



communiqué

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 8, 2003

Games Torch design chosen

The design of the torch destined to carry the symbolic flame for the 2004 Arctic Winter Games was chosen this week.

Local Metis artist Darren L. Shemko's design was selected from an impressive array of submissions by Northern Alberta artists.

"The selection committee was extremely pleased with the breadth of worthy submissions," said Amanda Golosky-Johnston, Volunteer Co-Director of Culture and Ceremonies for the Arctic Winter Games. "Darren's creation will carry the spirit of the Games during the event and afterwards serve as a wonderful reminder of the great experience for our community."

An independent committee consisting of five representatives, including two local artists and a representative from the municipality, chose the design.

Those eager to see the creation will have to wait until its unveiling at the opening ceremony on 28th February 2004. It will remain lit for the duration of the Games and extinguished at the closing ceremony. Following the Games, it will be cast in bronze and given to the municipality to display in a prominent location of its choosing.

Darren was born and raised in Fort McMurray and acquired his formal artistic training at Red Deer College. He currently works as a machinist and is merging his industrial skills with his creative passion in the form of artistic bronze sculptures.

Held once every two years, the Arctic Winter Games represent a high level of international opportunity for aspiring athletes, and cultural artists and performers from the north. The Games have been hosted in every Canadian territory and the province of Alberta since their inception in Yellowknife in 1970. More than 2,000 athletes, 4,000 volunteers and 300 media will be involved in the Games from February 28 – March 6, 2004 in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

-30-

For more information, contact: **Tom O'Hara, General Manager**
2004 Arctic Winter Games Host Society
Phone 780-799-2004