

Arctic Brotherhood Should Be World-Wide

This year's Northern Games at Fort Good Hope, Canada, were a source of both pleasure and disappointment for the Tundra Times. We were pleased to have such complete coverage from our Inuvik correspondent, Lois Keating, who helped to organize this year's event. Yet we were extremely disappointed that there was no exchange of participants between Northern Games and Eskimo-Indian Olympics.

The Native Peoples of the North, here and in Canada, Siberia, and Greenland share a unique way of life and face unique problems. When we can go "visiting" to each other's festivals and games, it is not just to attend a social event, but the first step in sharing each other's knowledge and experience.

Both the Eskimo-Indian Olympics and the Northern Games keep struggling to bring in more people to participate in more activities, despite great difficulties in communication and transportation. Both are frustrated by a lack of money to fully accomplish these goals.

The Eskimo-Indian Olympics has attracted the attention of Time Magazine, the Washington Post, National Geographic Magazine and the Johnny Carson Tonight Show, as well as many other lesser-known media. Only the Alaskan Pipeline and Senator Gravel receive better national coverage.

People everywhere are sharing in the excitement of our games. Perhaps as more and more become aware of the Olympics, it may be possible to get support for an international festival of Northern Natives that would draw participants and spectators from all over the world.

During the next year, the Tundra Times, through the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics Committee, will be seeking ways to organize such an event. Hopefully, by this time next year, Alaskans, Canadians, Siberians, and Greenlanders will be strengthening the bonds of arctic brotherhood by joining together to celebrate their unique heritage.

— CARIS ANDERSON (TT Board member and Chairman of WEIO Committee)

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