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MR. SHANE THOMPSON
MLA, NAHENDEH

Oral Question 3-18(2): Arctic Winter Games Mission Staff

During the February 17, 2016 sitting of the Legislative Assembly, you asked a question about the selection of Mission Staff for the Arctic Winter Games.

Sport North Federation is responsible for managing the participation of Team Northwest Territories (NWT) at the Arctic Winter Games, including the selection of Mission Staff. The Federation sends out the call for mission staff applications in the fall before the Games. The applications are reviewed against criteria that include gender and regional balance, volunteer commitment to sport and the ability to support coaches and athletes in the host community.

Team NWT is allowed 14 mission staff; two are the Chef and Assistant Chef de Mission, both of whom are Sport North employees. Up to three other mission staff are the coordinators of the territorial selection trials and one or two others are appointed by the Department (one for 2016). This leaves eight others to be selected from the pool of applicants. Sport North receives a higher number of applications when the Games are held in international locations like Nuuk, Greenland. They received over 80 applications for the 2016 Arctic Winter Games.

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I agree with your comments that a need exists to review Sport North's selection criteria so that it is as balanced as possible for future events. As such, I have instructed the Department to work with Sport North to complete a review prior to the selection of mission staff for the next Games.

Thank you for your continuing support for the importance of sport and recreation in the NWT.

Original Signed By

Robert C. McLeod
Minister of Municipal and
Community Affairs

- c. Mr. Tim Mercer
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. David Hastings
Legislative Coordinator
Department of Executive