

Coaches Named for the Aboriginal Apprentice Coach Program at the 2009 Canada Games

The final list of coaches has been released for the pilot Aboriginal Apprentice Coach Program at the 2009 Canada Summer Games in Prince Edward Island.

The Aboriginal Apprentice Coach Program is a joint venture in partnership with the Canada Games Council, the Aboriginal Sport Circle, the Coaching Association of Canada and Provincial and Territorial government partners. The program, which will recruit new coaches in sports disciplines for the 2009 and 2011 Canada Games, will ensure that the apprentice coaches hold a specific and meaningful role with the teams.

"This is the inaugural year for the program," says Sue Hylland, President and CEO of the Canada Games Council. "I am confident that this program is an important step towards increased inclusion of Aboriginal peoples at the Canada Games."

The pilot program, which will feature apprentice coaches from six Provinces and three Territories at the 2009 Games, August 15-29, 2009, has two main objectives; to provide these aboriginal apprentice coaches with domestic multi-sport Games exposure and to build coaching capacity within Aboriginal communities.

Each of Canada's provinces and territories were invited to select up to two Aboriginal apprentice coaches in addition to their coaching staff for the program at the 2009 Canada Games and coordinators of the program were pleased with the response for this first year.

"The positive response this program has received in its first year is a good indication of the impact it will surely have on not only the apprentice coaches themselves, but also on their Canada Games colleagues and their communities later on." highlighted John Bales, Chief Executive Officer of the Coaching Association of Canada.

As part of the apprentice program, aboriginal coaches will receive appropriate guidance on interacting with the athletes and the coaching staff, to ensure positive and productive relationships are developed. The apprentices will be given significant training in advance of the Games and their ongoing professional development will play a crucial role in the overall success of the program.

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“We are proud to be part of this partnership and to see that by working together we can provide training and experience which otherwise would not have been accessible to these Aboriginal coaches. The Apprenticeship program is a step toward realizing the Aboriginal Sport Circle’s goal of meaningful inclusion of Aboriginal people in the Canada Games movement by providing the opportunity for our coaches to learn first-hand what is required to work at this level,” states Virginia Doucett, Executive Director of the Aboriginal Sport Circle.

Please find following a final list of apprenticeship coaches for the 2009 Canada Games:

Prov/Terr	Name	Sport
Saskatchewan	Corey Matthews, Jonathon Smith,	Basketball Wrestling
New Brunswick	Jason Peters Sheila Frances	Basketball Athletics
Yukon	Jodi Tuton Robin Chambers	Soccer Athletics
Manitoba	Kristy Fewchuk, Marcel Boulanger	Volleyball Basketball
British Columbia	Heather Hurst,	Canoeing/Kayaking
PEI	Ryan Knockwood,	Rugby
Nunavut	Patrick Angoyuaq	Wrestling
NWT	Farrah Bourke Christina McAdam	Soccer Swimming
Quebec	Jesse Rice	Canoeing/Kayaking