

# CHEF DE MISSION FINAL REPORT

## WOOD BUFFALO 2023 AWG

Team Sàpmi – Ron Knutsen

### Section I - Evaluation of Performance of the Host Society

*Please provide bullet point comments with recommendation under each subtitle, if required.*

#### Registration and Accreditation

The registration process is a bit problematic; it seems like an old way of doing it. This is not the problem the Host Society can do much about, but the system is a bit old. The mail communication from the registration to Athletes often ends in the junk mail. It is a kind of frustration and make some problems, often do the athlete make them several users.

When the athletes have registered, the rest of the accreditation process went ok. We do not have that many persons who need to register in the system. I believe it is more difficult for the bigger contingents.

- It will be helpful if the registration in GEMS could make it easier to provide access for the people who need to get registered.

#### Welcome and Arrivals

The arrivals and welcome were easy, it seems like it was well prepared from the Host Side. Everything went as planned, and we had travelled for over 30 hours. The time at the airport was fast, and the transportation to the different locations went well. We came earlier than the rest of the contingents and was taken really good care of.

#### Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony was a bit cold. 1 hour outside maybe a bit long compering to the temperature outside. Some of our athletes, find it a bit boring. Maybe the number of people who must speak when the athletes is at the arena, can be reduced.

The planning inside the stadium, before we went outside, was a good solution. And the march from waiting area to opening venue also went ok. The march into the stadium is always a good experience for the athletes, and the response from the crowd is a highlight for everyone involved.

- If we can suggest one change for the future, it maybe be less speeches and more music when the athletes are inside the opening venue.

#### Team Accommodations

Our athletes and coaches living at the village was satisfied having all the athletes at one place. It seems that everybody enjoyed having their own room. It was also a good solution providing wifi in all the rooms. Although the rooms were small, they served their purpose well. It was also easy to take a small shower when they wanted to. It was good conditions for washing clothes and laundry.

The biggest problems were the distance to the arenas. This meant that much time was spent on transport.

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The conditions for the mission staff were also satisfying. The Clearwater Suite Hotel worked well in relation to the task we had to solve. The only thing we must put our fingers on was that the breakfast was a bit simple. In spite everything we were very satisfied with our stay there.

### **Food Service/Village Dining**

Our athletes and coaches were satisfied with the food service at the village. They had enough food, and the athletes always had something to eat if they wanted to. The times were spread over a good time perspective. Everyone was given a seat at the tables when they had to eat. The food was tasty and good looking. Almost everyone found something they liked to eat. Good food is important for well-being and here they got what they wanted. It does a lot with the mood of the athletes.

### **Medal Ceremonies**

The medal ceremonies at the venues have a good function. It seems like the athletes are enjoying the moment. We believe it is far better than having the ceremonies in just one place. All our ceremonies went as planned from the Host side, nothing to complain about. Our Couches think this is fine way of doing the ceremonies.

### **IT/Communications/Network Services**

It was a good solution providing wifi in all athlete's rooms at the village. We believe it is very important for young people to be able to communicate on different platforms, and keep in touch with each other, even if they are in their own room. Especially for those who are far from home, it is important to be able to communicate with friends and family who are at home. We had good wifi at our mission office.

### **Mission Offices, Services and Accommodations**

Mission offices were quite ok and the right size for us in Team Sàpmi. However, we missed simple remedies in the office. Things like a flipchart and markers should have been in place. Access to a printer that worked as desired was probably a bit poor. Otherwise, the office worked very well for us. The proximity to the morning meetings was very good. We used the office much more this time than we have previously done. Otherwise, we were quite satisfied with what they could offer in the office. It was also good to be close to some of the competition arenas.

- We missed simple remedies in the office.
- We would have liked a better printer that we could have had direct access to.

### **Cultural Program**

Our culture leader and cultural youth were very satisfied with the content of the culture section. The head of culture was satisfied with the planning in advance and the actual implementation during AWG 2023. In addition, our cultural youth got to take part in very exciting things, such as the Zoom meeting with the Crown Prince of England.

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### **Forms and Publications**

We don't have much to add to this point. Most of the publications were perfectly fine. We got the things we asked for and were mostly satisfied.

### **Media**

We only had our own media person with us, and he had access to what he needed to carry out his duties. The rest of the Sàpmi media stayed in their own hotels, and it seemed that they were very satisfied with their stay.

### **Medical Services/Polyclinic**

The polyclinic worked very well for Team Sàpmi. All our requests and needs for examination of athletes and coaches were done in a fast and excellent manner. We did not have any athletes out of play. Only a few sore throats that went away on their own, after some rest.

### **Results**

In Futsal and cross-country skiing, the results service worked well. These are the only sports we participate in, so here the service was very good.

### **Security**

When it comes to security, we have no negative comments. The only thing is perhaps the first day around the mission offices, where there was little control over who was there. Otherwise, it was very good for us. And the few requests we had were quickly followed up on.

### **Social Program**

Have no comments on this point, as we have not been involved in it.

### **Transportation**

This point is probably the one that stands out in a negative direction. Especially the first days of the competition were very chaotic. It didn't seem like they had calculated the long distances to the bus hub from the participant village. And that they had not anticipated how many people would start from the morning. It led to great frustration for athletes and coaches, and it also made the mission office very busy. There was a lot of communication in many different directions, and it was difficult to get feedback from those we needed feedback from. We believe that the problem was that far too few buses were planned in circulation. The problem was addressed, and they got it working somehow after a few days. For our part, the athletes were transported directly from the participant village to the venues. This made it easier to get good times for the various competition arenas. That allowed our coaches to lower their shoulders a bit, and trust that they got there in time. This meant that we at the mission office could concentrate on the important things. And the frustration level went down significantly.

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In the last part of the days, the transport went relatively well for us. It was important that they solved the transport problems relatively quickly. In the last period, there were mostly only happy smiles to be seen.

- It may be a good idea to involve the chef de mission and other managers in planning the transport for later AWG competitions. They have invaluable expertise about what is important for the various sports.
- It might be a good idea to limit the distances from where the athletes live to the competition areas.
- It is important to ensure that there is sufficient capacity for the number of buses on the various routes.

### **Website & Socials**

The social part was very good. They all lived in the same place, and they mixed in an excellent way. The social interaction between the different districts and groups seemed to work very well. Almost everyone from Team Sàpmi made new friends and acquaintances with whom they will stay in touch for a long time.

Having separate areas for changing pins was a very good idea. Many new friends were made here, and it was easy for everyone to get in touch with others.

### **Send off and Departures**

The transport to the airport went well. This applied to 48 of our travellers.

The only thing was that we had a small group of 7 people who left later than the others. They did not meet anyone here to transport them to the airport. It worked out at the last minute, and they got off at the appointed time from the airport.

We had a commercial trip, so Host had no responsibility for our trip back to the Nordics. Our problem was that all our ski bags were left in Fort McMurray. They arrived at our destinations several days after we were home. It seems as if all the ski bags went to the right addresses. But there was a good deal of frustration that they were gone. There are relatively large values in these skis and poles.

### **Miscellaneous**

Despite the transport problems, the overall picture of AWG 2023 is very positive. It looked like most of the competitions went as planned. Culture was very well carried out. Overall, there were mostly only happy faces to see, and a very good atmosphere in the areas we visited.

## **Section II - Comments and Recommendations of your Team**

*Please provide bullet point comments with recommendation under each subtitle, if required.*

### **General Unit Management**

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We do not have enough knowledge to comment this. In general, it seemed that there was good control. Maybe a few people in the middle (little - small organization), but we have not enough references to say that for sure.

### **Intra-team Communications**

### **Cultural Delegation Selection**

**Finance**

**Forms, Publications, Team Booklets/Manuals/Handbooks**

**Insurance**

**Media**

**Medical Services**

**Sports**

**Transportation**

**Team Selection Process**

**Website & Socials**

### **Section III - General Comments & Recommendations Directed to the International Committee**

*Please provide bullet point comments with recommendation under each subtitle, if required.*

**General Comments**

**Recommendations**

**Miscellaneous**

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### Section IV – Unit Involvement Summary

Participation Summary			
	Regional Trials	Jurisdictional Trials	Games
Athletes	19	23	
Coaches	7		
Mission Staff	5		
Chaperones	1		
Total	32	23	
Communities Involved			
Indigenous Athletes Involved	18	23	
Male Athletes Involved	9		
Female Athletes Involved	9		

Summary by Sport			
Sport	Regional Trials	Jurisdictional Trials	Games
Alpine Skiing			
Archery			
Arctic Sports			
Badminton			
Basketball			
Biathlon – Ski & Snowshoe			
Cross Country Skiing		23	
Curling			
Dene Games			
Figure Skating			
Futsal	18		
Gymnastics			
Hockey			
Snowboard			

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Snowshoe			
Speedskating			
Table Tennis			
Volleyball			
Wrestling			
Cultural	1		
Totals	19	23	

Summary of Revenue and Expenditures (Please complete separate sheet for regional trials, jurisdictional trials and Games)			
<u>REVENUE</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Federal Contribution	2 141 013 NOK	Transportation	1526022 NOK
Territorial/Provincial/State Contribution		Accommodations	Is in the transportation
Donations		Clothing & Accessories	365 886 NOK
Participant Contribution	97 000 NOK	Facilities	
Sales		Sport Officials	
Other (Please specify)		Administration	341 280 NOK
		Other (Deltaker avgift)	104 825 NOK
Total	2 338 013 NOK	Total	2 338 013 NOK