

# Coaching icon still contributing

Yellowknife's athletic community has suffered a real loss with the departure of Ian Legaree, head coach of the Yk Polar Bear Swim Club, who has left the position after 10 years.

Yellowknife is missing a lot of the advantages that southern communities enjoy, such as top-notch training facilities financing for athletics. Despite those hurdles, sports are a wonderful thing for kids to be involved in. Children and young adults in the North benefit from being part of a team.

## ATHLETICS

People like Legaree help Yellowknife's youths reaching their potential as athletes. The coach has shown immeasurable dedication and support to the swimmers of the community. While the NWT doesn't have the best training centres, it does have some great coaches who act as mentors.

Despite NWT athletes not shining at the recent summer games, there are athletes that come out of the North - like speed skater

Michael Gilday for instance - who can take on the country, and that wouldn't be possible without great coaches.

Although the community has lost what Legaree's fellow coaches call an "icon of swimming," Yellowknife and the NWT may still be able to gain from the loss. Legaree will be taking a new position with Swim Canada and Swim Alberta as a trainer for new coaches, helping ensure his legacy may carry on for another generation of Northern athletes.