Journey to 2028 North American Indigenous Games is Launched

NAIG Council, Norway House Cree Nation and Southern Chiefs' Organization celebrate a shared commitment to Indigenous youth, sport and culture

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WINNIPEG, MANITOBA –The North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) Council, Norway House Cree Nation and the Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO) today officially announced that the journey to the 2028 North American Indigenous Games is launched.

Scheduled for July 9–23, 2028, the Games will bring approximately 5,200 participants from across Canada and the United States together for a celebration of Indigenous athletic achievement, cultures and community. The announcement marks the return of the Games to Manitoba, which last hosted in 2002.

Representatives of the three organizations joined youth, Elders, Indigenous leaders, sport organizations and government partners at Princess Auto Stadium's Pinnacle Club to celebrate the announcement and the work ahead.

"The North American Indigenous Games create opportunities for Indigenous youth to pursue excellence, take pride in who they are and build friendships that reach across borders," said Rick Brant, President of the NAIG Council. "We are pleased that the journey to the 2028 Games to Winnipeg, Manitoba has been launched, and we look forward to work alongside Norway House Cree Nation and the Southern Chiefs' Organization to deliver an experience that puts athletes, cultures and community at its heart."

Norway House Cree Nation and SCO are the founding partners behind the initiative to bring the Games to Winnipeg. Their partnership reflects a shared commitment to expanding opportunities for Indigenous youth and bringing Nations and communities together through sport.

"Norway House Cree Nation is proud to help bring the 2028 North American Indigenous Games to Manitoba," said Chief Season Roulette. "Our young people deserve opportunities to develop their gifts, represent their communities and see how far their dedication can take them. Working with the NAIG Council and SCO, we want every participant to feel welcomed, supported and proud of who they are. The legacy we build must carry forward into opportunities for the next generation."

Established in 1990 through Indigenous leadership and vision, NAIG has grown into the largest Indigenous youth sport and cultural gathering on Turtle Island. The 2028 Games will provide an opportunity to strengthen that legacy while welcoming participants and visitors to Treaty One Territory.

“These Games will give Indigenous youth a powerful stage to demonstrate their talent, leadership and determination,” said SCO Grand Chief Jerry Daniels. “SCO is proud to stand alongside Norway House Cree Nation and the NAIG Council as we prepare to welcome Turtle Island to Winnipeg. Together, we can create opportunities for our youth, strengthen meaningful partnerships and build a legacy of participation and pride that reaches far beyond the closing ceremonies.”

Preparations will bring together Indigenous leadership, the Aboriginal Sport Circle, the Manitoba Aboriginal Sports and Recreation Council, governments, sport organizations and community partners. Youth voices and the guidance of Elders will help shape a welcoming celebration of sport and culture.

The NAIG Council, Norway House Cree Nation and SCO invite communities, prospective volunteers and partners to share in the journey toward the 2028 Games.

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QUICK FACTS

- The 2028 North American Indigenous Games will take place July 9–23, 2028, in Winnipeg and other locations across Manitoba.
- The Games are expected to bring upwards of 5,250 Indigenous athletes, coaches and team officials from Canada and the United States, competing in traditional and contemporary sports alongside a major cultural program.
- The first North American Indigenous Games were held in Edmonton in 1990. Winnipeg last hosted in 2002.
- The Games are governed by the NAIG Council, with representatives from 13 Canadian provinces and territories and 13 U.S. regions.

ABOUT THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS GAMES

The North American Indigenous Games are an international multi-sport and cultural celebration bringing together Indigenous youth from across Turtle Island. The Games provide young athletes with an opportunity to compete at a high level while celebrating Indigenous cultures, traditions and community.

The 2028 Games are expected to feature traditional and contemporary sport competitions together with cultural programming involving Indigenous performers, artists, Elders, Knowledge Keepers and communities.

ABOUT SOUTHERN CHIEFS' ORGANIZATION

The Southern Chiefs' Organization represents 33 Anishinaabe and Dakota Nations and more than 92,000 citizens in southern Manitoba. SCO works to protect, preserve, promote, and enhance the inherent rights, languages, customs, and traditions of its member Nations. Through advocacy, partnerships, and the delivery of culturally grounded programs and services, SCO advances the priorities of southern First Nations and supports the health, well-being, and prosperity of their citizens.

ABOUT NORWAY HOUSE CREE NATION

Norway House Cree Nation (Kinosao Sipi) is one of Manitoba's largest First Nations, with 9,369 registered members, 6,883 living on reserve in Treaty 5 territory. NHCN is committed to protecting the inherent rights, language, culture, and traditions of its people while building a strong and self-determined future for generations to come. As a gateway to Northern Manitoba and the Island Lake region, NHCN strives to be a place to live, work, and play, where recreation, culture, and community programs bring people together and help families and neighbouring communities flourish.

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