuk," Nancy Sinatra (almost) sang.

With so many nationalities gathered in a small town, it's not surprising you can see a huge variety of shoes. Here's what we found walking all over Nuuk (and Iqaluit).



Bogs are popular in Alaska



Californian shoes on a woman from NWT



How Iqaluit does kamiks



Kamiks from Qaanaaq, Greenland



Kamiks from Salluit, Nunavik



In NWT, Steger mukluks are modern take on the traditional kamik



The feet are from Greenland. The shoes are from Italy



XtraTuf are another popular boot in Alaska