# Arctic Winter Games

**An Exhibition Organized & Traveled by the Alaska State Museum**

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COVER PHOTOS: Arctic Winter Games enameled pins from the Alaska State Museum Collection 2004-44-14. Photo by Mark Daughhetee.
*(left to right) Victory lift, 1986:* Alaska State Library (ASL), PCA 399-0828; *Piggy-back ride:* ASL, PCA 399-0986; *Cross-country skier:* ASL, PCA 399-0141; *2-foot high kick:* ASL, PCA 399-0643.

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# Arctic Winter Games

**George V. Smith**

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**www.museums.state.ak.us**

PHOTO CREDITS: *(from top, clockwise)*
*Speed skating:* Arctic Winter Games International Committee, PhotoMagic Foto Source, Alberta;
*Native dancer:* Jesper Kunuk Egede, Greenland;
*Victory lift:* Alaska State Library, PCA 399-0828.

## Preface

This exhibit is the result of chance occurrences and obsessive collecting over the past thirteen years. In 1992, Wendy Shiffler, Chef de Mission for the Alaskan team in the Arctic Winter Games (AWG), asked me to join his staff for the Games in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. I was familiar with the Games since my older daughter had participated in 1986 on one of Alaska's indoor soccer teams. I also enjoyed working with youth in athletics, so I accepted Wendy's offer.

During my first week at the Arctic Winter Games, I was initially perplexed by, and then fascinated with, the frenzied pin collecting that occupied the free time of many participants. With only two days left in the Games, I decided to try my hand at this "sport" and, as we departed for Alaska, I left with a collection of about 70 of the 95 pins from the 1992 Games. I continued with Arctic Winter Games Team Alaska through the 2004 Games, first with the mission staff and then as a board member. My collection grew with each Games and, by the late 1990s, I became obsessed with a desire to put together the definitive collection of AWG pins.

In 1999, when I was visiting the Team Alaska office in Fairbanks, I noticed a huge file of office records and other materials. After being told that these were the records of Alaska's participation in the AWG from its beginnings, I suggested that we should organize the materials and find an archival institution to preserve them. The board

agreed and the Historical Collections of the Alaska State Library agreed to accept them. I spent many evenings during the next year organizing the records and creating a finding aid before depositing them in the Historical Collections.

While processing the records I came across old team uniforms, posters, and other memorabilia that more appropriately belonged in a museum, so I approached the Alaska State Museum to see if it would be interested in establishing an AWG collection. Because the AWG is one of the premier sporting and cultural events in Alaska, the museum staff asked me to pursue this effort. At this point, I began contacting current and former AWG staff and participants from all contingents seeking donations to fill out the collection. The response was overwhelming and the collection eventually grew to almost 300 items plus the pin collection.

In 2003 the Alaska State Museum asked if I would be willing to curate an AWG exhibit that would open at the 2006 Games, which would be returning to Alaska. Although I had never undertaken such a project, I agreed, knowing that the excellent museum staff would help me prepare the exhibit. While I amassed the collection, wrote the catalog and exhibit text, and chose many of the items to be displayed, the actual designs of the exhibit and catalog are due to the brilliance of Paul Gardinier, Exhibition Designer for the Alaska State Museum, and Laura Lucas, graphic designer. Their efforts wonderfully capture the passion of the Arctic Winter Games and my obsession for the little pins. The pin collection is a centerpiece of the exhibit and includes many generous donations that were added to my original collection.

This exhibit would not be possible without the cooperation of many people. Donations from the Arctic Winter Games Team Alaska office, Don Cather, Caroline Hudnall, Dick Larsen, and Patrick O'Donnell form the core of the museum's collection.

The collection was greatly strengthened through the contributions of the following people: Lisa Fuglestad Armstrong, Marcia Babcock Davis, Sheran Benerth, Becky Brocies, Pam Buckway, Bob Carr, Hannah Collins, Don Cooper, John Estle, Lisa Farber, Cliff Fuglestad, Glen Fuglestad, Janet Halvarsen, Michele Schiffkorn-Hansen, Ron Hatton, Debbie Holley-Brown, Bobbie Holst, Nancy Johnson, Nona Johnson, Dixon Jones, Karen Jones, Bernice Joseph, Tim Kinvig, Pat Kling, Jim McIntyre, Ian Legaree, Terry Martin, Dr. Sam McConkey, Peter Moore, Elwood Nash, Joe Nava, Holly Odegard, Al and Kay Olson, Randy Pitney, Larry Poland, Jim Pollock, Marilyn Porter, Brian Randazzo, Bill Reay, Gary Roth, Wendy Shiffler, Loren Smith, Elizabeth Spurr, Dave Stockdale, Judge Sen Tan, Lowell Thomas, Jr., Richard Underwood, Don Valesko, Dixie and Bill Waddell, Cal Waddington, Fred Van Wallinga, Jim Wissenhant, Bill and Loraine Young, and Phil Younker.

The following contributors lent objects for the exhibit: Wesley Dinnan, Merry Ellefson, Bill Reay, Guy Thibodeau, Greta Thibodeau and Sports Yukon.

Thank you to the following photographers, librarians and sources whose contributions enhance both the exhibit and the catalog: Cathie Archbould, Robin Armour and the Yukon Government, Carly Craig, Derek Crowe, Mark Daughhetee, Jesper Kunuk Egede, Mark Kelley, Gladi Kulp, Photo Magic Foto Source and Jim Simard.

I would like to extend a special thank you to the Friends of the Alaska State Museum, who provided significant support for the staging of the exhibit and the production of the catalog. Without their support, this exhibit would not have been possible.

George V. Smith
Exhibit Curator
Associate Deputy Director of State Programs
Institute of Museum and Library Services
Washington, D.C.

*Ken McKinnon, first president of the AWG Corporation; Walter Hickel, Governor of Alaska; and Malcom Fraser, first Director of the AWG Corporation, welcome Alaska's partnership in the Arctic Winter Games in 1968.*

THE ULU NEWS

First Arctic Winter Games off and running

*The second issue of* The Ulu News *covered the opening of the Games in 1970 in Yellowknife. Then Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau presided over the official ceremonies.*

*The Ulu News*, Vol. 1 Issue 2, March 10, 1970. Courtesy Sports Canada Directorate and Arctic WInter Games Host Society.

## Introduction

Unintentionally, the first Canada Winter Games, held in Quebec City in 1967, became the inspiration for the Arctic Winter Games. At those games, Cal Miller, the financial advisor for the Yukon team, watched his athletes lose decisively to their southern neighbors. Stuart Hodgson and James Smith, the Commissioners of the Northwest Territories (NWT) and the Yukon, shared his dismay. The men realized that the inadequate training and facilities in the North made it all but impossible for their small pool of athletes to compete at the national level so they developed the idea of staging a competition for northern athletes who were not at the elite level. The Honorable Walter Hickel, Governor of Alaska, enthusiastically embraced the idea and the three political entities established the Arctic Winter Games Corporation in 1968.

Their vision was not confined to athletic competition. They wanted a festival that also highlighted Northern culture and friendship among the participants. The corporation's logo of three interlocking rings symbolizes this philosophy: athletic competition, cultural exhibition, and social interchange.

Canada's Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau presided over the first Arctic Winter Games, staged in Yellowknife in 1970 with about 500 athletes, coaches, and officials participating in ten sports. The presence of the Prime Minister clearly reflected the importance of the Games for the Canadian North. Apparently, Alaska did not grasp the importance of the moment, so did not send a ranking official, which is said to have offended the hosts. The 1970 Games were a huge success, with half of Yellowknife's population attending the closing ceremony.

In 1972 Whitehorse hosted the Games and, with 900 participants, the event almost doubled in size. Northern Quebec and Greenland sent small official contingents to participate in several of the 12 sports. Unfortunately, the athletes from Greenland arrived late due to inclement weather en route. Labrador and the Soviet Union sent observers.

In 1974 Anchorage hosted the AWG, which had expanded to 16 sports and 950 participants. These Games inaugurated a number of events that have become signatures of the AWG: a lighted torch, central to the opening and closing ceremonies, burned throughout the week; all the contingents wore team uniforms for the ceremonies, some of them quite colorful; Native culture took center stage with dance performances and Inuit sports were added. Today Inuit sports are the most popular spectator sports of the Games.

The Anchorage host society received praise for its organization, but the site also came in for criticism for being too large and too spread out, thus losing the feel of the small town coziness of

the North. Apparently the 1974 event was also the Games that began focusing on officials and other VIPs to the detriment of the spirit and purpose intended by the original organizers.

In 1976 Schefferville, Quebec, hosted the Games. Due to the small population of the community, the size of the Games had to be reduced to 13 sports and 700 participants. The Alaska contingent had great difficulty getting to Schefferville, having to stay over in Montreal for an extended period before reaching its destination. Unfortunately, the Northern Quebec contingent dropped its participation after the 1976 Games, because of the high cost of travel to the other sites. While it did send a small contingent in 1986, Northern Quebec did not permanently rejoin the Games until 2000. Only the three founding contingents of Alaska, NWT, and Yukon competed in the Games from 1978 through 1984.

In 1978 the Games returned to the Northwest Territories, this time to Hay River and Pine Point. The two towns, 60 miles apart, were connected by rail, the first passenger railroad service in NWT. The two sites shared the 14 sports, but Hay River hosted the opening and closing ceremonies in a "stadium" constructed of stacked railroad cargo containers. The number of participants, at 700, was again below the 1972-1974 levels, due to the limited facilities. However, the lavish receptions and gift-giving reached their height during these Games and brought a

PHOTO CREDITS: *(clockwise)*
*Lighting the torch*: Cathie Archbould;
*(Ghosted photo) Arctic Winter Games flame at Alaskaland:* Alaska State Library, PCA 399-0809;
*Parade:* ASL, PCA 399-0371;
*Miss Kenai:* ASL, PCA 399-0404.

*Felt pennants from Alaska State Museum collection (left to right) 2004-68-21, 20, 19, 22.*

scathing rebuke from the press, who wondered if the Games were being staged for the athletes and cultural groups or for state and territorial officials. In response, the Arctic Winter Games Corporation established limits on receptions and gift-giving for future Games. These restrictions continue today, although the number of receptions during a Games can still seem overwhelming.

Whitehorse (1980, 1986, and 1992), Fairbanks (1982 and 1988), and Yellowknife (1984 and 1990) shared the next seven Games. There were three major trends during this period. First, the number of sports increased from 14 in 1978 to 17 or 18 during the period from 1986 to 1992. Second, participation immediately returned to the 900 level and rose to 1,000 by 1986. Third, as the Games became better known, other contingents clamored to join this popular biennial event. These included Northern Alberta (1986); Greenland (1990); and Magadan, Russia (1992). All three have maintained their participation in the Games.

In 1994 Slave Lake, Alberta, hosted greatly expanded Games. In spite of its small population, the community managed to provide venues for 20 sports and housed 1,600 participants, which included a small contingent from Tyumen, Russia, and, for the first time, a complete contingent from the host Alberta North team. Tyumen remained in the Games through 1998.

Chugiak-Eagle River hosted the 1996 Games. These two communities, just outside of Anchorage, maintained the feeling of smallness that is a part of the spirit of the Games. However, the 1996 Games were hardly small. Again, there were 20 sports and 1,600 participants. In terms of organizational structure and the number of volunteers, these Games set a new standard for staging. The increasing number of participants and the continued requests from other entities to join, however, became a concern for the organization. If the Games continued to grow, only a few communities would have resources adequate to stage them. The debate over limiting size began to take shape: Should the number of contingents be restricted or should the adult-level teams be phased out of the Games?

In 1998 and 2000, the Games returned to Yellowknife and Whitehorse respectively, sites of the first two AWG. In 1998, participation and number of sports continued at the 1996 level, except that alpine skiing could not be held for lack of a hill. In 2000, several sports were dropped and snowboarding made its first appearance. The big news, however, was the addition of three contingents: Nunavut, the new Inuit territory carved out of the eastern part of the NWT; Nunavik (Northern Quebec), returning from its hiatus of 14 years; and Chukotka, Russia, replacing Tyumen.

The 2002 Games, staged in two different contingent areas — Nuuk, Greenland, and Iqaluit, Nunavut — broke precedent. The logistics posed a number of challenges for everyone including the International Committee, the teams, and the host societies. However, the Games came off with few problems and the experiences of being in sites that are quite different from the usual hosting cities were treasured by most participants. The two sites shared the 17 sports, with each of them hosting participants in the very popular Inuit and Dene sports. It was also at these Games that the International Committee's decision to eliminate all adult teams, other than for the Inuit and Dene games, took effect.

Alberta hosted the 2004 Games, this time in Fort McMurray, the center of the province's "oil sands" region. Due to its size, the community easily handled 20 sports and the almost 1,800 participants. It also welcomed two new contingents: the multi-national Sami contingent, that participated in only a few sports but had a pronounced presence in cultural performances; and Yamal, Russia, which replaced Chukotka.

In 2006 the Games returned to Alaska, where they were staged in the Kenai Peninsula. The cities of Kenai, Soldotna, and Homer, and the Alyeska ski area provided the venues for the 20 sports.

# Arctic Winter Games

Colored pennants indicate host cities for the Arctic Winter Games.

## Contingents & Venues

## CONTINGENTS

**ALASKA** has been a permanent member of the Arctic Winter Games since 1970 and has participated in every Arctic Winter Games since then.

**GREENLAND** has been part of every Arctic Winter Games since 1990. Greenland hosted the event in its capital Nuuk for the first time in 2002.

The **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES** has been a permanent member of the Arctic Winter Games since 1970 and has participated in every Arctic Winter Games.

**NORTHERN ALBERTA** has participated in every Arctic Winter Games since 1986, and became a permanent member in 1988.

**YUKON** has been a permanent member of the Arctic Winter Games since 1970 and has participated in every Arctic Winter Games.

**NUNAVIK-QUEBEC** (also known as Arctic Quebec) participated in the ArcticWinter Games in 1972, 1974, 1976 and 1986. Its participation resumed in 2000.

**NUNAVUT** became a permanent member of the Arctic Winter Games in 2000. Prior to that Nunavut participated as part of Team NWT.

In 2004 the **SAMI** people sent its first contingent to participate in cross-country skiing, biathlon, snowshoeing, and cultural activities.

**RUSSIA** sent cultural delegates to the Arctic Winter Games for the first time in 1990 and has sent contingents of athletes and cultural performers since 1992. Yamal made its first appearance at the Arctic Winter Games in 2004.

# Organization of The Games

*The International Committee awards gold, silver, and bronze ulu (an Eskimo cutting tool) medals to the top three competitors in each event. Athletes highly prize their ulus which they receive at an impressive ceremony, reminiscent of those staged at the Olympics. As the week wears on, one sees more and more ulus hanging around necks of very proud youth.*

Photo courtesy AWG Committee, PhotoMagic Foto Source, Alberta.

## International Committee

The Arctic Winter Games Corporation incorporated in 1968 under both Canadian and Alaskan law and each of the founding entities appointed two members to the board. As the number of participating contingents expanded, the board added additional members. Today, contingents fielding a full slate of teams and paying full membership fees have two board members each. These include Alaska, Alberta North, Greenland, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Yukon. All other participating jurisdictions attend under Invited Guest status and are not represented on the International Committee. In 1992 the corporation changed its name to the Arctic Winter Games International Committee to reflect its increasing international character and to avoid confusion with other Games organizations.

The AWG International Committee is responsible for the overall conduct of the Games. This includes selecting the site where each Games is held, selecting sports and the rules of play, deciding which contingents will be added to the Games, and ensuring that the spirit of the Games is maintained. In choosing a site, the International Committee carefully considers whether the community is capable of staging

Photo by Robin Armour, Yukon Government.

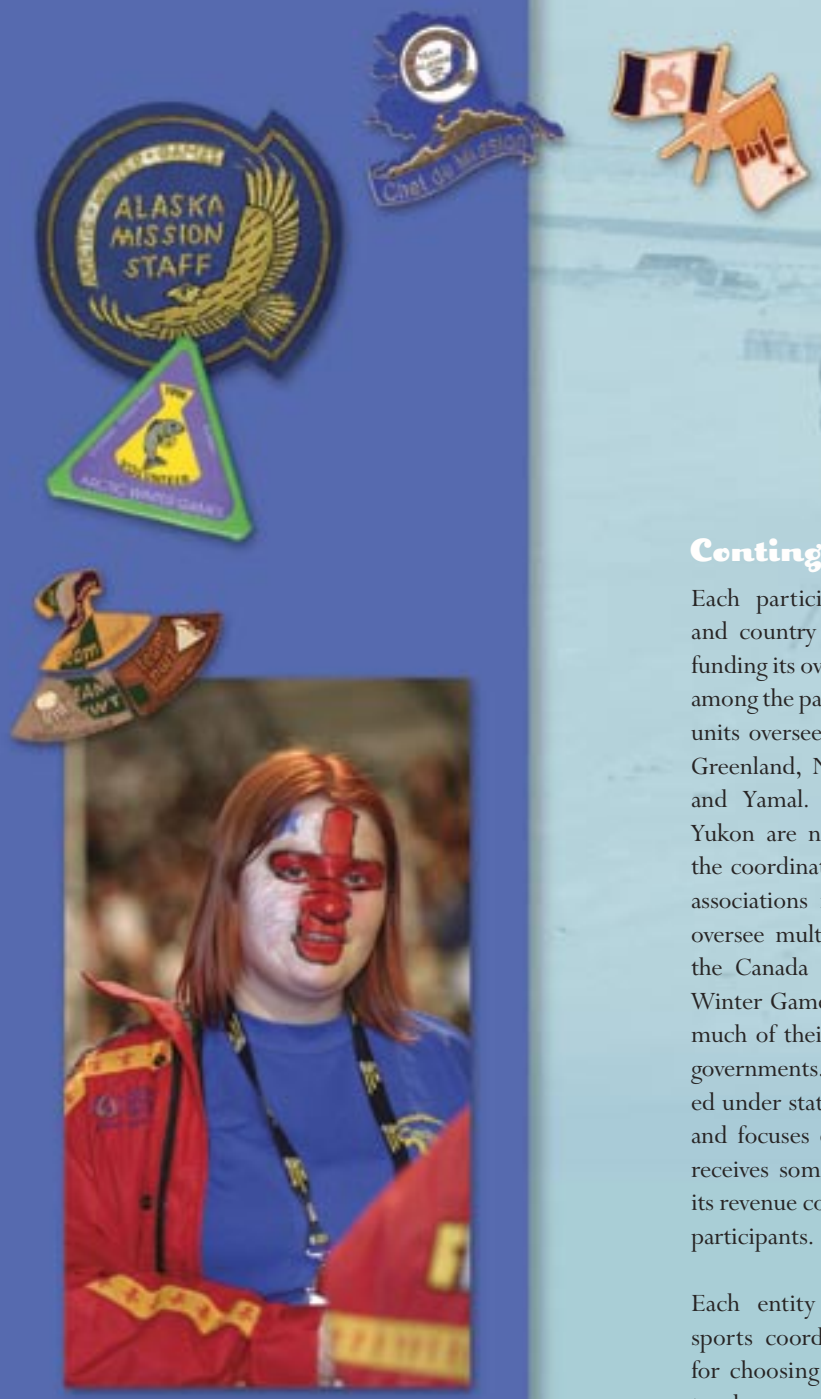
the Games and whether it will embrace the philosophy of the organization. At the same time, the Committee believes that the AWG should be a catalyst for improving sport and recreational facilities in the North. It has certainly been the driving force for such improvements over the years, particularly in Fairbanks (1982), Nuuk and Iqaluit (2002), and the Kenai Peninsula (2006).

From the very beginning of the Games, the AWG International Committee recognized the importance of volunteers, staff, and government officials to the success of the biennial event. As early as 1974 it had produced a medallion for coaches, and there may have been similar ones for other groups. In 1978 it began presenting framed plaques with the gold, silver, bronze, and staff ulus and International Committee pins to the official governmental representative from each contingent area, Chefs de Mission, and other persons who made important contributions to the Games. Mission staff members received the staff ulu. In the same year, Stuart Hodgson, one of the founding members of the AWG, donated a trophy to the organization to award to the contingent that best exemplified the spirit of fair play and team spirit. The trophy, the only trophy awarded during the Games, is a seven-foot narwhal tusk on a soapstone base with soapstone carvings and is known as the Hodgson Trophy. Initially, the winning contingent took the trophy home at the conclusion of the Games and returned it two years later. However, the fragility of the narwhal tusk and the legal difficulty of transporting it across international borders led to the decision in 1984 to permanently place it in the Sport North Federation office in Yellowknife. In the late 1990s, the International Committee voted to move the trophy to the Yukon Sport Museum in Whitehorse so that it could be seen by more people, including those traveling the Alaska Highway. The winning contingent does receive a large framed color print of the trophy and, beginning in 1996, each member of the winning contingent has received a Hodgson Trophy pin.

In 1996 the International Committee added a Fair Play pin to its annual production of games-specific pins. International Committee members, officials, and Mission staff award these pins to athletes who best exhibit the objectives of fair play and team spirit. They are very limited in number and highly prized by the recipients.

*Volunteer and staff badges and ribbons, Alaska State Museum collection (left to right) 2004-33-3, 8, 10.*

*Members of the winning contingent of the Hodgson Trophy take home a framed color picture of the award, a seven-foot narwhal whale tusk with soapstone carvings.*




*Athlete displays Nunavut pride with her artful face painting of its flag.*

**Photo courtesy PhotoMagic Foto Source, Alberta.**

## Contingents

Each participating state, territory, province, and country is responsible for organizing and funding its own program. How this is done varies among the participants. In general, governmental units oversee and directly fund the teams from Greenland, Nunavut, Alberta North, Magadan, and Yamal. Sport North (NWT) and Sport Yukon are non-profit corporations that act as the coordinating agencies for the various sports associations in their respective territories and oversee multi-sport events, such as the AWG, the Canada Summer Games, and the Canada Winter Games. Traditionally they have received much of their funding for the AWG from their governments. AWG Team Alaska is incorporated under state law, has a volunteer board of 12, and focuses exclusively on the AWG. While it receives some funding from the state, most of its revenue comes from sponsors, donations, and participants.

Each entity is responsible for choosing its sports coordinators, coaches, and procedures for choosing athletes. It also chooses the cultural groups who perform at the Games. At the Games each team has a Mission staff of 10 to 12 persons, headed by a Chef de Mission, who are responsible for managing operations and the conduct of its contingent members.

Mission staff members of many of the contingents are government employees and participation in the AWG is a major function of their jobs. The structure of AWG Team Alaska is quite different. Only the Chef de Mission is an employee of the corporation. All other members of the Mission staff are volunteers, as are the coaches. For the first four Games, Alaska did not even have a corporation to organize its teams. This responsibility fell to one of its International Committee members, usually Al Olson who, with his wife Kay, organized Team Alaska. As the Games grew, this became an impossible task and the Arctic Winter Games Corporation of Alaska was formed in 1977. It changed its name to Arctic Winter Games Team Alaska in 1992. Sport Yukon (1973) and Sport North (1976) incorporated even earlier in response to their broader roles of coordinating a number of sports and competitions in Canada.

*(Ghosted photo above)* Photo by Robin Armour, Yukon Government.

Photo by Robin Armour, Yukon Government.

Photo by Derek Crowe, Whitehorse.

Photo courtesy of Carly Craig.

## Host Societies

A host society is responsible for staging a particular Games. A host society is usually a non-profit organization, incorporated after a city is awarded the games, that continues for several months after the completion of those Games. It is overseen by a board and usually has three to five paid staff members and, in recent years, thousands of volunteers.

The host society is responsible for procuring funds to hold the Games, a not inconsiderable sum in recent years. While $400,000 covered the 1970 Games, the cost is currently in the $4 to $5 million range. In addition to organizing the sports venues, transportation, medical facilities, communications, and the opening and closing ceremonies, the host society must provide housing and food for all the participants. Without a huge corps of volunteers, the AWG could not succeed.

Alaska State Library, PCA 399-0828.

# Athletic Competition

The impetus for the creation of the Arctic Winter Games was to provide the non-elite athlete an opportunity to compete with peers in an international environment. When choosing which sports to include, the International Committee tries to select sports that are identifiably Northern or have a high participation level among the various contingents. In recent years, the Committee has also made a very conscious effort to bring parity for female athletes by adding distaff contingents in hockey, wrestling, and Dene games. The International Committee has selected well from the very first Games in putting together a sporting program that is both competitive and appealing in its diversity. Eight of the ten sports selected for the inaugural Games are staples in today's Games, as are 13 of the 15 from the 1980 Games. Only one sport, snowboarding, has been added since 1988. Since 1990 the number of sports has varied from 17 to 20, depending on the facilities available in the host community.

Over the course of 18 Games, 27 sports have made an appearance. The 20 sports most seriously considered for the Games today are: alpine skiing, badminton, basketball, cross-country skiing, curling, Dene Games, dog mushing, figure skating, gymnastics, hockey, indoor soccer, Inuit Games, ski biathlon, snowboarding, snowshoe biathlon, snowshoeing, speed skating, table tennis, volleyball, and wrestling. Sports tried but now abandoned were: archery (1974), boxing (1970 and 1974), broomball (1988), Judo (1972-1982), silhouette shooting (1970-1996), ski marathon (1990), and

*(Ghosted photo below)* Alaska State Library, PCA 399-0865.

Alaska State Library, PCA 399-1053.

triathlon (1984-1990). Perhaps the most controversial sport dropped was silhouette shooting, which had been a perennial favorite of the Alaskan contingent but lost favor with the other participants.

The majority of the sports currently in the Games are immediately recognizable throughout North America, Russia, and Greenland, and many people have at least a passing familiarity with their rules and strategies. Among these, one would likely include alpine and cross-country skiing, badminton, basketball, figure skating, gymnastics, hockey, indoor soccer, snowboarding, speed skating, table tennis, volleyball, and wrestling. Wrestling includes both free and Inuit styles, with the latter restricted to upper-body wrestling. In 2002 five weight classes in free style were added for female grapplers. While the competitive level among participants across contingents has been on a par for some sports throughout the history of the Games, the AWG has had a profound impact on the development of several others. The competitive level of table tennis has risen markedly since the entrance of the Greenlandic players in 1990. The speed skaters from the NWT have improved that sport.

PHOTO CREDITS: (*left to right*)
*Archery:* Alaska State Library, PCA 399-0487;
*Speed skaters:* Cathie Archbould;
*Table tennis:* Alaska State Library, PCA 399-0315;
*Cross-country skier:* Alaska State Library, PCA 399-0141.

Photo by Robin Armour, Yukon Government.

## Basketball

The most interesting impact of a contingent on a sport has been Alaska on the basketball court. Basketball has been one of Alaska's premier sports since the early twentieth century and it is played even in the smallest villages. The sport appeared in the first Games, but was eliminated after the 1982 Games because of the overwhelming dominance of all four Alaskan teams. After seven Games the teams had won all but one gold ulu, often winning by margins of more than 100 points. While Alaskans cried foul over the sport's elimination, basketball enthusiasts from the NWT and the Yukon were the ones who really demanded its return. They contended that the AWG was one of the few venues where they could play against superior teams that would then enable them to improve their game. Basketball returned for the 1986 Games with a lower age limit for the Alaskan players. While Alaskan teams continued to dominate for the next ten years, their dominance was less pronounced. In the last several Games, the level of play among Canadian teams has risen so much that Alaska is no longer guaranteed a ticket to the gold ulu game. There is even talk of eliminating the age differential to ensure parity for Alaska.

*(Ghosted photo above)* Photo by Robin Armour, Yukon Government.

Photos courtesy PhotoMagic Foto Source, Alberta.

## Curling, Dog Mushing & Snowshoeing

Some of the remaining seven sports (curling, Dene, dog mushing, Inuit, ski and snowshoe biathlons, and snowshoeing) are well known among some groups. Curling is as familiar to a Canadian as baseball is to a U.S. citizen. The ski biathlon is known to a devoted Winter Olympics follower, and snowshoe biathlon is simply a variant of that sport. For snowshoeing, imagine sprinters or medium-distance runners and then put snowshoes on their feet and have them run on packed snow. Dog mushing competition in the AWG is the sprint type, with four-dog teams, quite unlike the distance races exemplified by the Iditarod and Yukon Quest.

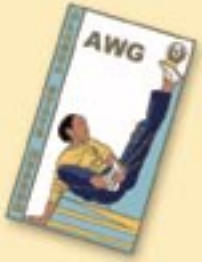
PHOTO CREDITS: *(from left, clockwise)*
*Snowshoer:* Jesper Kunuk Egede, Greenland;
*(Ghosted photo) Snowshoers:* Carlie Craig;
*Dog mushing:* PhotoMagic Foto Source, Alberta;
*Curling:* Cathie Archbould.

# Inuit & Dene Sports

The premier sports, particularly for spectators, and what really sets the AWG apart from other winter competitions, are the Inuit and the Dene games. Actually, there are a number of distinct events encompassed in these two groupings and all are representative of traditional forms of competition and activities of the Eskimo (Inuit) and interior Native (Dene) cultures. While all other sports in the Games now focus exclusively on youth, the Inuit and Dene games have retained adult competition. One of the major reasons for this decision is that there are very few opportunities for young people to receive coaching from experienced athletes or to learn the traditions that accompany the sports. One tradition of special note, particularly in the Inuit Games, is the technical assistance and advice that an athlete is expected to, and, in fact, does give to his or her rival during competition. While winning is important, the higher value is to help an athlete achieve her or his best possible result.

The Dene games include five events: the finger pull, pole push, stick pull, snow snake, and hand games. The first three events are tests of strength and strategy. The finger pull is painful to watch and just plain painful if one is a competitor. An ice bucket is always close by for the competitors to plunge their hands into after a grueling round. The snow snake consists of throwing a spear underhanded along a snow field. The longest throw wins. Perhaps the most fascinating and certainly the most perplexing event in the entire Games are the hand games. Two teams of four face each other and take turns trying to deceive the other about the location of a token in one team member's hand. This is accompanied by drum beating and bodily gyrations. Introduced to the Games in 1990, Dene was a males-only sport until 2004.

The Inuit Games, officially introduced into the Games in 1974, include 11 events: the one-foot, two-foot, and Alaska high kicks; arm pull; kneel jump; airplane; one-hand reach; head pull; knuckle hop; sledge jump; and triple jump. Collectively, each of these sports requires some combination of strength, conditioning, technique, and a high tolerance for pain. The knuckle hop is the Inuit equivalent to the Dene finger pull. A competitor "hops" along the floor on toes and knuckles until he collapses. The longest distance wins. In 1986 Rodney Worl from Alaska set the record of 191 feet 10 inches.



*(left) Brian Randazzo set a new standard for the one- and two-foot high kick events.*

Alaska State Library, PCA 399-0826.

The most watched events during almost any Games are the one- and two-foot high kicks. The venues usually have standing room only from mid-morning until late into the night, when the last champion finally emerges. The precision required of the prescribed take-off and landing; and the touching of a small, suspended, seal-shaped (Canadian) or round (Alaskan) ball with the toe are electrifying. Some of the men's and women's AWG records for these events are also the current world records. In 1986 Brian Randazzo from Alaska participated in his first Games and immediately transformed these two events. He dominated them for ten years and retired after the 1996 Games. Along the way, he set the AWG and world record of 9 feet 6 inches for the one-foot high kick and 8 feet 8 inches for the two-foot high kick, both in 1988. In 2004 Jesse Frankson from Point Hope, Alaska finally broke the one-foot record at the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics by reaching 9 feet 8 inches.

PHOTO CREDITS:
*(Ghosted photo above) 2-Foot high kick:* ASL, PCA 399-0826;
*(left to right)*
*Armpull female:* Cathie Archbould;
*Armpull:* Jesper Kunuk Egede;
*Kneel jump:* Cathie Archbould.

# A Guide to the Inuit and Dene Games

## Inuit Games

**1. Arm Pull** Two competitors sit on the floor facing each other and lock right arms at the bent elbow, with their left hands holding their opponent's right ankle. The left leg is straight and the right leg is bent over the opponent's straightened leg. (Positions are reversed for the left arm pull.) Competitors pull steadily at the elbow while bracing their opposite hands on their opponent's ankle. The object is to pull the opponent over or touch the opponent's hand to one's chest.

**2. One-Foot High Kick** The competitor starts with a running orstanding approach with feet no more than a shoulder width apart at take off. The suspended target must be struck by one foot and land on that same foot while maintaining balance and control.

**3. Two-Foot High Kick** The competitor starts with a running or standing approach with feet no more than shoulder width apart at take off. The target must be clearly struck while both feet are parallel. Maintaining balance and control, the competitor must land on both feet at the same time, no more than a shoulder width apart.

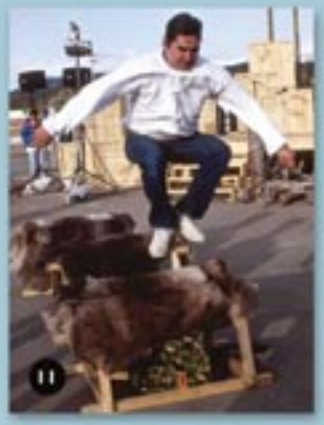
**4. One-Hand Reach** In the starting position the competitor must brace himself with the elbow of the balancing arm tucked into the body. The competitor begins by lifting his feet off the floor while balancing on his hands. With one hand the competitor reaches up to strike the target while maintaining his balance on the other hand. The striking hand must touch the ground before any other part of the body does so. (Males only)

**5. Knuckle Hop** The competitor "hops" along the floor on toes and knuckles until he collapses. The longest distance wins. In 1986, Rodney Worl from Alaska set the record of 191 feet 10 inches. (Males only)

**6. Airplane** The competitor lies on the floor, face down, with arms straight out in an "iron cross" position. Four assistants lift the competitor two to three feet off of the floor and carry him forward at a constant speed. When the competitor's body or arms begin to sag, he drops. Longest distance before dropping wins. (Males only)

**7. Head Pull** Two competitors lie on the floor, their stomachs facing each other. A looped band is placed over the back of each head above the ears. Rising to a "push-up" position with only hands and feet touching the floor, the athletes pull with their heads, bracing their hands out in front and using their whole body strength to pull steadily backward. The object is to pull the opponent over a line that is drawn between them. (Males only)

**8. Alaskan High Kick** The competitor sits on the floor below a target with



## Dene Games

one hand grasping the opposite foot. With the other hand planted on the floor, the athlete springs up and attempts to kick the target with the free foot. After kicking the target, the competitor must land on the same side of one's body. Height is the objective.

**9. Kneel Jump** The competitor begins in a kneeling position, with buttocks resting on one's heels, toes pointed backward, and hands on knees. From this position, he then jumps as far forward as possible, lands on his feet in a squatting position, and maintains balance.

**10. Triple Jump** Using a running or standing start, the competitor completes three consecutive jumps. Feet must stay no more than shoulder width apart. The shortest distance from the back of the starting line to the nearest point touched by any part of the competitor's body wins.

**11. Sledge Jump** From a standing position, the athlete jumps consecutively over 10 sledges placed parallel to each other, turns around using one jumping movement, and then jumps back over the 10 sledges. Jumps must be executed in a continuous action with legs no more than a shoulder width apart and executed without falling to the ground or touching the sledges with any part of the body above the waist.

**12. Stick Pull** Competitors have three chances to pull a greased stick out of the opponent's hand. The stick must be kept horizontal at all times and may not be twisted or turned.

**13. Finger Pull** The object of this game is to straighten the opponent's finger or to force the opponent to concede. If neither occurs, the competitor who is designated the defensive player prior to the match is the winner.

**14. Pole Push** Two teams of four grasp the opposite ends of a pole and try to push their opponents out of the ring. The pole must stay between the shoulder and the hip. Teams must push forward at all times, with no letting go of the pole or moving up on the pole. The best two out of three wins the event.

**15. Snowsnake** The object of this game is to throw a spear underhand on the surface of the snow for distance.

**16. Hand Games** In these games of deception, two teams of four take turns hiding tokens in their hands. The object is to make the opposition incorrectly guess the location of the tokens.

PHOTO CREDITS:
No.1: Derek Crowe;
No. 15: Jesper Kunuk Egede, Greenland;
Nos. 2, 3, 4, 7, 11, 14, 16: Robin Armour, Yukon Gov't;
Nos. 6, 8, 12, 13: Cathie Archbould;
Nos. 9, 10: Arctic Winter Games International Committee, PhotoMagic Foto Source, Alberta;
No. 5: Mark Kelley.

# Celebrating Culture

Cultural exhibition is one of the underlying purposes of the Arctic Winter Games, and from its inception this has meant promoting the uniquely Northern aspects of culture. The Games have become a showcase primarily, although not exclusively, of the wide-ranging Native cultures of the North. Siberian, Yup'ik, Inuit, and Greenlandic Eskimo; Dene, Aleut/Alutiiq; and Northwest Coast groups, among others, have performed over the course of the nineteen Games. Non-Native performers have included folk and country singers from across the North and the New Archangel dancers from Sitka. Most performers, however, are groups closely associated with the Native communities where they live. The emphasis is now on youth performance groups, in keeping with the overall emphasis on the Games being dedicated to the youth in the North.

Each contingent brings a cultural group as part of its delegation. In addition, the host society normally schedules a wide variety of performers in its various programs, which include the impressive opening and closing ceremonies. Some of these performers, along with the groups from the contingents, offer short daytime programs during the week and are the spotlights of the gala evening performances. The enthusiasm of the performers is contagious and the variety of the programs, impressive. On a given night, one might experience throat singers from Greenland, Native drummers from throughout the North, Sami dancers, and folk singers from the Yukon and Alaska.

*Multi-lingual bumperstickers in Athabascan and Iñupiaq declare "Happiness is living in the North Country."*

*(left)* Photo by Jesper Kunuk Egrede, Greenland.

PHOTO CREDITS:
*(Ghosted photo below) Drummer,* Robin Armour, Yukon Government;
*(top to bottom, left to right)*
*Drummer:* Cathie Archbould; *Tlingit dancer:* Cathie Archbould;
*Fan dancer:* ASL, PCA 399-0782;
*Man in traditional garb:* AWG Committee, PhotoMagic Foto Source, Alberta;
*Russian contingent:* Robin Armour, Yukon Government;
*Scottish dancers:* Robin Armour, Yukon Government;
*Woman dancer:* AWG Committee, PhotoMagic Foto Source, Alberta.

# The Art of the Games

While host societies often encourage local artists to display and sell their work during the Games and contingents occasionally display arts and crafts from their areas, the art of the Games revolves around logos, mascots, posters, and flags specifically designed for the Games. The hallmark logo of the Games, of course, is that of the Arctic Winter Games itself: the three interlocking circles on a field of blue represent the purposes for the Games. This logo was slightly modified in 1994 with the addition of a wavy background, representing the aurora borealis. Some logos identify the various contingents: the Inukshuk for Nunavut, three-legged polar bear for the NWT, the sunburst for Alberta North, or the eagle for Alaska. Beginning (most likely) in 1976 every host society has developed a distinctive logo for its own Games. Initially, logos were used primarily on publicity, brochures, and flags. In more recent years, they have become the centerpieces on a wide array of memorabilia.

*(above)*
*Pins with contingent logos for teams: Alaska (eagle), Nunavut (inukshuk), Alberta (sunburst), and Northwest Territories (polar bear).*
*Alaska State Museum collection 2004-44-14.*

*Logos and mascots for the following years appear below from left to right:*
*1974 AWG 3 Rings*
*1976 Ptarmigan*
*1978 Inukshuk*
*1980 Paddlewheel*
*1982 Husky*
*1984 Raven with Hat*
*1986 Shulu the Ram*
*1988 Athlete and Bear*
*1990 Knifee*
*1992 Padi the Sternwheeler*
*1994 Inukshuk*
*1996 Fish*
*1998 Husky*
*2000 Awgie*
*2002 Qunga & Tuttu the Caribous*
*2004 Buddy the Bull*
*2006 Raven*

In 1986 the Whitehorse Host Society introduced the first live mascot, a ram named "Shulu." Live mascots have become a "must" for every Games since then and are sometimes more identifiable with a given Games than is the logo. This was particularly the case at the 1988 Games in Fairbanks. The host society committee was divided over which of two designs it should adopt as the logo: an athlete with up-stretched arms or a Max Headroomesque polar bear in a stocking cap. Most members wanted the bear, but one member insisted on the athlete because the bear was "too trendy" and eventually he wore down the rest of the committee. The athlete became the logo and the bear became the unofficial mascot. Both were put on merchandise: the bear heavily out sold the athlete.

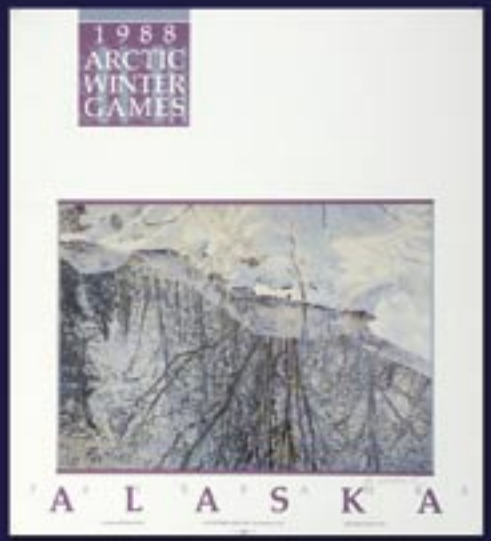
PHOTO CREDITS: *(above, clockwise)*
*Raven and Knifee:* Robin Armour, Yukon Government.
*Tuttu:* Derek Crowe, Whitehorse;
*Shulu:* Alaska State Library, PCA 399-0970;
*Yukon Flag and fans:* Robin Armour, Yukon Government;
*(Ghosted photo below)*
*Tuttu and group:* Derek Crowe, Whitehorse.

Flags are ubiquitous at every Games and come from the International Committee, the contingent states, territories and countries, and, very importantly, the host societies. The first identifiable host society flag dates from the 1978 Games in Hay River/Pine Point. The only Games with more than one flag design was in 2002, when both Nuuk and Iqaluit were hosts. In 1986, 1988, and 1992 the Team Alaska Mission staff created spectacular team flags.

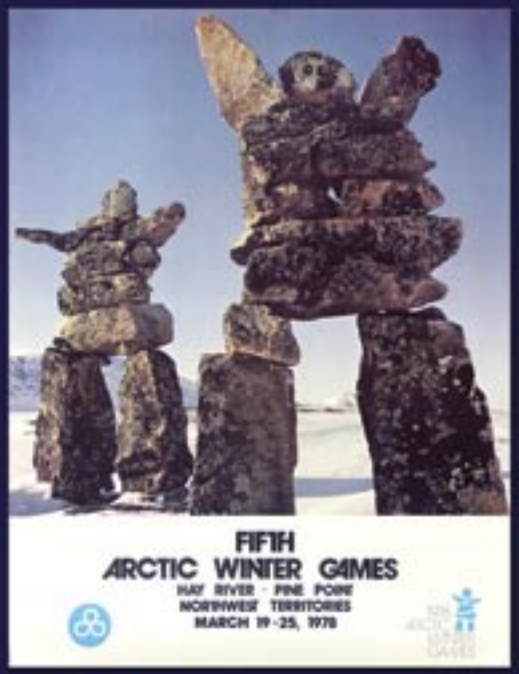
## Posters

Posters made their appearance in 1978 and every host society since then, except for Fort McMurray, has produced at least one. While all posters promote a given Games, the styles are quite varied and sometimes reflect artistic trends of their period. A number of the posters have been designed by well-known regional artists.

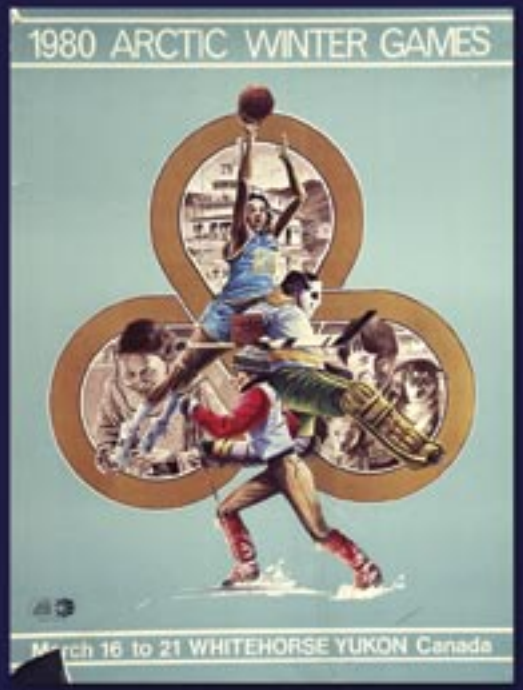
2004-57-23




2004-57-28




2004-57-21




2004-57-32

2004-57-24

2004-57-35

2004-57-27

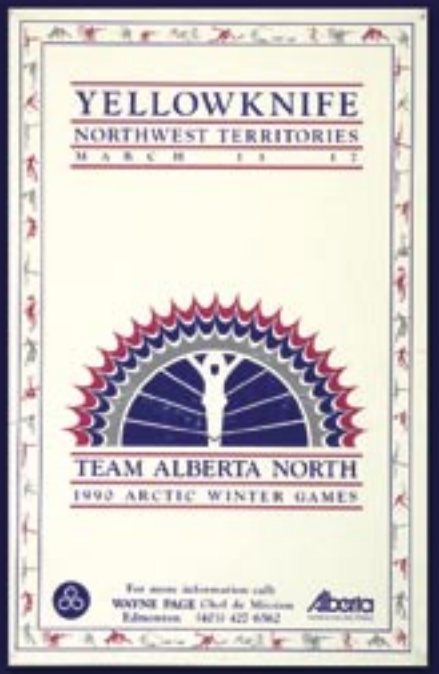
2004-57-40

2004-57-39

2004-57-31

2004-57-25

2004-57-36




2004-57-30

Photo by Derek Crowe.

# Pin Trading: The 21st Sport

Often referred to as the twenty-first sport of the Arctic Winter Games, pin trading is a fascinating and, for more than a few, an addictive pursuit. For some, the attraction of trading is as simple as the desire to take home souvenirs from the Games. For others, there is the compelling need to possess every "official" pin from the Games. This sport is not restricted to the young; some of the most serious collectors are adults who have participated in the Games, in some capacity, over the years. A circle of people around a table or on the floor with heads bent over is a clear sign that some serious pin trading is in progress.

For the first three Games (1970, 1972, and 1974) pin trading was not particularly important to the participating groups. Until the 1976 Games only two AWG-specific pins were produced: the ubiquitous, and popular, small ulu pin of the International Committee in 1972 and an Anchorage Host Society pin in 1974. Pin trading during those years focused on those produced by political entities (states, territories, and communities), sporting organizations (curling clubs, hockey teams, etc.), and the Olympics. Several long-time participants recall professional pin traders making an appearance at the Games in the mid-1970s and continuing to attend into the 1980s. Some were specialists in Olympics pins and, perhaps, believed that the AWG would develop into another lucrative pin venue.

In 1976 there were nine AWG pins, but four years later there were only 15. In 1982, however, Team NWT produced a pin for each of the 15 sports, and the pins produced for the Games totaled 29. Team Yukon followed suit in 1984 and the pin count moved to 40. 1986 ushered in the "modern" era of AWG pin production with a total of 80 official pins. Since then every Games but two has produced at least this number of pins. In 1994 the pin count was 108, which was surpassed only in 2002 when the Games were held in two sites with both host societies significantly contributing to the record total of 131.

*(Ghosted photo above right)*
*A photograph in* The Ulu News *from 1986 captured the enthusiasm of collectors engrossed in the unofficial sport of pin trading.*

*The Ulu News*, Vol. 9 Issue 2.

*Dick Larsen's felt toque with enameled pins. Alaska State Museum collection 2004-16-1.*

Photo by Mark Daughhetee.

*Alaskan pin collector Dick Larsen appeared in the* Arctic Winter Games Daily Report *in 1978 sporting his hat heavy with the weight of pins. The hat (shown left), featured in the exhibit, reflects an expanded collection.*

1.

4.

6.

3.

2.

5.

The number of AWG pins can be daunting to any pin collector, but the neophyte collector faces the additional challenge of comprehending their origin. In general, there are six sources of AWG pins:

1) AWG International Committee (first pin, 1972)
2) Host Society (first pin, Anchorage, 1974)
3) Contingents (first pin, Team Alaska, 1976)
4) Media (first pin, CBC, 1976)
5) Privately produced (first pin, 1978)
6) Sponsors (first pin, Whitehorse Coca Cola Company, 1980)

In recent years, the host society for the succeeding Games has also produced pins, and, in several cases, communities bidding for an upcoming Games have also produced promotional pins.

In each Games, a few pins take on the status of "must have" and the reasons can vary from intrinsic beauty, scarcity, or tradition to source or cleverness. Each long-time collector of AWG pins will have his or her favorites. The following would probably be on most lists:

1) International Committee's small, gold ulu; first introduced in 1972, it reappeared in 1982 and has been at every Games since then. While it is a very common pin now, it is beautiful in its simplicity and is the perfect representative of the Games;
2) CBC's gold Inukshuk from 1978; very scarce and very Northern;
3) The gold Alaska map; it first appeared in 1978 and has been at every Games since then with only the year date changed. Cliff Fuglestad, one of Alaska's two original International Committee directors, created and produced this pin. When he retired from the Committee in 1988, other Alaska directors continued the tradition. This is a very scarce pin and people look forward to its appearance;
4) Team NWT's 1992 individual sport pins; this was the first "multi-pin pin" and is still the most clever. When properly arranged, the 17 irregularly-shaped pins spell "AWG."

The collection of AWG pins in this exhibition is believed to be definitive. Almost all are from the Alaska State Museum's collection. Bill Reay, one of the premier collectors of AWG and Canada Games pins, has graciously lent those pins missing from the Museum's collection for the exhibit. The collection totaled 993 pins through the 2004 Games. This includes several early Sport North pins that may or may not have been produced specifically for the AWG. It does not include variant pins that were production proofs, pins that were accidentally produced (i.e., not to specifications), nor pins with production mistakes, such as missing words or logos.

If you are interested in pin trading, get a supply of good "traders" and prominently display them on your vest, coat, or toque. While it would be a definite asset, your toque does not have to be as impressive as the spectacular one shown in the exhibition that Dick Larsen donated to the Alaska State Museum. Then, head for one of the sport venues, particularly the Inuit Games, or to the cafeteria and look for a huddle of people.

*(above) Arctic Winter Games enameled pins from the Alaska State Museum Collection 2004-44-14.*

Photo by Mark Daughhetee.

*The official daily newspaper of the Games,* The Ulu News, *is eagerly read for latest results of the competition as well as a behind-the-scenes look at the events.*

*The Ulu News,* March 6, 1972,
Courtesy Arctic Winter Games Corporation.

# Capturing the Excitement

*The March 21, 1978 "Ulu Nose" column of* The Ulu News *reported that the gold CBC pins were the current hottest trader pins in town.*

From the very beginning, the AWG has had its own newspaper, *The Ulu News*. Produced by the host society, and often printed by the local newspaper, the paper lists the daily schedule of events, provides results of competition, and includes stories of interest to the Games. Accompanied by photos of competitions, ceremonies, and daily life in the athletes' village, *The Ulu News* is the most important source of information during the Games. In 1976, when the Games were in the French-speaking area of Quebec, the paper had the alternate title *Le Cakabec*. In 2004 the Fort McMurray Host Society published electronic editions before and after the Games, and also introduced color in the daily *Ulu News.*

Newspapers, and occasionally magazines, across the North also provide coverage of varying depth during the Games. They often concentrate on the athletes from their local area. Some newspapers send reporters and photographers for the entire week; others rely on stringers for their coverage.

The giant of the AWG media, however, is CBC North. This radio and television corporation has covered the Games since its inception and

*There is no shortage of photo ops, professional or snaphot variety, at the Arctic Winter Games. In this picture, the snowshoe masks can't hide the gleeful spirit of Team Alaska.*

Photo courtesy Carly Craig.

today one cannot imagine the Games without the reporters, cameramen, and technicians in jackets bearing the elegant CBC logo. Their coverage of each and every sport and the daily life of the participants is unmatched by any other media group. While CBC coverage is at is best when the Games are held in Canada, it still has had a presence when the Games were in Alaska and Greenland.

Some members of the CBC North team have covered the Games for years. One of the best known, Ron McFadyen, covered the sports events from 1984 through 1994 and was inducted into the Yukon Sports Hall of Fame for his work with the Games. He had a special knack for getting the young, and often very shy, Northern athletes to give good interviews for radio by responding to their replies to an initial question, rather than having a fixed set of questions.

PhotoMagic Foto Source, Alberta.

*(above) Early phone message machines in the 1974 Games press room.*

Alaska State Library, PCA 399-0432.

*(right) Athletes recounting the details of the competition enjoy some celebrity status when interviewed by the media.*

Photo by Derek Crowe, Whitehorse.

*(Ghosted photo below)* Alaska State Library, PCA 399-1000.

PhotoMagic Foto Source, Alberta.

Alaska State Library, PCA 399-0986.

# The Spirit of the Arctic Winter Games

In today's world, where winning and commercialism reign supreme, it is hard to imagine a major sporting event that does not make an official announcement of the medal (or ulu) count of the various teams, but this is the case at the AWG. This is because the AWG is about much more than just sports and winning. It is the combination of competition, cultural events, and the fostering of friendships that set this event apart from others. Where else would you find athletes providing assistance to their competitors? The Hodgson Trophy that acknowledges sportsmanship is the most coveted prize, and at the closing ceremony it is impossible to distinguish one team from another. The participants mix together, trading last hugs, not to mention uniforms. The Arctic Winter Games is a true celebration of the North and its traditions.

*(Ghosted photo below)*
*Medal winner in the high kick competition in 1984 is held aloft by friends celebrating her victory.*

*The Ulu News*, Vol. 8 Issue 3, March 21, 1984, Courtesy Arctic Games Host Society, Yellowknife.

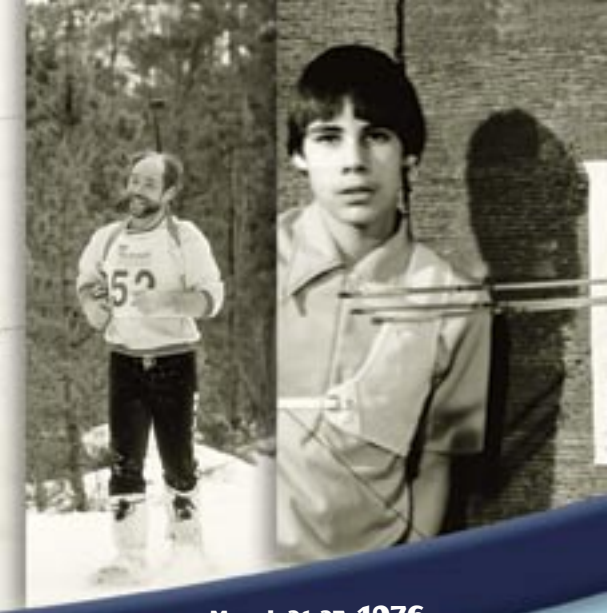
Photo by Cathie Archbould.

*Lifelong friendships are forged at the Games. A heartfelt embrace graces the cover of* The Ulu News *in 1980.*

*The Ulu News,* Vol. 6 Issue 6, March 22, 1980, Courtesy Arctic Games Corporation.

Photo by Jesper Kunuk Egede, Greenland.

# Chronology



## Yellowknife, NWT — March 8-14, 1970

### Sports (10)
badminton, basketball, boxing, curling, cross-country skiing, figure skating, hockey, shooting, table tennis, volleyball

### Contingents & Ulus*

| Contingent | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| NWT | 34 | 20 | 10 | 64 |
| Alaska | 22 | 17 | 20 | 59 |
| Yukon | 7 | 25 | 21 | 53 |

**Participants:** 500

## Whitehorse, Yukon — March 5-11, 1972

### Sports (12)
alpine skiing, badminton, basketball, cross-country skiing, curling, figure skating, hockey, judo, shooting, table tennis, volleyball, wrestling

### Contingents & Ulus

| Contingent | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alaska | 49 | 43 | 27 | 119 |
| Yukon | 25 | 31 | 24 | 80 |
| NWT | 25 | 20 | 34 | 79 |
| N. Quebec | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 |

**Participants:** 900

## Anchorage, Alaska — March 3-9, 1974

### Sports (16)
archery, badminton, basketball, boxing, cross-country skiing, curling, figure skating, hockey, Inuit, judo, shooting, snowshoeing, snowshoe biathlon, table tennis, volleyball, wrestling

### Contingents & Ulus*

| Contingent | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alaska | 73 | 33 | 35 | 141 |
| NWT | 32 | 47 | 57 | 136 |
| Yukon | 21 | 40 | 26 | 87 |
| N. Quebec | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 |

**Participants:** 958

## Schefferville, Quebec — March 21-27, 1976

### Sports (13)
badminton, basketball, cross-country skiing, curling, figure skating, hockey, Inuit, judo, shooting, snowshoeing, table tennis, volleyball, wrestling

### Contingents & Ulus*

| Contingent | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alaska | 31 | 35 | 32 | 98 |
| NWT | 40 | 25 | 30 | 95 |
| Yukon | 24 | 29 | 20 | 73 |
| N. Quebec | 8 | 12 | 19 | 39 |

**Participants:** 700

## March 19-25, 1978

**Hay River & Pine Point NWT**

### Sports (14)

badminton, basketball, cross-country skiing, curling, figure skating, hockey, Inuit, judo, shooting, snowshoe biathlon, snowshoeing, table tennis, volleyball, wrestling

### Contingents & Ulus

| Contingent | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alaska | 158 | 58 | 76 | 292 |
| NWT | 66 | 89 | 93 | 248 |
| Yukon | 36 | 113 | 66 | 215 |

**Participants:** 700

**Hodgson Trophy:** Alaska

## March 16-22, 1980

**Whitehorse Yukon**

### Sports (15)

badminton, basketball, cross-country skiing, curling, hockey, figure skating, indoor soccer, Inuit, judo, shooting, snowshoe biathlon, snowshoeing, table tennis, volleyball, wrestling

### Contingents & Ulus

| Contingent | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alaska | 65 | 44 | 38 | 147 |
| Yukon | 38 | 45 | 26 | 109 |
| NWT | 12 | 23 | 42 | 77 |

**Participants:** 900

**Hodgson Trophy:** Yukon

## March 14-20, 1982

**Fairbanks Alaska**

### Sports (15)

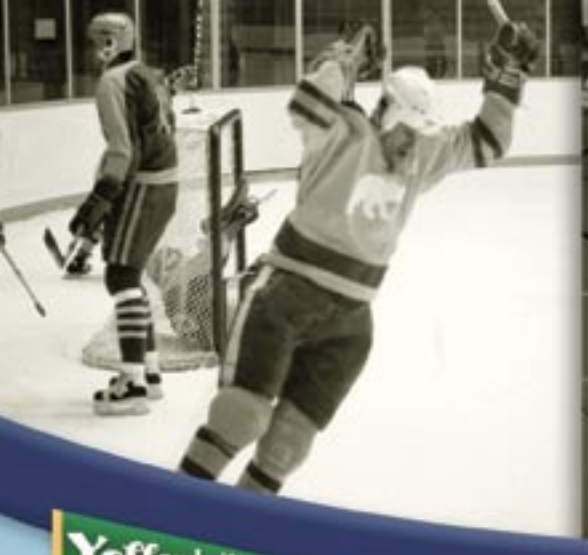
badminton, basketball, curling, cross-country skiing, figure skating, gymnastics, hockey, indoor soccer, Inuit, judo, shooting, snowshoeing, snowshoe biathlon, table tennis, volleyball

### Contingents & Ulus

| Contingent | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alaska | 61 | 47 | 41 | 149 |
| Yukon | 38 | 49 | 32 | 119 |
| NWT | 19 | 21 | 41 | 81 |

* For some years, various sources report very different Ulu counts. Whenever available, these statistics reflect the Ulu count issued by the International Committee after the conclusion of the Games. When official results were not available, the published report of *The Ulu News* after the conclusion of the Games or an actual count of winners in each sporting event was used. The most problematic years are 1970, 1974, 1976, 1984, 1990, and 1992.

PHOTO CREDITS: *(left to right)*
*Boxing:* Alaska State Library, PCA 399-0125;
*Snowshoe biathlon:* ASL, PCA 399-0901;
*Snowshoe biathlon:* Robin Armour, Yukon Government;
*Archery:* ASL, PCA 399-0001;
*Judo:* ASL, PCA 399-0253;
*Gymnastics:* ASL, PCA 399-0212;
*1-Foot high kick:* ASL, PCA 399-0644.



## Yellowknife NWT

March 18-24, 1984

### Sports (13)

badminton, cross-country skiing, curling, figure skating, hockey, indoor soccer, Inuit, shooting, snowshoe biathlon, snowshoeing, speed skating, triathlon, volleyball

### Contingents & Ulus*

| Contingent | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alaska | 38 | 40 | 32 | 110 |
| NWT | 44 | 32 | 30 | 106 |
| Yukon | 22 | 31 | 41 | 94 |

**Participants:** 900

**Hodgson Trophy:** Yukon

## Whitehorse Yukon

March 16-21, 1986

### Sports (17)

badminton, basketball, cross-country skiing, curling, figure skating, gymnastics, hockey, indoor soccer, Inuit, shooting, ski biathlon, snowshoe biathlon, snowshoeing, speed skating, triathlon, volleyball, women's hockey (in later Games, not separately identified)

### Contingents & Ulus

| Contingent | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alaska | 63 | 39 | 37 | 139 |
| NWT | 33 | 38 | 48 | 119 |
| Yukon | 30 | 43 | 31 | 104 |
| Alberta N | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| N Quebec | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |

**Participants:** 1,000

**Hodgson Trophy:** Yukon

## Fairbanks Alaska

March 13-19, 1988

### Sports (17)

badminton, basketball, broomball, cross-country skiing, curling, figure skating, gymnastics, hockey, indoor soccer, Inuit, shooting, ski biathlon, snowshoeing, snowshoe biathlon, speed skating, triathlon, volleyball

### Contingents & Ulus

| Contingent | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alaska | 65 | 70 | 52 | 187 |
| NWT | 48 | 36 | 56 | 140 |
| Yukon | 33 | 39 | 30 | 102 |
| Alberta N | 3 | 3 | 2 | 8 |

**Participants:** 1,000

**Hodgson Trophy:** Yukon

March 11-17, 1990

Yellowknife NWT

## Sports (18)

badminton, basketball, cross-country skiing, curling, Dene, dog mushing, figure skating, gymnastics, hockey, indoor soccer, Inuit, shooting, ski biathlon, snowshoe biathlon, snowshoeing, triathlon, volleyball, wrestling

## Contingents & Ulus*

| Contingent | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alaska | 63 | 48 | 27 | 138 |
| NWT | 36 | 41 | 39 | 116 |
| Yukon | 22 | 37 | 33 | 92 |
| Alberta N | 13 | 6 | 6 | 25 |
| Greenland | 12 | 7 | 2 | 21 |

**Participants:** 1,000

**Hodgson Trophy:** Alaska

March 15-21, 1992

Whitehorse Yukon

## Sports (17)

badminton, basketball, cross-country skiing, curling, Dene, dog mushing, figure skating, gymnastics, hockey, indoor soccer, Inuit, shooting, ski biathlon, snowshoe biathlon, snowshoeing, volleyball, wrestling

## Contingents & Ulus*

| Contingent | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alaska | 75 | 39 | 43 | 157 |
| Yukon | 29 | 42 | 26 | 97 |
| NWT | 26 | 33 | 34 | 93 |
| Alberta N | 12 | 18 | 18 | 48 |
| Greenland | 6 | 8 | 5 | 19 |

**Participants:** 1,300

**Hodgson Trophy:** NWT

Slave Lake Alberta

March 6-12, 1994

## Sports (20)

alpine skiing, badminton, basketball, cross-country skiing, curling, Dene, dog mushing, figure skating, gymnastics, hockey, indoor soccer, Inuit, shooting, ski biathlon, snowshoe biathlon, snowshoeing, speed skating, table tennis, volleyball, wrestling

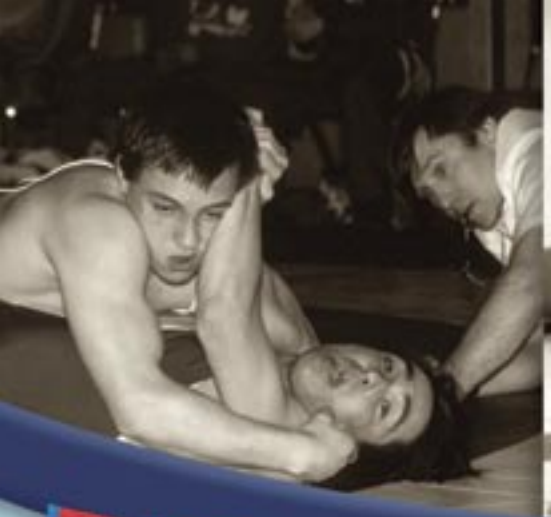
## Contingents & Ulus

| Contingent | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| NWT | 30 | 62 | 59 | 151 |
| Alaska | 72 | 37 | 38 | 147 |
| Alberta N | 27 | 35 | 37 | 99 |
| Yukon | 27 | 30 | 34 | 91 |
| Greenland | 19 | 12 | 6 | 37 |
| Magadan | 13 | 6 | 3 | 22 |
| Tyumen | 7 | 6 | 3 | 16 |

**Participants:** 1,600

**Hodgson Trophy:** Greenland

PHOTO CREDITS: *(left to right)*
*Hockey:* Alaska State Library, PCA 399-0878;
*Basketball:* Robin Armour, Yukon Government;
*Triathalon:* Alaska State Library, PCA 399-0931;
*Volleyball:* Robin Armour, Yukon Government;
*Head pull:* Cathie Archbould;
*Cross-country skiing:* Robin Armour, Yukon Government;
*Figure skating:* Alaska State Library, PCA 399-0696;
*Badminton:* Cathie Archbould;
*Table tennis:* Alaska State Library, PCA 399-0575.



## Chugiak/Eagle River Alaska

March 3-10, 1996

### Sports (20)

alpine skiing, badminton, basketball, cross-country skiing, curling, Dene, dog mushing, figure skating, gymnastics, hockey, indoor soccer, Inuit, shooting, ski biathlon, snowshoe biathlon, snowshoeing, speed skating, table tennis, volleyball, wrestling

### Contingents & Ulus

| Contingent | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alaska | 110 | 81 | 86 | 277 |
| NWT | 52 | 63 | 66 | 181 |
| Yukon | 12 | 33 | 37 | 82 |
| Alberta N | 19 | 24 | 21 | 64 |
| Greenland | 13 | 14 | 12 | 39 |
| Tyumen | 17 | 10 | 3 | 30 |
| Magadan | 7 | 5 | 5 | 17 |

**Participants:** 1,600

**Hodgson Trophy:** NWT

## Yellowknife NWT

March 15-22, 1998

### Sports (19)

badminton, basketball, cross-country skiing, curling, Dene, dog mushing, figure skating, gymnastics, hockey, indoor soccer, Inuit, shooting, ski biathlon, snowshoe biathlon, snowshoeing, speed skating, table tennis, volleyball, wrestling

### Contingents & Ulus

| Contingent | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| NWT | 56 | 69 | 65 | 190 |
| Alaska | 69 | 58 | 57 | 184 |
| Alberta N | 33 | 33 | 35 | 101 |
| Yukon | 26 | 26 | 28 | 80 |
| Tyumen | 25 | 13 | 6 | 44 |
| Greenland | 7 | 13 | 13 | 33 |
| Magadan | 7 | 8 | 10 | 25 |

**Participants:** 1,750

**Hodgson Trophy:** Yukon

## Whitehorse Yukon

March 5-11, 2000

### Sports (18)

alpine skiing and snowboarding, badminton, basketball, cross-country skiing, curling, Dene, dog mushing, figure skating, hockey, gymnastics, Inuit, indoor soccer, ski biathlon, snowshoe biathlon, snowshoeing, speed skating, volleyball, wrestling

### Contingents & Ulus

| Contingent | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alaska | 62 | 72 | 51 | 185 |
| NWT | 47 | 32 | 35 | 114 |
| Yukon | 22 | 32 | 44 | 98 |
| Alberta N | 37 | 25 | 24 | 86 |
| Greenland | 17 | 14 | 13 | 44 |
| Nunavut | 8 | 11 | 16 | 35 |
| Chukotka | 6 | 7 | 8 | 21 |
| Magadan | 3 | 5 | 5 | 13 |
| Nunavik | 1 | 3 | 7 | 11 |

**Participants:** 1,800

**Hodgson Trophy:** Nunavut

## March 17-23, 2002

Nuuk Greenland

Iqaluit Nunavut

### Sports in Nuuk (10)

alpine skiing, badminton, cross-country skiing, Dene, indoor soccer, Inuit, snowboarding, snowshoeing, table tennis, volleyball

### Sports in Iqaluit (9)

basketball, curling, Dene, dog mushing, hockey, gymnastics, Inuit, speed skating, wrestling

### Contingents & Ulus

| Contingent | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alaska | 44 | 51 | 52 | 147 |
| Greenland | 28 | 32 | 28 | 88 |
| Yukon | 25 | 25 | 26 | 76 |
| NWT | 24 | 26 | 26 | 76 |
| Alberta N | 35 | 20 | 17 | 72 |
| Nunavut | 13 | 18 | 18 | 49 |
| Nunavik | 7 | 6 | 7 | 20 |
| Chukotka | 4 | 7 | 6 | 17 |
| Magadan | 9 | 2 | 3 | 14 |

**Participants:** 2,000 (1,000 at each site)

**Hodgson Trophy:** Greenland

## February 28-March 6, 2004

Ft. McMurray Alberta

### Sports (20)

alpine skiing, badminton, basketball, cross-country skiing, curling, Dene, dog mushing, figure skating, gymnastics, hockey, indoor soccer, Inuit, ski biathlon, snowboarding, snowshoe biathlon, snowshoeing, speed skating, table tennis, volleyball, wrestling

### Contingents & Ulus

| Contingent | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alberta N | 50 | 51 | 37 | 138 |
| Alaska | 47 | 44 | 45 | 136 |
| Yukon | 38 | 33 | 37 | 108 |
| NWT | 29 | 35 | 43 | 107 |
| Greenland | 13 | 16 | 19 | 48 |
| Nunavut | 9 | 13 | 24 | 46 |
| Magadan | 10 | 11 | 10 | 31 |
| Yamal | 16 | 9 | 4 | 29 |
| Sami | 6 | 10 | 7 | 23 |
| Nunavik | 8 | 4 | 4 | 16 |

**Participants:** 2,000

**Hodgson Trophy:** Nunavut

## March 5-11, 2006

Kenai Peninsula Alaska

### Sports (20)

alpine skiing, badminton, basketball, cross-country skiing, curling, Dene, dog mushing, figure skating, gymnastics, hockey, indoor soccer, Inuit, ski biathlon, snowboarding, snowshoe biathlon, snowshoeing, speed skating, table tennis, volleyball, wrestling

### Contingents

Alaska
Alberta N
Greenland
Magadan
NWT
Nunavik
Nunavut
Sami
Yamal
Yukon

PHOTO CREDITS: *(left to right)*
*Wrestling:* Robin Armour, Yukon Government;
*Curling:* Alaska State Library, PCA 399-0520;
*Soccer:* Alaska State Library, PCA 399-0719;
*Dog mushing:* Robin Armour, Yukon Government;
*Speed skating:* Arctic Winter Games;
*Alpine skiing:* Robin Armour, Yukon Government;
*Pole push:* Robin Armour, Yukon Government.

2002 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES
TEAM ALASKA
MISSION STAFF
TEAM YUKON
Arctic Winter Games 2004
WOOD BUFFALO ALBERTA CANADA
VIP 2002
TEAM N.W.T.
AWG 1998
YELLOWKNIFE NT
COLLECTOR'S
ALBERTA NORTH '94
TEAM ALASKA 2002
ARCTIC WINTER GAMES 2002
TEAM YUKON
ANCHORAGE POLICE RESERVE
1·9·9·6
ARCTIC WINTER GAMES
CHUGIAK - EAGLE RIVER, ALASKA
TEAM NUNAVUT 2000 CULTURAL
TEAM NUNAVUT 2000 VIP
SPONSOR
2000 Whitehorse Arctic Winter Games

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**Arctic Winter Games enameled pins from the Alaska State Museum Collection 2004-44-14. Photo by Mark Daughhetee.**

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