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Awarding sportsmanship at the Arctic Winter Games

In keeping with tradition, the 2004 Arctic Winter Games will once again award the coveted Hodgson Trophy to the contingent that exhibits the best overall sportsmanship during the 2004 Games.

One of the founders of the 2004 Arctic Winter Games, Commissioner S.M. Hodgson of the Northwest Territories, donated the Hodgson Trophy to the Arctic Winter Games Corporation in 1978 for the purposes of recognizing that in the north, the concepts of cooperation and resource sharing are valued. In a multifaceted event like the Arctic Winter Games, this concept can be translated as Fair Play and respect for the philosophy behind the Arctic Winter Games.

"This is the only presentation other than ULU's awarded at the Arctic Winter Games and it is a very prestigious honour," says Gerry Thick, President of the Arctic Winter Games International Committee. "The award demonstrates that the contingent members have displayed respect for the rules, respect for officials and their decisions along with respect for opponents and being able to maintain self-control. "

The Hodgson Trophy is actually a piece of Inuit artwork. Its main feature is a six-foot high narwhal tusk mounted on a soapstone base and decorated with scrimshaw. A carved walrus wraps itself around the tusk at the base, and a carved bear clings to the tusk's upper reaches, symbolizing the efforts of participants to reach for the top through their endeavours. The trophy is on public display at the Yukon Sports Hall of Fame in Whitehorse. A framed photograph of the Hodgson Trophy is represented to the selected contingent at the Games and each individual team member receives a distinctive pin to commemorate their collective achievement.

Voters during the 2004 Arctic Winter Games will include Mission Staff Members, registered coaches, major officials from each sport, Arctic Winter Games International Committee members, all registered media, the president, general manager and sport manager for the 2004 Host Society.

The award will be announced at the 2004 Arctic Winter Games Closing Ceremonies. Previous winners include:

1978-1988	Team Yukon	1995	Team NWT
1990	Team Alaska	1998	Team Yukon
1991	Team NWT	2000	Team Nunavut
1994	Team Greenland	2002	Team Greenland

Held once every two years, the Arctic Winter Games represent a high level of international opportunity for aspiring athletes, 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, 4,500 volunteers and 300 media will be involved in the Games from February 28 - March 6, 2004 in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

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