



## **ABORIGINAL SPORT CIRCLE**

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# **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **THE ABORIGINAL SPORT CIRCLE CONGRATULATES ALBERTA AS THE 2024 NATIONAL ABORIGINAL HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS HOST**

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### **MEDIA INQUIRIES:**

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May 18, 2023, Ottawa, ON – The Aboriginal Sport Circle (ASC) is pleased to announce the host for the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual National Aboriginal Hockey Championships (NAHC): Grande Prairie, Alberta. The event will take place May 5 – 11, 2024, at the Design Works Centre.

“It is with great pride and excitement that we continue this long-standing tradition,” says Rob Newman, ASC President. “We look forward to working with the City of Grande Prairie, the Host Society, and the Indigenous Sport Council of Alberta to the host 21<sup>st</sup> National Aboriginal Hockey Championships.”

The ASC is also thrilled to congratulate the winning teams of the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual NACH held from May 7 to 13, 2023: Team Manitoba males and Team Ontario females on their gold medal wins, Team Ontario males and Team Manitoba females for winning silver, and Team British Columbia males and Team Alberta females, who won bronze.

“I want to congratulate the Manitoba Host Society, volunteers, the Manitoba Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Council, all the coaches, managers, chaperones and especially the players on a fantastic 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary,” said Matt Tapper, ASC Chief Executive Officer. “While the event is always special, it is with extra anticipation for the 21<sup>st</sup> as this will be the first time in the history of the championships that Alberta will be hosting.”

“On behalf of the Indigenous Sport Council of Alberta, we look forward to hosting the 21<sup>st</sup> National Aboriginal Hockey Championships for the first time in the history of the championships in Alberta on the Traditional Territory of Treaty 8 in the City of Grande Prairie,” said Shannon Dunfield, President. “ISCA is proud to support the City of Grande Prairie as they are committed to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action. They just recently passed their Indigenous Relations Framework where one of the key commitments is to host Indigenous Sporting Events. We are excited to welcome everyone to Grande Prairie next May!”

“We are thrilled to welcome players, coaches and families to Grande Prairie for the 2024 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships,” said Jackie Clayton, Grande Prairie Mayor. “It is an

honour to be selected as the host city for this elite hockey event that showcases Indigenous youth from across Canada. We look forward to sharing our vibrant community, world-class recreational facilities and inclusive culture during this large-scale event.”

“Hosting Indigenous games and sporting events is outlined as one of the action items in the City’s recently endorsed Indigenous Relations Framework,” said Warren Nekurak, Indigenous Relations Advisor for the City of Grande Prairie. “We’re so excited to already be making strides under this action item by supporting Indigenous athletes across Canada as the host city for the 2024 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships.”

The 2024 NAHC will be the 21<sup>st</sup> annual event. The NAHC encourages cultural unity and pride as well as an opportunity to celebrate the athletic abilities of Indigenous athletes from across the country. It showcases the incredible talent of elite U15 and U18 Indigenous male and female youth, attracting participation from First Nation, Inuit and Metis from across thirteen provinces and territories.

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