

Welcome to the 2009 Saskatchewan First Nation Summer Games hosted by Onion Lake.

The games will run from Sunday August 9 to Thursday August 13.

Onion Lake Cree Nation will play host to over 3,500 athletes aged 11-17 years. They will participate in 6 different sports:

- Athletics
- Archery
- Canoeing
- Golf
- Soccer
- Softball
- Hand-games (demonstration sport)

These athletes will come from all corners of Saskatchewan and represent their communities/tribal councils.

- Agency Chiefs Tribal Council (ACTC)
- Battleford Agency Tribal (BATC)
- Battlefords Tribal Council (BTC)
- Beardys
- File Hills Qu'Apple Tribal Council (FHQTC)
- Meadow Lake Tribal Council (MLTC)
- Team Onion Lake (OLCN)
- Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC)
- Saskatoon Tribal Council (STC)
- Southeast Treaty 4 Tribal Council (SET4TC)
- Touchwood Agency Tribal Council (TATC)
- Team Woodland (Team Woodland)
- Yorkton Tribal Council (YTC)

History of the games

The Saskatchewan First Nation Games were initiated in 1974, through consultations with First Nations leaders in Saskatchewan. They determined that the majority of First Nations youth under the age of 20 were excluded by mainstream sport systems. There were many factors that contributed to the low participation level such as:

Facilities and infrastructures were provided through surrounding towns and villages: Majority of education on-reserve was provided from k-6 only, thus providing no recreational facilities through the education programs:

First Nation youth did not feel comfortable in participating in “mainstream sport” due to the fact, they were a minority and there was no First Nation presence within the area:

Economics played a major role in deterring participation based on large families, transportation, low income, social conditions, and isolation. In the winter months the sport of hockey dominated with many First Nations hosting weekend tournaments.

Overall, the athletes that participated in the First Nation events were remarkable athletes that excelled and dominated in mainstream sports, but were reluctant to participate on a regular basis. Although the “circuit” of events circled around adult involvement and participating, there was a need to address and promote youth involvement in sport, culture and recreation.

Through a mandate by the Federation of Saskatchewan First Nations, by Chiefs in Assembly, the Saskatchewan First Nation Summer & Winter Games were developed using the Tribal Council format, the teams participating in the Saskatchewan First Nations Games, were made up of First Nations within a Tribal / Grand Council or Agency.

Source:

<http://www.2009summergames.ca/>