



News Release

Sport Nunavut Award Winners Announced

IQALUIT, Nunavut (March 22, 2005) – Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is pleased to announce the winners of the 2003 and 2004 Sport Nunavut Awards. These awards acknowledge Nunavummiut who contribute to, or who have demonstrated outstanding performance, or series of performances, in sport throughout the year. A total of ten recipients received awards in five categories.

“There are many opportunities for the youth of Nunavut to strive for. The skills learned while being involved in sports are the same needed to become successful future leaders in Nunavut,” Minister Tapardjuk said. “Qualities such as hard work, perseverance and commitment are what our youth learn by participating in sport. I am pleased to be able to recognize these individuals and encourage others to follow their example.”

Awards are presented in the following categories: Male Athlete of the Year, Female Athlete of the Year, Coach of the Year, Contributor of the Year and Team of the Year. The 2003 and 2004 recipients were:

2003 Male Athlete of the Year – Kenny Algona
2003 Female Athlete of the Year – Tina Campbell
2003 Coach of the year – Russ Sheppard
2003 Contributor of the Year – Kugluktuk Grizzlies Athletic Association
2003 Team of the Year – Canada Winter Games Speed Skating

2004 Male Athlete of the Year – John Ray Mariq
2004 Female Athlete of the Year – Kelli McLarty
2004 Coach of the Year – Brad Mainse
2004 Contributor of the Year – Inuksuk High School Athletics
2004 Team of the Year – 2004 Arctic Winter Games Team Nunavut

The Sport Nunavut Awards are an annual awards program. Nomination forms are available by calling Sport Nunavut toll free at: 1-888-765-5506.

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For more information, contact:

Catriona Whitworth, Communications Officer
Culture, Language, Elders and Youth

☎ (867) 975.5512
📠 (867) 975.5523

Background

2003 Male Athlete of the Year – Kenny Algona of Kugluktuk– Kenny won gold at the 2003 Nunavut Badminton Championships. He has represented Team Nunavut at the national level in field lacrosse, receiving notable mention for his outstanding individual performances and leadership. Kenny is currently pursuing post secondary studies at the University of Alberta.

2003 Female Athlete of the Year – Tina Campbell of Iqaluit– Tina participated in badminton at the 2003 Canada Winter Games in New Brunswick, and at the 2003 Western Canada Summer Games in Manitoba. She has been involved in many sports in Nunavut and is also a regular volunteer at most sporting events. Tina presently attends university in the south.

2003 Coach of the Year – Russ Sheppard of Kugluktuk – Russ is a multi sport coach and was the recipient of the 2002 Sport Nunavut Contributor of the Year. Russ has coached the Kugluktuk Grizzlies Volleyball Team to a Territorial Championship and to a gold medal performance at the NWT *Spike It Tournament*. He has coached Team Nunavut Lacrosse at two national level tournaments and continues to develop and promote some of the most prominent sport programs in Nunavut.

2003 Contributor of the Year – Kugluktuk Grizzlies Athletic Association – The Grizzlies Athletic Association is an organization that has done a lot of good, not only for their home community, but also for Nunavut as a whole. The contributions made by the individuals involved in this organization have been recognized nationally. Kenny Algona and Russ Sheppard both accepted the award on behalf of the Grizzlies.

2003 Team of the Year – Canada Winter Games Speed Skating – Nunavut's Canada Winter Games Speed Skating team provided the rest of Canada with a glimpse of what a group of dedicated volunteers could do in a very short time at the 2003 Canada Winter Games. They were great ambassadors for Nunavut. The 2003 Canada Winter Games speed skating team was made up of: Correna Nuyalia, Ashley Tufts, Megan Pizzo-Lyall, Lucassie Peter, Peter Gilhuly, Kyle St. Laurent, Nick Dunphy, Aqpik Peter and coach John Maurice.

2004 Male Athlete of The Year – John Ray Mariq of Baker Lake – John Ray has participated in lacrosse at the national level, in badminton and Inuit games at the territorial level, and will also be representing Nunavut at the 2005 Canada Summer Games in Regina as a cultural performer.

2004 Female Athlete of the Year – Kelli McLarty of Rankin Inlet – Kelli has been involved in sport programs in Nunavut for a number of years. Her accomplishments include being part of the 2003 Western Canada Games in Selkirk, Manitoba and being a team leader on the 2004 Arctic Winter Games Nunavut badminton team, where she won a silver medal for Nunavut.

2004 Coach of the Year – Brad Mainse of Baker Lake – Brad has volunteered countless hours in the past year. He has coached community teams in badminton, basketball and lacrosse while also acting as a volunteer board member for the local athletics association. Brad has also volunteered his expertise in hosting events as a tournament chairperson for four territorial championships during 2004.

2004 Contributor of the Year – Inuksuk High School Athletics in Iqaluit – Inuksuk High School Athletics has shown dedication by providing quality sporting events for the youth of Nunavut. During the winter of 2004, this group went above and beyond the call of duty in volunteering countless hours of preparation and by hosting numerous sporting events. Terry Young accepted the award on behalf of the school.

2004 Team of the Year – 2004 Arctic Winter Games Team Nunavut – Team Nunavut was awarded the Hodgson Trophy during the 2004 Arctic Winter Games, an award they received for the second time. Being awarded the Hodgson Trophy is the highest award presented during the Arctic Winter Games, acknowledging sportsmanship and fair play.