



Aboriginal Sport Circle

A proposal to enhance the promotion and delivery of sport and recreation activities to the Aboriginal population of the Northwest Territories.

Prepared by: Dene Nation and Métis Nation – Northwest Territories
Submitted to: Dept. of Municipal and Community Affairs
January 1999

Table of Contents

A.1 Sponsors	3
Dene Nation	3
Métis Nation – Northwest Territories	3
A.2 Rationale	3
A.3 Overview and Key Elements	4
Statement of Priorities	5
Role of National and P/T Aboriginal Sport Bodies	5
Barriers	5
Recommendations on National and P/T Aboriginal Sport Bodies	6
News Release	6
A.4 Aboriginal Sport Circle	7
B.1 Sport and Recreation Model	6
B.2 Sport and Recreation Responsibilities	9
Aboriginal Sport Circle	9
Sport North	10
ASCWASN Joint Secretariat	11
B.3 Principles	12
B.4 Aboriginal Sport Circle Infrastructure Budget	13

A.1 Sponsors

Dene Nation

The Dene Nation was formed as the Indian Brotherhood of the Northwest Territories in 1970 as the political arm of the Dene. In 1978 it adopted the name of Dene Nation. Its constitution states that all people of Dene ancestry resident in the Northwest Territories are eligible for membership. This area is referred to as Denendeh. Many Dene still hunt, fish and trap at least part-time. The word "Dene" means "people" and "Denendeh" translate into "the people's land", or "Land of the People". The current National Chief of Dene Nation is Bill Erasmus.

Métis Nation – Northwest Territories

The Métis Nation – Northwest Territories was initiated on March 21, 1972 when a delegation of interested people from the Northwest Territories attended a Native Council of Canada meeting in Ottawa. At the time, a motion was passed stating that a Steering Committee is set up with an interim executive until a General Assembly could be organized.

The first Northwest Territories Annual General Assembly was held in January 1973 at Hay River and an executive was elected. Mr. Dave McNabb was elected as the first President of the Association and the founding Assembly; nine more Presidents have headed the Métis Nation – Northwest Territories. The Métis Nation – Northwest Territories, as it is now called, has survived the past 26 years and has accomplished much for the Métis people of the Northwest Territories. These accomplishments are the reflection of the hard work, strong leadership and will of the Métis people. The current President, Mr. Gary Bohnet, was first elected in 1989 and continues to lead the Métis Nation – Northwest Territories.

A.2 Rationale

The Dene Nation and the Métis Nation – Northwest Territories have been mandated to pursue an alternative delivery mechanism in the area of sports, recreation and culture. The present system has done little to enable the smaller communities of the Western NWT

- to reach their potential in the area of Sports, Recreation and Culture.
- to address their specific needs and concerns.
- to develop and deliver of initiatives in the area of Sports, Recreation and Culture.

The Government of the Northwest Territories has recognized Band Councils, Métis Locals and Inuit Regional Councils as legitimate governing institutions. The GNWT also has proposed and initiated major changes at the community level through community empowerment initiatives, and community development.

Aboriginal people of the Western NWT believe and support the development and delivery of programs through partnership, however in the area of sports, recreation and culture this partnership has not been developed despite the fact that most communities have an Aboriginal population.

The reality is that the needs and priorities of the communities in the area of sports and recreation are not the same as large tax based municipalities. The establishment of a partnership will address the needs of our Aboriginal population and the municipalities.

A.3 Overview and Key Elements

The Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Sports and Recreation began the examination of barriers to the participation of Aboriginal peoples in sports in Canada. One of the key recommendations made at this meeting addresses this issue specifically.

“Ministers agree that particular alternatives are required to address the physical activity and recreation needs of Canada’s Aboriginal Regions”

The Ministers of the 1997 Conference adopted two further resolutions:

“That Federal, Provincial and Territorial officials be directed to continue to work with the National and Provincial/Territorial Aboriginal Sport organizations to develop solutions to barriers in targeted areas and to report on the progress at the 1999 F-P-T Ministers’ Conference.”

“To further the participation of Aboriginal athletes in the Canada Games and to support the North America Indigenous Games, the Federal and Provincial/Territorial Ministers direct their officials to work with their colleagues and Aboriginal organizations to discuss how the NAIG can be used in a framework for Aboriginal Sport development and to discuss various options for federal, provincial, territorial participation in and support of NAIG.”

The recommendations it presents were developed in response to these ministerial directions for cooperative sport development and funding frameworks.

Statement of Priorities

The Aboriginal Sport Circle, in consultation with the Provincial/Territorial Aboriginal Sport Bodies, has established the following priorities as a national strategy for Aboriginal sport development.

- i) Aboriginal Coaching Development
- ii) North American Indigenous Games
- iii) National and Provincial/Territorial Aboriginal Sport Bodies

The recommendations outlined in each priority area are intended to solicit and establish a co-operative, sustainable approach in addressing the barriers to Aboriginal sport.

III) ROLE OF NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL ABORIGINAL SPORT BODIES

The initiatives outlined under both Aboriginal coaching development and the North American Indigenous Games have been identified as intricate components of the Aboriginal sport delivery system. A system that at present can be characterized as being in its "transitional" stage of development. Much progress has been made over the past decade to mobilize for the purpose of consultation and implementation. What once was an informal, unstructured network of community sport leaders, has grown into a formal, structured network of Aboriginal sport bodies mandated by their communities to oversee sport development at all levels. These actions have laid the foundation for an effective, accountable infrastructure for Aboriginal Sport: a system that operates with the vision of building long-term sport and recreational opportunities to improve the lives of Aboriginal peoples.

Barriers

Of the thirteen (13) regions represented on the ASC, there are six (6) operational bodies with two (2) additional bodies being formed. Only three (3) Aboriginal sport Bodies receive core operating funds from their provincial governments, and one receives partial program support.

For Aboriginal people, increased access to sport programming is dependent on P/T Aboriginal Sport Bodies effectively operating in every region of Canada. These bodies are the delivery mechanism necessary for Aboriginal sport development and collaboration with mainstream sport at the national and

provincial/territorial levels. At present, there is no consistent funding base to support the operation of most of these bodies.

Recommendations on the National and Provincial/Territorial Aboriginal Sport Bodies

Recommendation #1

The Federal Government should provide ongoing funding to the ASC to sustain its administrative and program operations as a national multi-sport organization.

Recommendation #2

- a) Provincial/Territorial governments with existing Aboriginal Sport Bodies should provide adequate levels of annual core funding to sustain both administrative and program operations.
- b) Provincial/Territorial governments without an existing Aboriginal Sport Bodies, should work with the ASC to facilitate a process whereby the Aboriginal peoples of the region can establish a sport body, and upon its establishment, provide adequate levels of annual core funding to sustain both administrative and program operations.

Recommendation #3

Provincial/Territorial governments should encourage PSO's to work with the P/T Aboriginal Sport Bodies, within their region, to assist with athlete and coaching development in Aboriginal Communities.

In the spirit of these recommendations the Dene Nation and the Métis Nation – Northwest Territories strongly supports the formation of a partnership model of sports, recreation and culture mechanisms between Sports North and the Aboriginal Sports Circle of the Western Arctic.

NEWS RELEASE: Conference of Federal and Provincial-Territorial Ministers Responsible for Fitness, Recreation and Sport

A.4 Aboriginal Sport Circle

The Aboriginal Sport Circle (ASC) is Canada's first National Multi-Sport Service Organization exclusive to Aboriginal Peoples. The ASC was incorporated in May 1995. The Circle is recognized by the Federal Minister of Sport and is the official voice for Provincial/Territorial and Aboriginal sport and recreation bodies throughout Canada. The ASC includes Treaty and Status Indians, Métis and Inuit from all geographic regions of Canada, including urban and reserve. The ASC was created in response to a need to identify by Aboriginal people for accessible, equitable and affordable sport and recreation opportunities. Sport and recreation can play a crucial role in enhancing individual lifestyles and in addressing issues such as alcohol and substance abuse, unemployment, youth leadership development and culture.

The Aboriginal Sport Circle of the Western Arctic was incorporated under the Societies Act of the Northwest Territories on June 6, 1998. The purpose of the ASCWA is to promote all Aboriginal youth to live healthy, active, spiritual and productive lifestyles and to feel confident to participate in a sport activity of their choice at any level of competition. The ASCWA is to serve as a facilitating body whereby the Aboriginal communities of the Western Arctic work together in partnership to increase participation of Aboriginal youth at any level of sport. The ASCWA is to develop through training and competition, athletes and coaches for high level competitive events and to assist in funding events, purchasing equipment, necessary to effect its purpose.

B.1 Sport and Recreation Model



The Dene Nation and the Métis Nation – Northwest Territories are proposing a memorandum of understanding between Sport North and the Aboriginal Sport Circle to strengthen sport and recreation initiatives in the Northwest Territories allowing the parties flexibility on determining which party will take the lead on particular initiatives. The suggested sport and recreation model (B.1) supports both of the participating bodies yet clearly establish that vital link between both through the ASC/SN Joint Secretariat. The focus of the Secretariat would be the development of a partnership between both bodies and strengthening the goals, objectives and aspirations of both.

B.2 Sport and Recreation Responsibilities

Aboriginal Sport Circle:



The Aboriginal Sport Circle would be responsible for those sport and recreation activities that are more traditionally aboriginal in nature. Their representation would allow a greater focus on the development of the cultural importance these sport and recreation activities had to the Aboriginal people of the Western Arctic.

Sport North:



Sport North would be responsible for those sport and recreation activities that are not found in most of the Aboriginal communities.

ASCWA/SN Joint Secretariat:

ASCWA/SN Joint Secretariat

- **Hockey**
- **Soccer**
- **Basketball**
- **Curling**
- **Swimming**
- **Cross Country Skiing**
- **Volley Ball**
- **Badminton**
- **Shooting Sports**
- **Speed Skating**
- **Baseball/Softball**
- **Track & Field**
- **Sport Council Medicine**
- **Special Olympics**

The ASCWA/SN Joint Secretariat would be responsible for those sport and recreation activities that are found in most of the communities of the Western Arctic. The Joint Secretariat would work together to promote and develop the programs offered in these areas.

B.3 Principles

Three principles will guide this whole initiative:

1. The enhancement of sport and recreation at the community level is vital to positive cultural and personal development of all people in the Western Arctic.
2. That positive working relationships and open communication by all is essential if the delivery of sport and recreation programs to the communities is to be enhanced and developed.
3. That the development and delivery of sport and recreation programs must meet the needs of the communities in the Western Arctic and delivered at the community level.

B.4 Aboriginal Sport Circle Infrastructure Budget

To enable the development of this partnership model the Dene/Métis Nations must secure the financial and human resources to develop the infrastructure of the Aboriginal Sport Circle. The following budget for the 1999-2000 fiscal year would enable the immediate development of the Aboriginal Sport Circle of the Western Arctic.

Categories	Details	Subtotal	Total
Salaries	Executive Director	\$ 55 000.00	
	Sports/Recreation Specialist	\$ 50 000.00	
Benefits- 15%	Housing, EI etc.	\$ 15 750.00	\$120 750.00
Administrative Costs	Office rent Phone/Fax Office Supplies Internet Hookup Postage Computer	\$ 15 000.00	\$ 15 000.00
Staff Training	Proposal Writing Computer Training Management Skills	\$ 5 000.00	\$ 5 000.00
Travel & Accommodation	Board Meetings AGM Communities	\$ 45 000.00	\$ 45 00.00
Contingency			

	10% contingency fund	\$ 19 000.00	\$ 19 000.00
Grand Total			\$ 209 000.00