

FOR RELEASE
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Yukon athletes headed to Toronto for North American Indigenous Games

Team Yukon is excited to compete in the 2017 North American Indigenous Games taking place in Toronto from July 16 to 23. With over 130 athletes, Yukon is sending one of its largest teams ever to participate in 12 events, including athletics, archery, canoe and wrestling. This year's games will focus on the significance of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Action #88, which calls on governments to ensure long-term Indigenous athletic development through support of these games.

The Government of Yukon and the Yukon Aboriginal Sport Circle are holding a pep rally tonight at 6:30 to celebrate Team Yukon's participation in the Games. Athletes, mission staff, coaches and support staff will march along the waterfront to the fire pit at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre.

Quotes

"I would like to wish all the athletes the very best of luck at the 2017 North American Indigenous Games! We are proud to support Yukon's Indigenous athletes and provide positive opportunities that will support their growth as athletes, individuals and community leaders."

–Minister of Community Services John Streicker

"This is an exciting time for Team Yukon to come together with Indigenous athletes from across North America to compete and share culture. All of our athletes have demonstrated incredible dedication and commitment, and their performances are sure to inspire their communities. Good luck, Team Yukon!"

–Team Yukon chef de mission Tara Wardle

Quick facts

- The Government of Yukon and the Yukon Aboriginal Sporting Circle are working together to support Team Yukon's attendance at the 2017 North American Indigenous Games.
- Participating teams include all 13 provinces and territories of Canada as well as 13 regions from the United States.
- The group that first formed Team Yukon for the 1990 Games will lead the march from the Reconciliation Pole to the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre, including Nyla Klugie, Sandra Roach, Karen LePine, Nelson LePine, Gordon Reed, Maria Benoit, and Cheryl McLean.

Learn more: Follow Team Yukon at the North American Indigenous Games on Facebook and Twitter.

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