



Message from Minister John Streicker

Welcome athletes! Welcome cultural performers! Welcome to the coaches, officials, organizers, families and supporters who will join us for the 2020 Arctic Winter Games!

From March 15 to 21, 2020, young athletes from across the circumpolar world – from Nunavik to Greenland to Alaska – will gather in Whitehorse. They will compete, perform, set personal bests, meet others from across the Arctic and make lasting friendships along the way.

It is an honour for Whitehorse and our territory to once again welcome the Games – 50 years since the Games first started in Yellowknife in 1970. In 2020 we will be celebrating how the Games have grown. The communities hosting have expanded, and every year new athlete and cultural participants from around the Arctic get involved in the Game experience.

The growth and continued success of these Games speaks to the important role they play in our circumpolar world, the pride participants feel in their achievements and diverse cultures, and the dedication of the many staff and volunteers who work to make these Games happen.

The 2020 Games mark the first time the Government of Yukon is partnering with the City of Whitehorse to co-host the Games. We are honoured to share this important role with the City, recognizing the positive impacts these Games have had – and continue to have – on our capital, our territory and the greater circumpolar world.

These Games could not be a success without the combined efforts of so many organizations and individuals. We are proud to work alongside the AWG Host Society, the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, the Kwanlin Dun First National, the Council of Yukon First Nations, Yukon College and our many business sponsors.

A big shout out to all the folks who have given their time to the Games: the AWG Host Society staff and volunteers who have worked tirelessly to bring these Games together and of course the team chef-de-mission's and their mission staff for supporting and looking after their teams. Mahsi cho, merci, thank you!

I encourage Yukoners and our circumpolar neighbours – young and old, alumni and newcomers – to take part in this unique celebration in 2020.

Let the Games begin!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Streicker", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

John Streicker
Minister of Community Services