News Release

Nunavut's 2010 Olympic Cultural Performers will bring the Territory to the World

IQALUIT, Nunavut (August 7, 2009) Yesterday, Robert Long, Deputy Minister of Economic Development & Transportation, lead department for the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games, proudly announced the 16 performers who will represent Nunavut at the Games.

"These performers have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to bring Nunavut's unique and dynamic culture to people around the world," said Long. "This tremendous chance to enlighten and entertain is made possible through the Government of Nunavut's partnership with the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games (VANOC). This shows our support of our cultural industry and promotion of our heritage to a global audience."

The performers are from all three regions of Nunavut. They include drum dancers, throat singers, break dancers, and circus performers. (A full list is included in the backgrounder.)

The sixteen artists will perform for half an hour in front of an audience of about 20,000 people during the "Victory Celebration" on February 21, 2010 at BC Place in Vancouver. The event is also expected to draw a television audience of over one billion people.

There will likely be other opportunities to perform during the Games.

Six members of Artcirq, the circus group from Igloolik, will be at the Games.

"We are very excited and proud to be part of this event," said Guillaume Saladin, president and co-founder of Artcirq. "This gives us an amazing opportunity to share our traditional and contemporary culture. We are looking forward to performing and collaborating with other Nunavut artists for a global audience and showcasing what Nunavut can do!"

The first rehearsal will be held from August 7th to 12th in Iqaluit.

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