



## ARCTIC WINTER GAMES WHITEHORSE 2012

### 2012 Arctic Winter Games Host Society encourages Yukoners to "Play Your Part!"

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WHITEHORSE – Yukoners are being urged to play their part in support of the 2012 Arctic Winter Games at a support rally organized by the Host Society at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre. In attendance, Yukon Community Services Minister Elaine Taylor, Whitehorse Mayor Bev Buckway and Kwanlin Dün First Nation Chief Rick O'Brien proudly showcased their commitment to the Games.

"We are almost there in terms of funding and volunteer support as we enter the count-down for the opening ceremonies of the 2012 Arctic Winter Games," said Jason Bilsky, 2012 Arctic Winter Games Vice-President of Sponsorship and Fulfillment. "We still need to raise the last \$300,000 and recruit another 1700 volunteers, so we are calling on the Yukon business community, donors and supporters to help us through the home stretch."

On March 4, 2012, Yukon will welcome over 2,000 athletes, cultural participants, coaches, mission staff and officials from Alaska, northern Canada, Greenland, Russia and Scandinavia.

"The Yukon government is proud to be a major partner in these games and is playing its part by providing financial support, encouraging staff to volunteer and promoting the games through participation in Games Wear Fridays," said Community Services Minister Elaine Taylor. "Yukoners take great pride in showcasing their home territory during sport and cultural events such as the Arctic Winter Games and I'm confident that these Games will be no exception."

During the 7 days of the Games, at venues across Whitehorse, athletes will compete in 20 sports, while cultural participants will give expression to their region's art and culture. "The City of Whitehorse is delighted to host the 2012 Arctic Winter Games with our partners the Yukon government, the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Host Society," said Whitehorse Mayor Bev Buckway. "Whitehorse is an excellent sport event host and our venues and community spirit will make these games the best ever."

The city's new Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre will be a centerpiece of the Games and will host the Dene Games (presented by Yukon Energy) and exciting cultural events (presented by Atco Group) during the 2012 Arctic Winter Games.

"Kwanlin Dün is honoured to host the Dene Games and various cultural events at our new Cultural Centre," said Chief Rick O'Brien. "We look forward to working with our partners, sharing our cultures through sport, and we welcome the many opportunities that the Arctic Winter Games will bring to our community."

Yukoners can play their part by contacting the Arctic Winter Games Host Society at 867-393-2012. For more information please go to: [www.awg2012.org](http://www.awg2012.org)

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