

News Release

Coaches Named for the Aboriginal Apprentice Coach Program at the 2009 Canada Games

April 6, 2009

The final list of coaches has been released today for the pilot Aboriginal Apprentice Coach Program at the 2009 Canada Summer Games in Prince Edward Island.

The Aboriginal Apprentice Coach Program is a joint venture in partnership with the Canada Games Council, the Aboriginal Sport Circle, the Coaching Association of Canada and Provincial and Territorial government partners. The program, which will recruit new coaches in sports disciplines for the 2009 and 2011 Canada Games, will ensure that the apprentice coaches hold a specific and meaningful role with the teams.

"This is the inaugural year for the program," says Sue Hylland, President and CEO of the Canada Games Council. "I am confident that this program is an important step towards increased inclusion of Aboriginal peoples at the Canada Games."

The pilot program, which will feature apprentice coaches from six Provinces and three Territories at the 2009 Games, August 15-29, 2009, has two main objectives; to provide these aboriginal apprentice coaches with domestic multi-sport Games exposure and to build coaching capacity within Aboriginal communities.

Each of Canada's provinces and territories were invited to select up to two Aboriginal apprentice coaches in addition to their coaching staff for the program at the 2009 Canada Games and coordinators of the program were pleased with the response for this first year.

"The positive response this program has received in its first year is a good indication of the impact it will surely have on not only the apprentice coaches themselves, but also on their Canada Games colleagues and their communities later on." highlighted John Bales, Chief Executive Officer of the Coaching Association of Canada.

As part of the apprentice program, aboriginal coaches will receive appropriate guidance on interacting with the athletes and the coaching staff, to ensure positive and productive relationships are developed. The apprentices will be given significant training in advance of the Games and their ongoing professional development will play a crucial role in the overall success of the program.

"We are proud to be part of this partnership and to see that by working together we can provide training and experience which otherwise would not have been accessible to these Aboriginal coaches. The Apprenticeship program is a step toward realizing the Aboriginal Sport Circle's goal of meaningful inclusion of Aboriginal people in the Canada Games movement by providing the opportunity for our coaches to learn first-hand what is required to work at this level," states Virginia Doucett, Executive Director of the Aboriginal Sport Circle.

Please find following a final list of apprenticeship coaches for the 2009 Canada Games:

Prov/Terr	Name	Sport
Saskatchewan	Corey Matthews	Basketball
	Jonathon Smith	Wrestling
New Brunswick	Jason Peters	Basketball
	Sheila Frances	Athletics
Yukon	Jodi Tuton	Soccer
	Robin Chambers	Athletics
Manitoba	Kristy Fewchuk	Volleyball
	Marcel Boulanger	Basketball
British Columbia	Heather Hurst	Canoeing/Kayaking
PEI	Ryan Knockwood	Rugby
Nunavut	Patrick Angoyuaq	Wrestling

NWT	Farrah Bourke Christina McAdam	Soccer Swimming
Quebec	Jesse Rice	Canoeing/Kayaking

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Held once every two years, alternating between summer and winter, the Canada Games represent the highest level of national competition for the next generation of national team athletes and future champions. The Games have been hosted in every province at least once since their inception in Quebec City during Canada's Centennial in 1967. The Games are proud of their contribution to Canada's sport development system in addition to their lasting legacy of sport facilities, community pride and national unity. Since the first Games in 1967 in Quebec City, more than 100,000 young athletes have participated in the Canada Games.

The organization of the Canada Games is made possible through the tireless dedication of the local Host Society, the contribution and support of the federal, provincial/territorial and host municipal governments and the Canada Games Council. The 2009 Canada Games will take place in Prince Edward Island and the 2011 Canada Games will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The Aboriginal Sport Circle is Canada's voice for Aboriginal sport and recreation, which brings together the interests of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. The Aboriginal Sport Circle 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.

The Coaching Association of Canada (CAC) is a not-for-profit amateur sport organization with the mission of enhancing the experiences of all Canadian athletes through quality coaching. CAC and its partners deliver a leading-edge coaching system whose goal is to have an impact on 1,000,000 athletes through the training of 100,000 coaches each year in the National Coaching Certification Program. Visit www.coach.ca for more information about coach education and training.

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