



Press Release

For immediate release

Postponement of 2022 Arctic Winter Games is a wise decision given the health risks involved, according to the KRG

Kuuujuaq, March 3, 2021 – While disappointed, the Kativik Regional Government supports the decision to postpone the Arctic Winter Games scheduled to take place in Wood Buffalo Alberta from March 6-12, 2022.

The KRG shares the frustration of the athletes, coaches and organizers of Team Nunavik-Québec who for the second time in less than a year must deal with a setback caused by the COVID-19 pandemic that also forced the cancellation last year of the 2020 Arctic Winter Games in Whitehorse, Yukon. The KRG encourages all those involved in the event to continue their hard work in preparing Nunavik youth for the Wood Buffalo Games that will be held at a later date.

The Arctic Winter Games International Committee explained that they had to weigh the health and safety risks for participants, coaches, volunteers, staff, spectators and residents of the host community knowing that that the pandemic would create a major obstacle in their ability to deliver a meaningful experience.

Approximately 60 athletes from villages on both the Hudson and Ungava coasts were poised to begin competitive try-outs in preparation for the Games. In Nunavik, these events include Dene Games, Arctic Sports, Snowshoe competition, Table Tennis, Badminton plus cultural activities. The regional try-outs will be organized later as the athletes and coaches wait patiently for the decision from the International Committee to determine when the Games will now be held.

The Arctic Winter Games International Committee and the Wood Buffalo Host Society stated that they would determine an appropriate date for the Games to be rescheduled and make the announcement in the near future.

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The Kativik Regional Government is a non-ethnic public organization created in 1978, under the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement. The organization has jurisdiction over nearly the entire territory of Québec north of the 55th parallel in areas such as municipal matters, transportation, the environment, policing, employment, labour training, income security, childcare services, renewable resources, land-use planning, civil security and economic development.