



The 2010 Mackenzie Youth Summer Games were held on July 5-9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in Fort Smith, Northwest Territories. Youth ages 8 – 14, from across the Mackenzie River Region, were invited to Fort Smith to participate in a week of different sport clinics and activities.

Participation by Community

<u>Community</u>	<u>Number of Youth</u>	<u>Number of Chaperones</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fort Providence	7	2	9
Yellowknife First Nations	12	3	15
Lutsel K'e	8	2	10
Jean Marie River	4	1	5
Fort Liard	13	3	16
Fort Smith	10	0	10

**Total Number of Youth Participants: 54**

The youth were divided into three groups according to their community ( Lutsel K'e and Yellowknife Dene First Nation; Fort Liard and Jean Marie River; and Fort Providence and Fort Smith), and participated in a wide spectrum of sports, including swimming, volleyball, traditional games, softball and soccer. The groups participated twice in each sports clinic over the week. Aside from being divided into groups according to their community, the youth were also assigned to different coloured teams (yellow, blue, red and green) and would compete in each sport in a "Team Challenge". Points were assigned according to how the team placed in the challenges, and tallied for an end cumulative score that determined the all around winner of the week. Aside from the daily sporting activities, the Mackenzie Youth Summer Games also offered fun night activities for the youth, ranging from icebreaker activities, to a town tour and scavenger hunt, to a Wii Game Challenge, to a movie night.

In the swimming clinics, Coaches Cassey and Courtney led the participants through drills meant to expand their knowledge of the four competitive strokes. We also further developed basic water safety skills, such as floating and treading water. The youth were reminded to contact their local lifeguards or swimming instructors about the upcoming North American Indigenous Games. The young athletes also competed in various fun relays, team challenges, and games that focused on the skills they learned in the pool that day.

We would like to thank Janie Hobart, as well as everyone who helped her, for the work, clean up, cooking, organizing, crowd control, and everything else she did that made the 2010 Mackenzie Youth Summer Games possible. We would like to thank all the other coaches and instructors that worked with the youth, and the chaperones that traveled down, giving up their week to work with this great group of kids. We would like to thank Northwestern Air for the great deal on airfare, Aurora College for the use of their dorms over the week, and the entire town of Fort Smith for the use of their facilities, town, as well as the amazing hospitality. This Games would have not have been what they were without this strong group of people behind them. And to everyone else who's names we may have forgotten, thank you!

