

**ABORIGINAL SPORT CIRCLE OF  
THE WESTERN ARCTIC  
ASCWA**



**OPERATIONAL PLAN  
2008/2009**

**April 19<sup>th</sup> 2008**

## OPERATIONAL PLAN 2008/2009

### **BACKGROUND**

Established in 1999, the Aboriginal Sport Circle of the Western Arctic (ASCWA) was created through a national consensus-building process in response to the need for more accessible and equitable sport and recreation opportunities for Aboriginal peoples across the Northwest Territories (NWT).

ASCWA is directed by a Board of Directors, which represents the five Regional Governments. Two members are selected from each region and are appointed by the Aboriginal Regional Self-governments. The Dene Nation also selects one youth and one Elder representative to the Board.

Currently, and as of February 2007, ASCWA staff consists of two full time employees - a Director and a Program Manager. We utilize office space at the Cooper Building, in conjunction with other sport and recreation partners and the Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA).

Thanks to the support from MACA and the Sport and Recreation Council (SRC), in 2007 we financially managed and disposed of our budget with financial integrity.

## **ASCWA OBJECTIVES**

For the 2008-2009 fiscal year:

1. Our primary priority will be the 2008 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG). We are working closely with the NWT Sport Organizations, to ensure that coaches and participants are participating from all regions. For this year we have selected representatives from all NWT Communities. We will continue to foster and build on these relationships after the 2008 Games are completed.
2. We will work with the regions and communities to set priorities, giving particular attention to consultation with the communities to assure programming is based on their needs.
3. Working in close relationship with other organizations where possible, we plan to increase our program delivery of 2007 from six principal programs to eleven for year 2008.
4. We intend to maintain, and possibly increase, the small staff in our office, and continue to deliver quality program services towards all five regions.
5. We plan to have an Aboriginal Coaching Manual (ACM) facilitator in each region working by the end of 2008.

## **ASCWA GOAL**

As the only Aboriginal territorial sport and recreation organization currently operating in the NWT, our goal is to increase cultural and traditional related sport and recreation activities for northern Aboriginal peoples, particularly in regions or areas that are not covered by other sport or recreational organizations.

ASCWA is supported in this by the Dene Nation, from its start, in the resolution from the 33<sup>rd</sup> Dene National Assembly Aklavik, July 3-8 2003, Motion 03/04-0007.

## **CURRENT PARTNERSHIPS**

ASCWA is currently working with the following partners:

- Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in the NWT
- Dene Nation
- Denendeh Development Corporation
- CKLB Radio
- Mackenzie Recreation Association
- Beaufort Delta Sahtu Recreation Association
- Recreation Parks Association
- First Air
- Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA)
- 12 Territorial Sport Organizations (TSOs)

## **CURRENT COMMUNICATION METHODS**

- ASCWA Website [www.ascwa.com](http://www.ascwa.com)
- Newspapers - News North, The Drum, The Yellowknifer, and The Journal
- Mass emails to all Public School Offices, Band Offices and community Recreation Leaders
- Radio Advertising—CKLB
- CBC Radio
- APTN & CBC Television

## **2007 PROGRAM DELIVERY SUMMARY and 2008/2009 PLANNED with EXISTING SPORT PROGRAMS**

### **Aboriginal Coaching Manual (ACM)**

ASCWA has conducted nine workshops in the communities using the curriculum of the Aboriginal Coaching Manual (ACM). This manual is distributed nationally out of Ontario, and was designed to focus on the following aspects of Aboriginal living and coaching:

- A Holistic Approach to Coaching
- Dealing with Racism in Sport
- Lifestyle, Health and Nutrition

Contents of the ACM include:

- Definitions
- Creating a Positive Environment
- The Medicine Wheel
- A Coaches Perspective
- Values: The Four Pillars
- Coaching – Community Relationships
- Responding to Racism and Nepotism
- Understanding the Community Where You Coach
- The Effect of History on Lifestyle and Health
- Lifestyle Issues
- Health Issues
- Determining When an Intervention is Appropriate

### **Growing Pains**

In effort to inclusively reach out to a larger part of the community, the Growing Pains workshop will be delivered to community youth and parents. Most often this will take place with high school students and teachers, however, parents will also be invited to participate in this workshop. The course materials will be taken from the National ACM course, but more emphasis will be placed on:

- Peer Pressure
- Nutrition

- Racism and Nepotism
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Opportunities in Life

## **Archery**

**2007** – Eight courses were successfully delivered in all five regions for 2007/2008. To date we have offered the two-day clinic in the following communities: Fort Providence, Hay River, Fort Smith, Fort Simpson, Fort McPherson, Paulatuk and Ulukhaktok. One session is planned in Fort Good Hope in May. We are utilizing level 3 coaches with excellent results.

### **2008/2009 Proposed**

We plan to deliver the course to an additional 10 communities, bringing the total involvement in the archery course to 18 communities during 2008/2009. In some cases we will offer this program to schools, and at other times we will deliver this at community recreation centers for youth and adults.

## NEW PROGRAMS PROPOSED FOR 2008/2009

### Rifle Shooting

#### **2008/2009 Proposed**

As traditional and culture-based education is fundamental to our educational programming, rifle shooting certainly fits this order. Rifle shooting will be delivered in the classroom utilizing laser technology, supporting both the traditional lifestyle, and enhancing the students' skills. The Firearms Safety Standard will also be promoted. Introduction to an individual sport will also be valued as many schools do not have enough students in the same age range to form competitive sport teams. We have excellent support from the school principals, and we know this program will facilitate growth in accountability, responsibility, and building respect for self and others.

### Canoeing

#### **2008/2009 Proposed**

As part of the Opening Ceremonies for the North American Indigenous Games 2008, more than 80 canoes will participate in a traditional Tribal Journey. Canoes from as far as Alaska or Oregon will participate. ASCWA will have a 29-foot canoe representing the Arctic Ocean. We will share this experience with participants from Nunavut. We will be selecting 14 people to take part in this Tribal Journey that starts in Port Hardy, mid July and travels to Cowichan, finishing August 1, 2008.

Our goal from this experience is to revitalize the long-standing tradition with big Trade Canoes. In the year 2009, we plan to continue this tradition with a new program called Horizon Cup. The program will be based on the experience of travelling on water between communities, as was done in historical times. Youth and Elders will be invited to collaborate on the project, promoting both sport and traditional values. Projects that include both youth and Elders, continue to promote the passing of knowledge from one generation to the next. Ultimately, our plan is to renovate traditional Trade Cedar Canoes, and then use the canoes on the Mackenzie River in the Decho Region.

## **Snowshoeing**

### **2008/2009 Proposed**

This program will be based on an exchange between Elders and youth on how to build snowshoes, and which types are used for which conditions. This will promote traditional skills building, and the acquisition and harvesting of traditional foods. We know we could purchase snowshoes retail and teach the skill to the youth, however, again this generational interchange helps to keep traditional values alive to pass on to future generations. The youth will also experience the pride of building and using equipment that they have personally created.

## **Dog Mushing**

### **2008/2009 Proposed**

In close partnership with the present NWT Dog Mushing Organization, we plan to support and assist the training of 15 new dog mushers in the communities and schools. Existing educational material will be used, and involvement by the youth and Elders at the local level will help to transmit the traditional knowledge and history of the land. We also see value in youth learning to take full responsibility for a living animal, and experience the caring, relationship and guidance needed for such a sport. This particular sport has annual championship races in Yellowknife, so there is exceptional potential for youth to learn and participate at the higher levels in this sport.

## **Junior Radio Reporters**

### **2008/2009 Proposed**

Together with CKLB and the Native Communications Society of the NWT, ASCWA has created a Junior Radio Reporter Program. ASCWA, will select together with CKLB, 6 Regional Junior Radio Reporters, an Aboriginal boy or girl from the age of 15 to 20 years, who will report on sport and recreations, as volunteers, from each Region in the Territories. They will participate in the weekly CKLB Radio Show, under the guidance of Greg Hopf as the host of Sport from above the 60<sup>th</sup>.

The reporters will complete a training course, which will be delivered in 3 parts:

- Part One – A one-week introduction to Radio Reporting,

- facilitated by CKLB radio announcer William Greenland;
- Part Two – A one-week intensive training session in June, facilitated by George Tuccer, a nationally well known CBC announcer. He will share his extensive experience and strong personal involvement on Sport and Sport Reporting over the last 30 years; and,
  - Part Three – Production of a week-long program around the NWT participants in the NAIG.

During the week of August 3<sup>rd</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>, each Junior Reporter will have the opportunity to travel with Team NWT to the North American Indigenous Games in Duncan, BC. The Junior Reporters will conduct live interviews, athlete profiles, and Cultural Event coverage. They will be responsible for reporting on Team NWT's involvement and results from the NAIG Games. They will do live broadcasts every day back to the CKLB Radio Station, which is broadcast to the NWT communities.

As of today, 4 youths have completed the first part of this development and capacity program. Once the training is concluded, each reporter will return to their regions and provide information back to the radio station on a weekly basis.

The technical equipment will be provided by CKLB for this project.

## **2007 EVENT SUMMARY and 2008/2009 PLANNED EVENTS**

### **North American Indigenous Games (NAIG)**

*According to the 2005 Sport Canada's Policy on Aboriginal Peoples' Participation in Sport:*

"The NAIG, the Arctic Winter Games, and other similar events provide competitive opportunities for Aboriginal athletes in an environment that reflects Aboriginal cultures, values and lifestyles. They offer Aboriginal Peoples an opportunity to share their cultural values with the broader Canadian public and internationally. Participation in these Games enhances the development and delivery of sport programs to Aboriginal Peoples from the community to national levels."

Capitalizing on the national support for these games, ASCWA places a high priority on participating to the fullest with our youth and coaches.

### **2008 NAIG Games Proposed**

This August we intend for 264 youth and coaches to travel to Duncan for the 2008 North American Indigenous Games. They were selected from all five regions, and will participate in 11 disciplines. For our Youth Ambassador Program, one youth from each community will be represented. From the Cultural Group Delegation we are sending 14 NWT performers and as well, there will be 14 participants from the Tribal Journeys Group.

Participants will be involved in educational activities in addition to their competitive sport. For example, one evening is set aside for small group sessions around various sport and health related topics. Additionally, all participants will be asked to anonymously take part in a research program by filling out a questionnaire on such topics as; peer pressure, drug and alcohol use, tobacco use, training and education.

## **Youth Ambassadors Program**

**2008** – ASCWA will provide selected Northwest Territories (NWT) youth with an opportunity to develop and build leadership skills through volunteer assignments as the 2008 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) in Chowichan, BC, and in doing so act as ambassadors for the NWT at the Games.

33 NWT youth, one from each community will be selected. They will be chosen based on their interest and activity in their own communities and what they hope to achieve through the volunteer assignment. The makeup of the group will be representative of the NWT population and reflect a gender balance.

## **National Aboriginal Hockey Championship (NAHC)**

**NAHC 2007** – Team selection is completed by five persons, at designated camps or tournaments, prior to the NAHC. The Arctic Winter Games (AWG) territorial tryout is the main designation for selection process.

### **2008/2009 Proposed**

The NAHC 2008 will take place April 27<sup>th</sup> – May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 in Garden River, Ontario. As per previous years team selection was completed by the five people prior to the championships, at designated camps or tournaments. Selection process is now complete for 2008, and evaluators scouted out the male participants for the NAHC at the Arctic Winter Games territorial tryouts. A team of 17 boys has been selected, and no girls' team will participate in the year 2008.

## **Arctic Sport**

**2007** – Arctic Sport formally asked to be associated with the ASCWA during our last Board meeting in October of 2007. Our Board approved that Arctic Sport would be part of our program delivery in the future. Development of Dene Games and Arctic Sport on the territorial level is long overdue.

### **2008/2009 Proposed**

Our goal is to employ an Instructor for eight months, who will work with local schools and recreation leaders in promoting a quality program around Arctic Sport and Arctic Drumming and Dancing. The instructor will work in all regions with this program. All training materials are already developed and will be utilized. This program should be seen as part of the future cultural representation of the

NWT in the 2009 Pre-Olympic and 2010 Olympic events. The development and delivery of this program is done in full collaboration with the Regional Baufort Delta and Sathu Recreation Association.

### **Dene Games**

**2007** – Dene Games is a sport that the Dene Nation has asked that ASCWA take a leadership roll in.

#### **2008/2009 Proposed**

We plan to employ an instructor who will work with the local schools and recreation leaders in promoting a quality program, which includes:

- Dene Sport
- Dene Hand Games
- Dene Drumming

The instructor will work in all regions with this program. The program curriculum is developed and will be used. This program should also be seen as a part of the future cultural representation of the NWT in the 2009 pre-Olympic and 2010 Olympic events. The development and delivery of this program is done in full collaboration with the Regional Mackenzie Recreation Association.

### **Fun On Ice Community Tour**

**2007** – Nine communities were visited, none of which have indoor arenas. This is a one-day program to:

- teach and promote skating skills and basic hockey skills;
- highly focus on informing youth about the importance of nutrition, traditional food and harvesting, and sugars, fats, and unhealthy habits that may contribute to diseases such as diabetes; and,
- teach the principles of fair play, how to participate on a winning team, and other skills that can be integrated both on and off the ice, whether at school or in the home.

Hockey equipment such as sticks were given out to all youth in need. Last year we distributed 285 hockey sticks.

### **2008/2009 Proposed**

Again we plan to visit nine smaller communities, as most of the communities have never received a visit with a program like this before. This program will be made available to all youth, boys and girls, from the age of 10 to 20 years. This year a Gear Drive will be organized beforehand to help us collect more hockey equipment to donate to youth. We will work closely with the communities to guarantee that the creation of an outdoor ice rink is planned for the upcoming winter. Our Program Director Greg Hopf will deliver this program.

### **Sport and Leadership Conference**

**2007** –In October of 2007, 24 youth attended a week-long conference in Yellowknife, NWT. The purpose was to help prepare them for future leadership roles in their communities, and to promote and active lifestyle through sport and recreation. This conference on leadership development focused on building social skills through the experience of sport involvement.

Conference Topics:

- Experience sport in a team setting
- Academic needs for further trades in the NWT
- On site work place visits
- The Heritage and History of Dene Culture and Dene Games
- Participation in the Denendeh Development Corporation Business Conference
- Success stories from today's Aboriginal Leaders

### **2008/2009 Proposed**

October 2008 we will again facilitate the Sport and Youth Leadership Conference, building on our foundation and lessons learned from last year. Four youth from each of the five regions will be invited to attend the conference. Youth are selected in collaboration with our Board members and NWT schools. We know the social skills learned in sport transfer excellently to skills in leadership development.

## **ASCWA Awards Dinner**

**2007** – The ASCWA Awards Dinner is held in conjunction with our Sport and Leadership Conference and our fall Board meeting. The Awards Program is to give recognition and credit to our dedicated community members in the NWT sport and recreation system. Specifically, awards will be presented to those individuals who have continually shown dedication and hard work, and have made significant contributions. They will be honoured for the positive difference they are making in their respective communities. Awards are handed out in the following categories:

- Sport Achievement
- Coaching Achievement
- Volunteer Involvement Over the Years
- Cultural Performance from Dene Drummers, Arctic Drummers and Dancers, Metis Fiddlers and Dancers.

### **2008/2009 Proposed**

This annual Awards Dinner will be held October the 16<sup>th</sup> for 2008, and this will again coincide with our Sport and Leadership Conference.



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