

# Sports groups anxious about 2010

## Games review has put selections and camps on hold

by James McCarthy  
Northern News Services  
NWT

*This is the second part of the report on the Multi-sport Games Review published by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.*

There are plenty of concerns arising from the Multi-sport Games Review put out by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) on March 12. Sport North called the report "far from adequate." Sport North president Abe Thiel specifically said the report's authors – the Sutcliffe Group from Toronto – didn't do their homework.

NWT Soccer Association president Ryan Fequet said the report's suggestion of having territorial sports organizations (TSOs) handle more of the workload will make things tougher because of the lack of volunteers some groups have.

Among the greatest concerns is the 2010 Arctic Winter Games. Ian Legaree, MACA's director of sport, recreation and youth, said his department is "fully committed to sending teams" to Grande Prairie, Alta., but the timing

of the report's release isn't sitting well with some.

NWT Boardsport president Louise Matthews said her organization is getting anxious about what the process will be when it comes to selecting the team for 2010.

"We want to know what's going on," she said. "What we would like to have is a little more control over the roster selection. For the 2008 (Arctic Winter) games, we had to meet a bunch of arbitrary deadlines and that just didn't work. It's tough for us to meet those because we don't know who we can send and if we have to deal with arbitrary deadlines again, we'll be in trouble."

Basketball NWT president Damien Healy said while he agrees with some of what's in the review, it still falls short of what his sport was looking for.

"I thought it would specifically speak to 2010, but I don't see much mention of it at all," he said. "I know Ian (Legaree) has said we're committed, but I still have parents and coaches asking me when certain things are going to happen, and I'm left

telling them they just have to be patient."

Specifically, Healy said he's looking for dates of when things will happen in order to get his teams in proper shape in time for 2010.

"I need to know when I can put camps and clinics on, I need to know what's going to happen where so I can get my guys into tournaments and practices," he said.

One aspect of the report being taken in a positive light is the recommendation of eliminating direct entry into events. Healy said he's been championing that for the past eight years.

"I can't just throw things together, like flying a small number of people in from the communities," he said. "They just get a free trip and they won't be at the same level as people here who have been playing and practising. I would much rather travel to somewhere like Colville Lake and see three guys as opposed to flying them in cold."

At the end of the day, Matthews said there are things in the report she can work with, and she is willing to work with the stakeholders involved to make things right.

"I understand that things aren't easy, but I think we want to see everything work," she said.

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**The NWT flag will fly at the 2010 Arctic Winter Games, but some groups are worried about what MACA's Multi-sport Games Review will mean to team selections.**

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