

Press Release – Arctic Winter Games Loses a Champion

March 28, 2011- Whitehorse, Yukon:



The Arctic Winter Games International Committee (AWGIC) noted with great sadness the passing of Donald M. Cooper in Yellowknife today. Mr. Cooper was President of the AWGIC from 1986 to 1994 and President of two Host Societies (1984 and 1998) when the Games were hosted in Yellowknife.

“As a director appointed from Alaska during his tenure as President of the AWGIC, and me serving as a Chef de Mission for Team Alaska in 1992, I certainly looked up to him as a mentor/ leader” commented Wendell Shiffler, Vice President.

Gerry Thick, President of AWGIC said, “the Arctic Winter Games has lost a true champion today. We are greatly saddened by his passing. He was an ardent believer in the Games because he saw firsthand the life changing impact they had on many thousands of young people from around the circumpolar world.”

Under the leadership of Don Cooper, the Arctic Winter Games grew to become a truly international event through the participation of Greenland and Russia in 1990. Mr. Cooper also championed the inclusion of popular northern events like indoor soccer, short track speed skating and expanded schedules for Arctic Sports and Dene Games. Mr. Thick noted, “his vision for the Games has benefitted sport development in the North for many years to come”.

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