



FOR RELEASE
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Arctic X Games cancelled – funding to be provided to support affected athletes

WHITEHORSE—The Arctic X Games, which were scheduled for March 6 to 12, 2016 in Whitehorse, have been cancelled following unforeseen circumstances that resulted in the withdrawal of two of the five participating jurisdictions.

"Events like the Arctic X Games are important to the development of our young athletes and it is particularly vital that they have the opportunity to compete against their Northern peers," Minister of Community Services Currie Dixon said. "We are disappointed in the cancellation of the Arctic X Games, but we are committed to helping the affected athletes participate in other competitions by providing them with funding support."

In March, the Yukon government committed \$100,000 to host the Arctic X Games. This funding will be re-allocated to help the affected athletes find other modes of competition and further their athletic development. For example, the Yukon Gymnastics Association will travel to a training camp or competition outside the territory to provide Yukon gymnasts with an opportunity to compete against athletes from other jurisdictions. Likewise, Arctic Edge Skating Club will use the funding for skaters to attend a competition in the upcoming year.

"We would like to thank all of our partners who worked together to develop the Arctic X Games," Sport Yukon president George Arcand said. "While we are certainly disappointed that the Arctic X Games were cancelled, we are pleased that the Government of Yukon has re-allocated this funding to provide other opportunities to the affected athletes."

The Arctic X Games were conceived as an alternate event for six sports, including gymnastics and hockey, which could not be accommodated by the Arctic Winter Games host in Greenland. The 2016 Arctic Winter Games will take place as scheduled in Nuuk, Greenland from March 6 to 12.

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