

Media Release: Northern Saskatchewan Sport, Culture and Recreation Festival on February 19-22, 2013



LA RONGE, SK: On February 19-22, 2013 the Northern Sport, Culture and Recreation District with northern communities of Village of Air Ronge, Town of La Ronge, and the Lac La Ronge Indian Band hosted the 8th Northern Saskatchewan Sport, Culture and Recreation Festival 2013.

The purpose of this special event was to bring youth, families, and communities from across the northern Saskatchewan together to participate, learn, develop, and



celebrate through sport, culture and recreation. The Festival represented a unique opportunity in the north for communities to come together, meet new friends, learn new skills in sport or culture, have new experiences in life and celebrate their successes.

In August 1980, the first Northern Saskatchewan Games and Cultural Festival was held in La Ronge. The theme “Knowing Each Other” rang true as participants from throughout northern Saskatchewan, representing five regional teams, came together for a week of festivities. The overwhelming success of this gathering attributed to future Games/Festivals in 1989 in Beauval, 1993 in Cumberland House, 1997 in Buffalo Narrows, 2001 in Stony Rapids and Black Lake, 2006 in Montreal Lake (Northern Saskatchewan Cultural Gathering) and 2009 in Beauval.

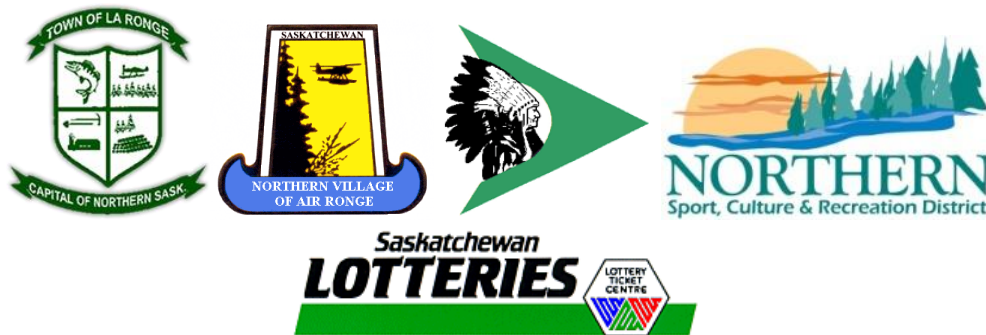
The Northern Saskatchewan Sport, Culture and Recreation Festival is a program of the Northern Sport, Culture and Recreation District (NSCRD) with funding from the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund. Many smiles were had all around by northern youth and their leaders. A big thank you needs to go to the host communities, the coaches, officials, chaperones, facilitators and especially to the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Foundation for being the sole funder of this important developmental opportunity in the north. Thank you!

Highlights:

- ❖ Overall 273 (sport & cultural streams of youth participants) including chaperones, coaches and officials from across the north.
- ❖ Representation from 24 communities from across the north (Wollaston, Black Lake, Stony Rapids, Fund du Lac, Ile a la Crosse, Green Lake, Beauval, Clearwater, La Loche, Buffalo

Narrows, Jans Bay, Canoe Narrows, Cumberland House, Sandy Bay, Pelican Narrows, Weywakin, Montreal Lake, Denare Beach, Creighton, La Ronge, Air Ronge, LLRIB, Stanley Mission, Hall Lake) with particularly strong representation from communities in the Athabasca Basin.

- ❖ Sport: Athletes, coaches and officials development in the sports of basketball and broomball with day long round robin tournaments with 5 regional teams competing against each other. The Beaver River Team won the Basketball Tournament and Clearwater Team won the Broomball Tournament. A medals ceremony took place on Wednesday evening.
- ❖ Culture (contemporary and traditional): Participants took part in a number of different workshops ranging from hip hop/flash mop, beat making, performance and video production, painting and wall art and concluded Wednesday evening with a number of performances for everyone.
- ❖ On the Thursday all participants came together to participate in recreation and traditional cultural activities at Bells Point School. Many had new experiences in life and made new friendships.
- ❖ Host communities of La Ronge, Air Ronge and LLRIB benefited in developing capacity and experience in their communities to host similar events like this in the future and had economic spin offs from hosting such a large scale event in their community.



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