



MEDIA RELEASE

Introducing The Alberta Indigenous Games 2011

Alberta Indigenous Games 2011: *'Reclaiming Our Youth'*

Edmonton July 17-22

EDMONTON (June 2, 2011) The Alberta Indigenous Games will be held in Edmonton, Alberta during the week of July 17-22, 2011. The games will be filled with nine sporting events for aboriginal youth between the ages of 12- 18 years. The games will be held mainly at Coronation Fields (Park) in Edmonton with canoeing taking place in Leduc and archery in Enoch, Alberta.

The games were created following the cancellation of the *North American Indigenous Games* that were to have been held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The non-profit organization **Edmonton Native Basketball Association (ENBA)** felt that these games represent future leadership and life skills and that to cancel them would be a regrettable loss to the nations.

One of the ENBA/AIG Board Members, Ron Walker, is a two time Canadian Masters Shot Put and Discus Champion. He proudly represented Canada at the World Masters Indoor Championship in March, 2010, finishing in the top ten in three events. Ron comes from northern Alberta and has been involved in sports for 25 years. Currently Ron is coaching at the St. Albert Track and Field Club.

Ron states that if it were not for sports, he very well may have been another statistic.

“Because of sport, I have had many doors open for me and opportunities present themselves,” says Ron. “I really feel a need to give this message out because my teenage and young man years were spent in the inner city area, and were frequented with all the challenges it represents. I would like to spread the word that we can compete and succeed if we believe and make commitments to achievable goals”. This feeling is shared by ENBA/AIG board and committee.

The nine sport event consists of softball, golf, canoeing, ball hockey, track and field, soccer, archery, volleyball and basketball and will be held at participating venues throughout the week. The majority of festivities surrounding the competitions will be held in Coronation Park.



The '**Circle of Courage**' philosophy will be integrated into all aspects of the event. Dr. Martin Brokenleg, a renowned speaker and co-founder of the 'Circle of Courage' philosophy, will be present at the event and will be giving workshops to the youth. Each quadrant of the Circle will be presented to the athletes to enable them to learn and display the **4 Teachings - Belonging, Mastery, Independence, and Generosity**. Application of the 4 Teachings will improve their collective scores at the closing ceremonies and enhance their individual self-awareness.

"The committee has done an excellent job of putting together what will be a great experience for the youth who attend this event thus far," said Allan Ross Executive Director. "**KidSport**, an organization that has come on board with AIG to help sponsor athletes who wish to play from all regional chapters throughout the province is a great partner in the success and dreams of our youth. **The City of Edmonton** has also empowered the vision of the games by sponsoring and use of Coronation Fields/Park. Our sponsors and supporting societies support is greatly appreciated and continue to be a great influence on the games."

"We are looking to have 2000 attendees/athletes and a great support system for those coming to participate in friendly competition," Mr. Ross continues. "Our venues and activities are designed to encourage all to take part in. We have incorporated a strong cultural base and wish to have vast array of artists of all nations represented at our event. The Alberta Indigenous Games are a first for ENBA and we are striving to make this an annual event."

The Games invite all nations and athletes to come and enjoy this wonderful event. All participants are welcome to proudly walk in the Capital X Parade July 21st. We welcome all spectators, community volunteers and sponsors to show their support for our aboriginal youth and future leaders.

Deadline for registration of participating athletes is June 15, 2011.

Volunteers may apply on our website. Please apply at your earliest convenience.

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If further information is needed, please contact Ron Walker or Mary Badger

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