

For Immediate Release

Wednesday, October 27, 2004

NAIG Council Moves Towards Future

The North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) Council is the international governing body of the North American Indigenous Games and is made of 26 representatives from all over Canada and the United States (13 American and 13 Canadian). The first North American Indigenous Games were held in 1990 in Edmonton, Alberta; in 1993, Prince Albert Saskatchewan; in 1995, Blaine, Minnesota; in 1997, Victoria, British Columbia; and most recently in 2002, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The NAIG Council is responsible for determining the site of future North American Indigenous Games through a bid process. The NAIG Council met this past weekend at the Mohegan Sun Casino in Uncasville, Connecticut and decided upon the host communities for the next two Indigenous Games. Through three days of meetings, Denver, Colorado had been awarded the hosting rights to the games in 2006, and Cowichan, BC plays host to 2008.

Denver 2006's bid was backed by Host Tribes Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute of Colorado and the Native American Sports Council (NASC). Gene Keluche, NASC Chairman and Maurice "Mo" Smith, NASC Executive Director led the successful bid team which included Colorado Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell as their Honourary Games Chairman.

"The team from Denver's enthusiasm for the Games is contagious. They have done a great job in the shortened time frame already and we look forward to coming to Colorado in two short years!" Harold Joseph, President of the NAIG Council stated.

Cowichan, British Columbia and Regina, Saskatchewan were the final two presentations in a race to win the rights to the 2008 NAIG. Both committees boasted extensive regional and national support and the final decision came down in a 12-7 vote, awarding the games to Cowichan in 2008.

"The NAIG Council had a difficult job of picking between two very strong bids for 2008 from Regina and Cowichan. Both regions would have done an excellent job hosting the games." Harold Joseph, NAIG Council President.

For more information, please contact:

Harold Joseph, President
North American Indigenous Games Council
Cell 425.330.2106
Email Harold_Joseph@msvl.k12.wa.us

Brennan Gohn
Cowichan Tribes, British Columbia
Cell 250.709.7902
Email brennan@cowichan.ca

Native American Sports Council
Denver, Colorado
Phone 719.632.5282