

FOR RELEASE
April 19, 2017

88 Days from North American Indigenous Games

On April 19, Yukon Aboriginal Sport Circle and the Government of Yukon will bring together the Indigenous sport community at a #Team88 event to support the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action 88, which recognizes the North American Indigenous Games as an important pathway to reconciliation.

Celebrating the athletes and support staff heading into these major games promotes the positive impacts of sport and wellness in Indigenous communities. The Government of Yukon is proud to support the athletes representing Yukon as part of Team 88 at the 2017 North American Indigenous Games in Toronto.

Quotes

"We are very proud of team Yukon, including all of the coaches, athletes and supporters, heading to Toronto for the North American Indigenous Games in 88 days! The Government of Yukon strongly supports the growth and development of our athletes heading into these major games as a way to foster reconciliation."

–Minister of Community Services John Streicker

"Throughout time, Indigenous sports and games has been a valuable tool to help strengthen survival skills and nurture mental wellness amongst our people. Today Indigenous sports has evolved and provides us many opportunities not only to compete but also to showcase our rich heritage and cultural pride. It is truly a remarkable time in our history."

–Yukon Aboriginal Sports Circle president Gordon Reed

"The North American Indigenous Games is one of the biggest sporting events in the world. This is a huge opportunity for Team Yukon to showcase our talent here in the territory, while supporting skill and leadership development for our athletes."

–Council of Yukon First Nations Grand Chief Peter Johnston

Quick facts

- The 2017 North American Indigenous Games Host Committee created the #Team88 event concept to draw attention to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action 88.
- Call to Action 88 asks all orders of government to take action to ensure long-term Aboriginal athlete development and growth and continued support for the North American Indigenous Games, including funding to host the games and for provincial and territorial team preparation and travel.
- The 2017 North American Indigenous Games host committee will be organizing an event in Toronto, and has asked all jurisdictions across the country to organize an event on April 19th.

Learn more: North American Indigenous Games, NAIG Council, Aboriginal Sport & Wellness Council of Ontario and Yukon Aboriginal Sports Circle.

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