



ULU News

The Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games

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THOMAS HOPKINS

ON THE COVER — The final races for Alpine Skiing wrapped up yesterday at Vista Ridge All Seasons Park. Teams competed in extremely cold temperatures to finish the competition. Read more on 'Extreme Temperatures' on page 3.

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 betłasł hoʔą. Yanisoł'ine dene, Dene, Ena, Begahgąze benéné, thı bechaniye hotiye ẖłł'thé beghonołta, Treaty #8 keyaghé.

Hotiye marci nederı nih beghé s̱anáts'ede ha nogẖo nat'a, begħłthene Yanisoł'ine bechaniye beta honoweltıno łł't'e. T'a t'o Yanisoł'ine dene bahorenihele hodel kolo, bechaniyé kasł ẖłł'thé S̱anáts'dé ha thı eyita eḻchłtan nowejıye neẕo helchı yonathı thá sekwı daniyáh cho ha ʔłł't'e.

Nederı Sa ghealho, Des helłho, Tł'ogh neseho, hotiye ẖłł'the nederı nih begħodi ẖł t'a.

Nitaskinan (Cree)

Arctic Pıpon Metawıwin Society Emamiskotakwaw Treaty 8 Nehıyo, Ochıponıw, Métis Askıy.

Nanaskomananak Otaskıwaw Entatamoyahk Ahkamemotwaw Opımachıhonowaw Epımatisakwaw Miyoti Ototemkoyakwaw.

Esko Pısım Pımoteti Esko Sıpiy Pımıchowaki 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

Extreme cold interferes with Games schedule

ELIZABETH PRIEST
2023 Ulu News

An extreme cold warning affected outdoor sports on Wednesday. As the temperatures dropped to -35C with the windchill, biathlon and cross-country skiing were cancelled for the day. Snowboarding was postponed in the afternoon in hopes of it warming up.

The sport also had events switch days. Instead of the snowboard cross, organizers went ahead with banked slalom, so fewer participants were outside at a time.

Alpine skiing and snowshoeing originally went ahead as planned with extra safety precautions in place. By afternoon, the 800m and 1500m snowshoeing events were postponed. Anthony Sanders of Team Nunavik Quebec and winner of the bronze ulu after competing in the 400m and 100m snowshoeing events said, "It was pretty cold, but our preparations remained the same."

Snowshoeing medals will now be awarded on Friday for the events that went ahead as planned as well as the rescheduled events which have been postponed due to extreme cold.

An Extreme Cold Warning statement from Environment Canada was issued on Thursday issued and remains in effect due to the increased risk of frostbite and hypothermia in these temperatures.

— HEAD-TO-HEAD HOCKEY —



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The U16 male hockey tournament continued Wednesday with two undefeated teams going head-to-head. Northwest Territories and Nunavut, both 3-0, battled in the game dubbed, "The Fight of the Northern Wolverines." In an evenly matched game, it was a hard-fought battle between the two teams where scores were deadlocked at 3-3 after two periods of play. At the start of the third period, the stands were completely packed, and the standing room was tight in some spaces. Team Northwest Territories started to take control of the game in the third period and ran the score up to 6-3, but the game was much closer than that score indicated. Nunavut pushed back hard and brought the score to 6-5 with just over a couple of minutes left to play in the game. Northwest Territories managed to hang on and stay undefeated at 4-0, while Nunavut dropped to 3-1. — *STEPHEN HARRIS, 2023 Ulu News*

In Every ULU News

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ULUS TRACKER

The Wood Buffalo
2023 Arctic Winter

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



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Peter Olsen, Minister of Sport for Greenland enjoys Dene Games at the Arctic Winter Games

Ministerial support for Team Greenland

Greenland's Minister for Sport Peter Olsen is in the region supporting the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games but is also a competitive athlete himself.

The Minister flew with the Team Greenland charter but has continued his own training for the Greenlandic Championships in March, where he will be competing in cross-country skiing.

"The last few days we've had our own training, it's too cold to train outside today" explained, Peter Olsen, Greenland's minister of education, culture, sports and church, in reference to the extreme cold currently in the Wood Buffalo region.

Speaking about his experience at the 2023 Games, Olsen tells *Ulu News* it's been amazing.

"This isn't my first Winter Games but it's my first as a Minister. We want to support all our Greenlandic athletes. I'm interested to see everything, especially Arctic games, Inuit games and Dene games.

"It's important for athletes to have these Games, especially for our youth because of the opportunity to compete but also to make connections, friendships and experiences."

Greenland has been participating in the Arctic Winter Games since 1990.

In 2002, Greenland hosted the Games for the first time in Nuuk, and they last hosted the Games in 2016. Greenland is the most northerly of the jurisdictions involved in the Arctic Winter Games. — **2023 Ulu News**

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CARLA SKAUGE | TEAM NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Sage Acorn, centre, after victory in the 500m at the 2023 Arctic Winter Games.

New AWG record set

A new Arctic Winter Games short track speed skating record was set Tuesday at the Fort McKay Arena. Sage Acorn from the Northwest Territories Team skated a time of 45.02 in the Junior Male 500M competition. Seventeen-year-old Sage, a member of the Yellowknife Speed Skating Club, broke the previous record, set in 2004, by an impressive .35 seconds. — **2023 Ulu News**

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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	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

Athlete of the Day

ATHLETE: Randi Sigurdson, 13
TEAM: GREENLAND
SPORT: Female One Foot High Kick



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.

How tall are you and how high did you kick today?

I am 162cm. I kicked 208cm.

What is your favourite meal that your mom makes?

Eggs with white bread.

What do you eat at home that I might think is strange?

'Mattak.' That is Greenlandish for 'whale skin.'

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?

France, because I think it is beautiful.



Sports Legend

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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.



| 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
ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

Games Edition - Word on the Street

with Stephen Harris, Ulu News



Peter Johnston
From Whitehorse, Yukon

Are you a parent here?

"Yes. My daughter is on the hockey team representing Team Yukon but I'd like to also see Arctic sports, the Dene games and anything I can get a chance to witness."



Peter Van Steien
From Iqaluit, Nunavut

What brought you to the Games?

I'm here at the Games as the Nunavut boys curling coach but I'm also looking forward to watching the hockey and speed skating. To get to Fort McMurray, we flew from Iqaluit to Rankin Inlet. Then we flew directly from Rankin Inlet to Fort McMurray, we were delayed in Rankin Inlet because we either had too many people or too much equipment for the plane.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

CULTURAL FEAST — Over 400 people gathered at Shell Place for the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games' Cultural Feast, which supported international cultural exchange and togetherness. Arctic Sports, Dene Games, and Cultural participants were in attendance. The feast was developed in consultation with Elders and included arctic char, duck, bison stew, bannock and sides.



LIVESTREAM 2023 AWG



AWG2023.LIVE

Official 2023 Arctic Winter Games theme song released



SUPPLIED PHOTO

'Time to Shine' song has now been released. Every Arctic Winter Games host has the opportunity to create a theme song in their community to intertwine arts with sports. The song is a multi-artist collaboration developed and performed by local artists and residents throughout the Wood Buffalo region.

ELIZABETH PRIEST
2023 ULU News Staff Writer

The Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games Host Society released its official theme song 'Time to Shine' and its accompanying lyric video on Wednesday. 'Time to Shine' was written and produced by local musicians who were chosen following a region-wide artist call in January 2021.

"Time to Shine is a cultural celebration of our region and the event itself and we are excited the song has been created and performed by such talented local artists," said Theme Song Committee Co-chair Rick Kirschner.

"The creation and use of a theme song

not only inspires and motivates participants but also adds to the total Games experience for participants, visitors and volunteers."

The artists performed 'Time to Shine' at the Opening Ceremonies presented by Bouchier on Sunday, January 29 at Legacy Dodge Field.

Words and music by: Zion Afuang, Kaydence Gladue, Darren Mercredi, Rory O'Hearn, Dan Tulk, William Whiston, Katie Williams, Jerome Cardinal.

Performance by: Zion Afuang, Kaydence Gladue, Darren Mercredi, Rory O'Hearn, Dan Tulk, Katie Williams, Jerome Cardinal. Listen to 'Time to Shine' and watch the video on our website awg2023.org/theme-song.

WATCH THE 'TIME TO SHINE' VIDEO ONLINE AT AWG2023.ORG



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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 Naton núhëba Arctic hhayá şanáts'ëdè k'a nódá hésá.

Hoyte kolá elts'ëts'edi sponsors daië chü elnik'ezi eghaleda ha dené tsáke nódahá.



Games Gallery



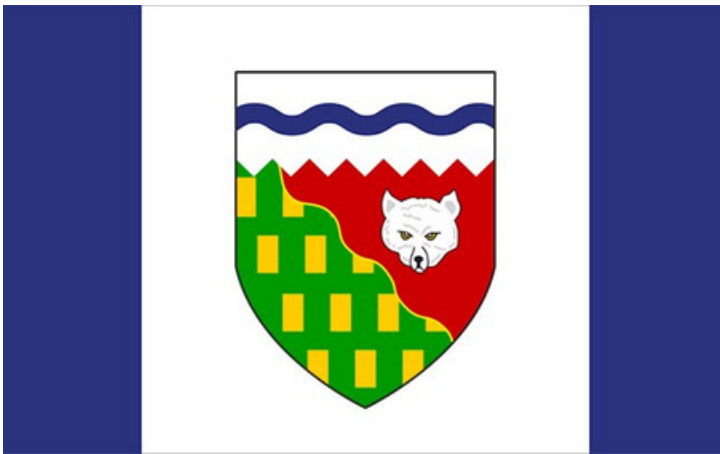
2023 Ulu News
GAMES GALLERY — There are over 7,000 photos and counting of the Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games available on its Flickr online account. Go to www.flickr.com to see all the Games action.



ADD PHOTO CAPTIONS
 ADD PHOTO CREDIT



CONTIGENT SHOWCASE: TEAM NORTHWEST TERRITORIES



2023 ULU NEWS | GRAPHIC SUPPLIED

Team NT anticipated the long Games wait

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 - Bill Othmer: Chef de Mission, Bill Othmer is fired up for the 2023 Games! Bill has been involved in the Arctic Winter Games since 1988, Bill said, "I've had a few roles over the years, I've been either Mission Staff, Assistant Chef or Chef. I also participated in Men's Hockey in 1992 at the Whitehorse Games. It was a tremendous experience."

2023 Games Preparations: The team has been preparing for these Games for a long time and it takes a lot of support to mobilize all the athletes and support staff.

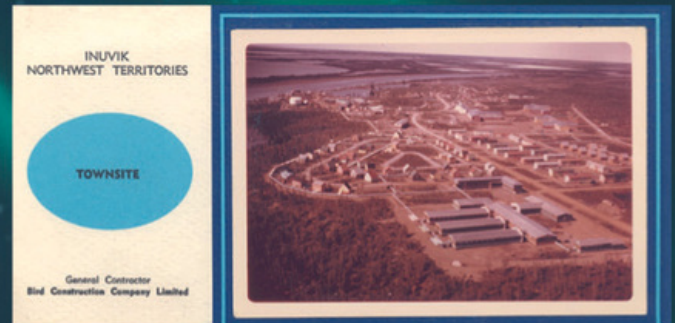
"We held the Territorial Trials in December, we had over 800 Athletes and Coaches from 25 Communities participate. The Territorial Sport Organizations did a tremendous job in organizing their selections. We could not have accomplished this without the support of the Volunteers." Explains Bill.

Spirit of the Games: The NT Chef de Mission is excited about this Games and the experience for the athletes and Northwest Territories (NT) citizens.

"The Arctic Winter Games is a participant-centred event. The Games expose many NT citizens to various Sports and give them a good experience of other opportunities that the north has to offer. While it is participant centred, as long as there is a score clock or judge, we're going to strive to do our best!" He continues. — **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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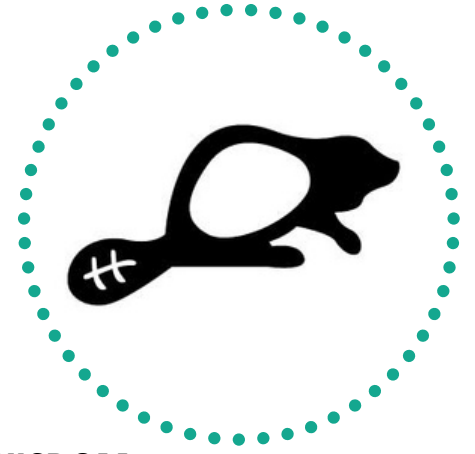


ULUS TRACKER

The Wood Buffalo
2023 Arctic Winter

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

Contingent	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Yukon	30	26	24	80
Alaska	23	24	26	73
Alberta North	15	26	19	60
Northwest Territories	24	12	12	48
Greenland	8	5	11	24
Sápmi	2	6	3	11
Nunavik	2	5	4	11
Nunavut	2	3	4	9



WISDOM

The Seven Sacred Teachings

The capacity of facing danger without giving up due to fear. To face challenges with confidence and bravery.

Courage Gift of the BEAR. The Bear represents courage because of its natural ability to overcome challenges through its everyday life and its incredible instinct of protection.

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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GARDANORTH

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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.

