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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2023 WPFG Honours National Indigenous Peoples Day and Thanks WPFG Indigenous Advisory Committee

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, Treaty 1 – In 2022, the 2023 World Police & Fire Games (the “Games”) established an Indigenous Advisory Committee to ensure we continue to work towards Reconciliation, collaboration and planning respectfully here in Manitoba.

The 2023 WPFG Host Society began planning for the committee in 2022, reaching out to Indigenous board members, Elders and leaders within the community to be a part of the Committee.

"It is important to ensure in planning these Games, that our Host Society, Federation, Board of Directors and staff are working in respectful partnership with Indigenous people. As Manitoba's largest sporting event, and with the largest urban Indigenous community in Canada, we knew that this was a priority to ensure the Games are respectful and inclusive and appropriately acknowledge Indigenous people, culture and customs in the planning process," said Mike Edwards, COO 2023 WPFG.

The Games continues to incorporate and reflect on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action 87-91: creating sports programs that are inclusive to Indigenous communities, including Indigenous culture and ensuring proper representation and observance of Indigenous protocols at sporting events.

"Last summer, I was personally invited to the Games in the Netherlands to be part of the passing of the Games to Winnipeg for 2023. When I was part of that delegation, I knew I was a part of something special. As a WPFG Board member and Elder on the Committee, I'm pleased to see the Games putting Reconciliation into action by including elements of Indigenous design in official branding, including cultural aspects and representation to opening and closing ceremonies and really working to ensure that the Indigenous community feels accepted, safe, and comfortable in the spaces created by the Games," said Barbara Nepinak, OM, Elder, Board member and member of the Indigenous Advisory Committee.



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“I was honoured to be approached by the Games to create designs that represent my history as a First Nations individual here in Winnipeg. I drew from my cultural designs and teachings and found ways to incorporate them into the Games’ logos: a beautiful acknowledgment of two entities working together to create something meaningful. I look forward to cheering on the athletes this summer and seeing my creations featured throughout the competition.”
Renata Meconse, Anishinaabe from Pinaymootang First Nation.

The 2023 WPFG endeavours to incorporate numerous Indigenous elements into as many Games aspects as possible, including opening ceremonies and at the athletes village and other suggested elements per the Indigenous Advisory Committee’s recommendations.

“As a proud member of the Red River Métis Nation and a Winnipeg firefighter, I know the importance of inclusion in our community and Reconciliation. I am proud of the Games for the work that we are doing to ensure we include all communities in the planning and execution of the Games in a collaborative way,” said Chad Swayze, Chair of the Board.

The members of the Indigenous Advisory Committee:

- Mike Edwards, 2023 WPFG COO;
- Chad Swayze, 2023 WPFG Chair of the Board;
- Elder Perry Francois;
- Elder Barbara Nepinak;
- Grand Chief Jerry Daniels, Southern Chiefs’ Organization;
- Kate Kent, Southern Chiefs’ Organization;
- Bonnie Emerson, WPS Superintendent Community Engagement;
- Jonelle Donnoly, Canada Border Services Agency;
- Stacia Franz, 2023 WPFG Director of Marketing and Communications;
- Dayna Sylvestre, 2023 WPFG Competition Services Coordinator;
- Delaney O’Hara, 2023 WPFG Assistant Manager of Marketing and Communications.



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Indigenous rendition of our logo created by Renata Meconse

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