



Aboriginal Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity Partners Council

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PARTNERS COUNCIL REACTS TO THE CANCELLATION OF THE 2011 NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS GAMES

Council Vows to Find Alternative Competitive Opportunities for Aboriginal Youth in BC

Duncan, BC – The Aboriginal Sports, Recreation and Physical Activity Partners Council (Partners Council) has received official word from the North American Indigenous Games Council (NAIG Council) that the 2011 Games, scheduled to be held in Milwaukee, have been cancelled.

The NAIG Council conducted an emergency meeting of its members via teleconference on Monday June 29, 2010, in response to a letter sent to the NAIG Council by NAIG USA Inc., the organization chosen by the NAIG Council to host the 2011 North American Indigenous Games during an international bid process conducted in 2007. The letter was sent to formally notify the NAIG Council of NAIG USA Inc.'s decision to withdraw from hosting the Games, which were scheduled for July of 2011 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

While the NAIG Council passed a motion to accept the letter from NAIG USA Inc., it did so with concern that the NAIG USA Inc decision not to follow through on their commitment to host the 2011 Games will cause distress among Indigenous youth and communities across Canada and USA. NAIG Council members remain committed to the NAIG movement and will now undertake a process to determine options for Indigenous youth of North America in response to the cancellation.

“The Partners Council shares the NAIG Council’s concern for the negative impact the cancellation of the 2011 Games may have on the young Aboriginal athletes who were looking forward to the opportunity to try out and compete for Team BC at the 2011 Games,” says Rick Brant, Director of the Partners Council. “And while the news of 2011 NAIG’s cancellation deeply troubles everyone involved, it has not altered our resolve to advance the Aboriginal Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity Strategy, which includes the creation of new competitive opportunities for Aboriginal youth across BC”.

Over the last 10 months, the Partners Council has been undertaking the important task of implementing the Aboriginal Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity Strategy, which includes the creation of six Regional Committees and the formation of a Provincial Work Group, comprised of Aboriginal sport leaders from across BC, tasked with developing and initiating a provincial process for the selection and preparation of Team BC.

The Team BC Work Group has developed a plan that will see the establishment of Sport Committees to oversee Aboriginal Provincial Championships in each of the 15 NAIG sports. The plan includes a regional qualification process for advancing athletes and coaches to the Provincial Championships.

“While this process was developed to select teams/athletes that would have competed at the 2011 NAIG, everyone remains committed to establishing ongoing regional sport activities that support the delivery of Aboriginal Provincial Championships,” continues Brant.

Accordingly, the Team BC Work Group and the Regional Committees will continue their work with the intent of launching the new Aboriginal Provincial Championships and regional selection processes this summer and through the winter of 2010/11. In the meantime, the Partners Council will be working to identify alternative provincial, national and/or international events for Team BC to compete at during the summer of 2011.

The Partners Council, through the sum of their actions, will create responsive and enduring sport, recreation and physical activity programs for Aboriginal people across BC, which will result in healthier, active individuals, families and communities.

For more information on the Aboriginal Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity Partners Council and how to get involved, please visit the website at:

<http://bcaafc.com/initiatives/asrpa-partners-council>

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