

FOR RELEASE #10-026
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Sport, culture and youth ambassador contingent heading to Vancouver

WHITEHORSE –The sport, culture and youth ambassador teams representing Yukon at the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games gathered in Whitehorse for a send-off event.

“The strength of Yukon is in its people, and our team of sports, culture and youth participants will make us all proud in Vancouver,” Tourism and Culture Minister Elaine Taylor said. “The team’s energy and vitality exemplifies their love of Yukon. Attending Canada’s Games on behalf of Yukon will give them opportunities to share their stories and talents with others, demonstrating Yukon as a great place to live, work, and invest.”

“Sport and recreation, and the opportunities each provides, contribute enormously to the well-being of Yukoners,” Community Services Minister Archie Lang said. “On behalf of all Yukoners, I hope they enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to represent Yukon.”

The information briefing session brought together youth ambassadors, Arctic Sport and Dene Games athletes, and artists and performers involved in the cultural, sport and hospitality aspects of promoting Yukon at Canada’s Games.

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Backgrounder attached.

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Backgrounder:

Yukon Sport and Recreation Delegation to the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games

Yukon's sport and recreation delegation includes sports technical officials, youth ambassadors, Arctic Sports and Dene Games demonstration athletes, coaches and support staff.

For photos and highlights of Yukon's 2010 Vancouver Olympic Winter Games sport delegation, visit www.community.gov.yk.ca.

Volunteer Technical Officials

Agnes Riedeger	speed skating
Barry Sugden	speed skating
Cynthia Onions	speed skating
Claude Chabot	cross-country skiing
Marg White	curling
Ted Dean	biathlon

Youth Ambassadors

Andrew Craigen
Brittany Greer
Janna Tait
Kluane Adamek
Lia Johnson

Arctic Sports and Dene Games

Chris Nash	coach
Cody Wilkinson	coach
Samantha John	coach
Jordan Howse	athlete
Joshua Carr	athlete
Melissa Howell	athlete
Tyler Wynnyk	athlete

Community Services, Sport and Recreation Staff

Charly Kelly	First Nations/community recreation consultant
Trevor Twardochleb	sport consultant

Yukon Cultural Olympiad at the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games

Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad has been an ongoing celebration of the contemporary imagination. Beginning in 2008, a series of three multi-disciplinary festivals have taken place and will culminate at the 2010 Games. This was the first time an Olympic Winter Games began hosting a Cultural Olympiad two years before the Games actually began.

See Yukon government news release for more information on the Cultural Olympiad:

February 2, 2009, Yukon Performers in Cultural Olympiad 2009 Announced

<http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/2009/09-010.html>

November 24, 2009, Yukon Talent Will Take to the Stage at 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games <http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/09-272.html>

Culture at 2010

Soir de Semaine

Pascal St. Laurent
Alain des Rochers
Marie-Maude Allard
Marc Paradis
Cory Chouinard

Root Sellers

Daniel Ashley
Galen Ashley
Fiona Solon
Juan Ciannani
Puryakhalil Khalili

Sasquatch Prom Date

Ryan McNally
Genesee Keevil
Ian Stewart
Patrick Singh

Sophisticated Cavemen

Rick Sward
Lara Lewis
Graeme Peters
Ivan Zenovitch
Ched Dunham

Spring Breakup

Mathias Kom
Kim Barlow

Yukon Urban Dance Ensemble

Michelle Fisher
Mellisa Kwok
Valerie Herdes
Grace Simpson-Fowler
Riley Simpson-Fowler
Nicholas Robinson
Alexander Robinson
Benjamin Robinson
George Rivard
Jada Powell
Jessica Hickman
Tellyse Parent
Jordan Reti
Andrea Simpson-Fowler

Visual Artists

Meshell Melvin

Nicole Bauberger
Lena White

Dakká Kwáan Dancers

Heather Callaghan
William Callaghan
Marilyn Jensen
Megan Jensen
Blake Lepine
Jared Lepine
Jared Lutchman
Sally Lutchman
Gary Sidney-Johnson
Sean Smith
Andrameda Hunter

Staff/Production Team

Michele Emslie
Andrea Burgoyne
Mary Bradshaw
Dean Eyre
Jenny Hamilton
Patrick Matheson
Celia McBride
Debbie Peters
Al Cushing
Jennifer Bowen
Michael Martyn (Ontario)

Cultural Olympiad (Yukon Artists) 2009/2010

Lyn Fabio
Helen O'Connor
Paul Gort
Hannah Jickling and Valerie Salez
Hans Gatt

Cultural Olympiad (Performing Artists) 2009/2010

Daniel Janke & Longest Night Society
Ivan Coyote
Soir de Semaine
Gordie Tentrees
Spring Break Up (Kim Barlow and Mathias Kom)
Dakká Kwáan Dancers
Yukon Canada International Snow Sculpting Team (Don Watt, Mike Lane, Gisli Balzer and Shai Baxendale)

Also appearing courtesy of 2010 events

Manfred Janssen
Charlie Wilson
Jude Wong