



SASKWATCH



AUGUST 3, 2008

Team Sask Floods Vancouver Island



Team Saskatchewan has crossed two borders and an ocean and arrived at the 2008 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) in the Cowichan tribal territory. Nine buses and numerous vehicles filled with over four hundred Team Saskatchewan athletes, coaches, coordinators, and mission staff have gathered in Cowichan to help defend Saskatchewan's title as five time NAIG champions, including the last games held in Denver in 2006. Competition begins Monday!

NAIG 2008 Leadership Awards

Prior to NAIG 2008, the host Cowichan, held a leadership awards banquet to acknowledge individuals responsible for the NAIG movement on July 31st, 2008. From Saskatchewan, Lorna and Eugene Arcand were presented with an Award and honored for their contribution from their involvement since 1990.

Eugene and Lorna joined the ranks of other founding members Willie Littlechild, Charles Wood and John Fletcher recognized during the NAIG Leadership awards. Also recognized for various roles in aboriginal sport were Don Cook, Alex Nelson, Harold Joseph, Sandra Roach, Sharon Firth, the North Shore Indians Lacrosse Team, the Duncan Native Sons, Harvey Alphonse, Alwyn Morris, and Chief Gibby Jacob.



Archery



Athletics



Badminton



Baseball



Basketball



Boxing



Canoeing



Field Lacrosse



Golf



Rifle Shooting



Soccer



Softball



Swimming



Tae Kwon Do



Volleyball



Wrestling





Opening Ceremonies & Parade of Nations

Opening Ceremonies starts at 12:00pm at the Si'em Le'lum Field in Duncan, BC. The events begin with entertainment at both Si'em Le'lum Field and along the parade route of James Street and Canada Avenue. At 1:00pm the Parade of Nations begins where each team will be lead by Tribal Journeys cultural participants along the parade route. At 2:00pm at Si'em Le'lum Field Chief Lydia Hwitsum and Elders of the Cowichan community will formally welcome each team to Cowichan Territory. The Games will be officially open when the Cowichan 2008 Spirit Pole is welcomed home and raised on Cowichan Territory.

Team Saskatchewan athletes Dane Sanderson (Volleyball) and Danny Stone (Athletics) and staff member Lorna Arcand will participate in the Pole Raising Ceremony.

Team Saskatchewan Official Team Merchandise will be available for sale at the Team Saskatchewan Office!

Opening Ceremony Important Notes

Athletes & Coaches:

- Team Sask parade preparations begin at 11:15am at each school. Please be on time. (Official games marshalling begins at 12:00pm at the Athlete Center.)
- Wear a hat and bring water.
- Please march 6 abreast and maintain this formation as we enter the final venue.
- This event will be televised. Please represent your province proudly!

Spectators:

- Entertainment starts at 12:00pm; Parade starts at 1:00pm;
- Parking is very limited; arrive early and expect to walk.
- Streets in the area will be closed at 12:00pm.
- Bring a lawn chair or blanket as there are no seats available.
- Wear a hat and bring water. There is no shade.

Team Sask Meet & Greet Night

Team Saskatchewan will be hosting a meet and greet night on Wednesday August 6th, 2008 at the Team Saskatchewan Office. The office is located in the Best Western Cowichan Valley Inn on the Trans Canada Highway in Duncan. This night is set aside for parents of our athletes and other interested individuals to meet the Team Saskatchewan coaches and mission staff. The event starts at 6:00pm and refreshments will be served.



**COWICHAN
2008**

North American Indigenous Games Team Saskatchewan Office
Best Western Cowichan Valley Inn
6474 Trans Canada Highway • Duncan, BC
Phone: (250) 748-2722



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NAIG 2008 Leadership Awards

Lorna Arcand Thank You Speech Transcript

To be honored with this distinguish group of warriors is most definitely a highlight, in a lifetime filled with some really great memories.

The North American Indigenous Games changed my life. Through the NAIG movement I have lived a dream. A dream that First Nations youth would become active and excel in mainstream sports programs.

Almost twenty years ago we discussed the negative issues that Indigenous communities continue to deal with today. We shared a belief that through sport culture and recreation we could provide a positive forum for Indigenous youth development.

Chief Wilton Littlechild, Charles Wood, the Late John Fletcher, we are forever grateful for the vision you shared with a few like minded individuals in Edmonton in 1989. At that time we didn't have restrictive policies to detract us from the real issue, our children, our future. We were all searching for ways to offer Indigenous youth opportunities that would help them to succeed in sport and in life.

Over the years the NAIG movement has experienced many challenges. Through the prayers of our elders and the determined efforts of many, the games continue. The Canadian sports system has acknowledged the positive benefits of supporting the movement by providing the host society and the Canadian contingents with financial resources.

While we appreciate and need the financial and technical support for the Indigenous Games, it must be understood that First Nations and Metis youth continue to suffer the effects of alcohol, drug abuse and other social ills at the community level. Many young people continue to fall through the cracks because our communities don't have the capacity to offer proper sport, culture and recreation programs.

Thanks to pioneers in Saskatchewan like the late Art Obey, Tony Cote, Ray Ahenakew and Milt Burns, in Saskatchewan our children continue to enjoy our own First Nations Winter and Summer Games. Participation numbers at these regional events are equal to the North American Indigenous Games. First Nations and Tribal Councils train community volunteers to provide all the services necessary to accommodate over 3,500 athletes and 1500 mission staff and coaches on an annual basis. For 35 years, Saskatchewan Games by and for First Nations people.

The North American Indigenous Games movement was a natural progression for Indigenous sport in Saskatchewan. Our children would have the opportunity to compete for a position on Team Saskatchewan and continue to train for competition on an international stage.

We appreciate the political and moral support of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan, with out our leadership Team Saskatchewan's success would not have been possible.

Thanks to the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority and the Saskatchewan corporate community who have provided the resources required for program development.

We are proud of the two year process of identification, selection and training that was designed by our own people with the financial and technical support of the Provincial Sport Governing bodies

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NAIG 2008 Leadership Awards

Lorna Arcand Thank You Speech Transcript (continued)

Families are encouraged to be actively involved through the First Aid, CPR and coaching certification programs offered by Sask Sport, qualifying them for volunteer positions on Indigenous Team Saskatchewan.

In 1994 Team Saskatchewan with the support and guidance of our elders developed and approved our team manual, I'm proud to see that the NAIG Host Society has incorporated many of those guidelines in the Code of Conduct for these games.

I'm honored to work beside young people like our Chef de Mission Courage Bear from Ochapowace Cree Nation and Mel Mercredi from Stoney Rapids Dene Nation, Director of the FSIN Sport, Culture and Recreation Program. Young First Nation men, who understand our differences, and respect the traditional ways of our people. Young men who have earned the credentials that are required to run the type of program that our children deserve.

A Sport program designed and developed by and for First Nations and Metis people at the community and regional level. That in my mind is what we set out to accomplish through the NAIG movement. Our own people, our own ways for our own children. We have the capabilities, we just have to believe and trust in our selves, each other and our people.

Indigenous people will ensure that my seven grandchildren enjoy the wonderful opportunities and experiences that the North American Indigenous Games provide.

I can't express the wonderful emotions that fill my heart when I walk with our team into the opening ceremonies. I understand that those feelings are shared by the many thousands of people who have experienced the thrill of participating at the North American Indigenous Games.

On a personal note, my life has been blessed by the love and support of a good man; we share a common desire to make a difference in the lives of our people.

Our children have enjoyed the fruits of our labor through their participation and involvement with NAIG. I have felt the excitement and pride of watching my daughter step on to the medal podium and watching my son dance the traditional dances of our people, at the opening ceremonies.

Eugene and I have devoted 20 years of our 36 years together to the NAIG movement. Part of those years were spent working with the NAIG Council and then back to where we started. Team Saskatchewan, truly a labor of love.

If we have helped one young person then our life's work has been worth every sacrifice.

Common Sense, mutual respect and a common desire to make a positive difference in the lives of our people that was the foundation for the North American Indigenous Games movement.

I share this honor with my family, friends and the Indigenous people of Saskatchewan. I'm humbled and I thank you.