



The 2017 Canada Summer Games Mascot has a Name!

The winning name was submitted by Grade 3 student Taylor Schepp, from Winnipeg, MB

WINNIPEG (June 9, 2016) – Niibin (NEE-BIN) has been chosen as the name of the 2017 Canada Summer Games’ mascot. Niibin is a magical creature, created by the summer heat who loves to dance, play sports, and head off on adventures. The name Niibin was submitted by Grade 3 student Taylor Schepp from St. Emile Cathloic School in Winnipeg.

“Niibin is the Anishinaabe word for ‘it is summer.’ I like the name Niibin because it sounds cool, and because it is the Canada *Summer Games*,” explained Schepp.

As the winner of the 2017 Canada Summer Games Mascot Naming Challenge, Schepp will be an official torchbearer in the 2017 Canada Summer Games Torch Relay, get a special visit with Niibin, and receive a 2017 Canada Summer Games Gear package.

Over 530 classrooms in Manitoba and Kenora, ON participated in the 2017 Canada Summer Games Mascot Naming Challenge. Niibin, Kai, and Nova were selected as the top three names for public vote. Voting opened online June 1 and closed on June 6. One thousand, three hundred and sixty-four votes were cast by the general public.

“It’s great to see such a high level of engagement from our region with the Mascot Naming Challenge. Taylor’s name submission is a perfect fit for the 2017 Canada Summer Games mascot,” said Jeff Hnatiuk, President and CEO of the 2017 Canada Summer Games Host Society. “We are now looking forward to having Niibin on our team as we build excitement for the Games over the next 15 months.”

The 2017 Canada Summer Games mascot program is presented by Doctors Manitoba in association with the Fit Kids Healthy Kids program.

“We are thrilled to be supporting the Canada Games in this way. As doctors we know how important exercise and a healthy lifestyle is to the health of our patients. Through our support here and initiatives such as Doctors Manitoba’s Fit Kids Healthy Kids program we can hopefully inspire more Manitobans to get out there and be active,” said Dr. Barbara Kelleher, President of Doctors Manitoba.

The Games’ mascot will visit schools and community events, attend all Games milestone celebrations and major ceremonies, and will be featured in advertisements, on signage and merchandise. To request Niibin at your community event, please fill out our [mascot appearance request form](https://canadagames.ca/2017/mascot-appearance-request-form) online at canadagames.ca/2017

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About the 2017 Canada Summer Games:

Winnipeg, Manitoba will host the Canada Summer Games July 28 – August 13, 2017. Featuring 16 sports, over 250 events and a major cultural festival, the 2017 Canada Games will welcome over 4,000 athletes and coaches and more than 20,000 visitors. Celebrating the Games' 50th anniversary and Canada's 150th birthday, the Canada Games are this country's largest multi-sport event for young athletes. They will leave a lasting legacy of new and enhanced sport facilities, volunteer and leadership development that will benefit athletes and the broader community for years to come.

About Doctors Manitoba:

Doctors Manitoba is the voluntary, professional association that represents the economic, health policy and health promotion interests of the province's medical doctors, or physicians. Doctors Manitoba serves and unites the physicians of Manitoba and to advocate the highest standards of health and health care for the people of Manitoba.

About Fit Kids Healthy Kids:

Fit Kids Healthy Kids is a physical literacy program founded as a partnership between Doctors Manitoba and Sport Manitoba. It teaches children and their adult leaders the fundamentals of movement that make kids confident and competent in sport, recreation, and life. The goal of the program is fit, healthy kids that are active for life.

For more information, or to arrange interviews/media availability, please contact:

2017 Canada Summer Games:

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