

**NUUK 2016**

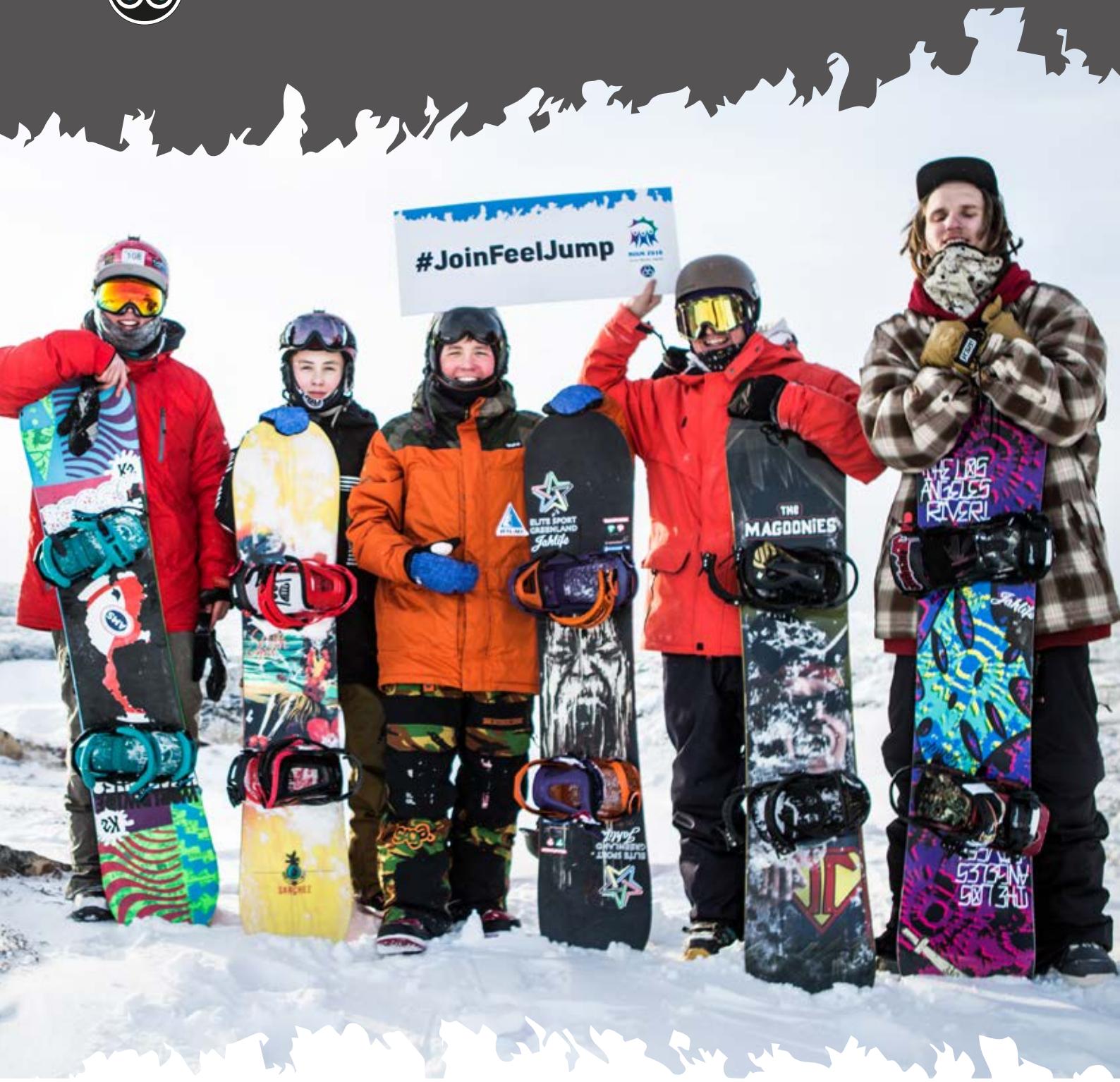
Arctic Winter Games



1 – October 6 2015

**Five months to go**

# ULU NEWS



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**NUUK 2016**  
Arctic Winter Games



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## THE VISION

- AWG2016 unites Greenland around a central communal event celebrating sporting and cultural enjoyment.
- AWG2016 generates pride and joy while developing social voluntariness and societal skills.
- AWG2016 focuses global attention on Greenland, strengthening ties with other Arctic nations.



# We're looking forward to seeing you

In March, more than 2,000 people from all over the Arctic will gather in Nuuk to take part in the sport and cultural events of AWG2016. It will be Greenland's largest event ever

Photo: Bo Ø. Kristensen

When you get here, the capital and its residents will be ready to welcome you.

Greenland is well known for its hospitality, and we want everybody to have a wonderful time here on the world's biggest island. Our hope is that you all will return home with unforgettable experiences to remember and to tell others.

We look forward to meeting all the young athletes who will represent their respective countries and regions and who will compete in the spirit of fair play that forms the basis of the Arctic Winter Games. And we look forward to experiencing all the cultural activities that make up an equally important part of the Games.

All our volunteers, businesses and public authorities are all hard at work making sure that your time in Nuuk is memorable.

More than 1,000 volunteers took part in our dress rehearsal on September 6, six months before the AWG2016 opens. People were enthusiastic about the big event, just as they are eager to welcome the guests who will visit our city.

As you probably know, there are no roads between the cities in Greenland; all transport must be done by plane or boat. But while there are no trains or buses between cities, in Nuuk we have buses that make it convenient to travel around the city.

Your beds will be ready and there will be plenty of food when you get here. Athletes from all of the Arctic will arrive to Nuuk in the days leading up to the games. Everyone will gather in Nuuk for the opening ceremony on Sunday.

We look forward to having a fantastic week together with our arctic friends. See you in Nuuk.

## Join Feel Jump

During the Games, Ulu News will be available online each morning at 7am with news and information about the sporting and cultural events.

Ulu News is written by journalism students at the University of Greenland in collaboration with the Sermitisaq.AG, Greenland's largest independent news outlet.

# Volunteer for AWG2016

Sign up before January 31 2016



Sign up as a volunteer  
for Arctic Winter Games at: [AWG2016.ORG](http://AWG2016.ORG)

  
**NUUK 2016**  
Arctic Winter Games





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### **The BANK of Greenland supports the Arctic Winter Games 2016**

As The BANK for all of Greenland we are strongly committed to the country's development. AWG 2016 is an important sports and cultural event for all of Greenland – and the Bank of Greenland therefore supports the event by means of direct financial support, supply of financial services and manpower.



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# Join – Feel – Jump

Arctic Winter Games 2016 is set to  
be the largest event of its kind  
in the history of Greenland

## COMMUNITY

To partake in diverse, inclusive and colourful community activities across society and the Arctic region, where everyone can be part of a meaningful project that generates joy.

## CURIOSITY

We are part of the Arctic community and are curious about each other's similarities, differences and what we can learn from each other.

## COURAGE

Through sport, culture and community we find the strength and courage to develop and set new goals.

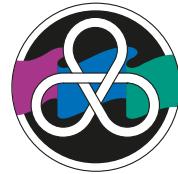
# Proud, eight-time Arctic Winter Games sponsor

Established in 1998, KIMIK iT is one of Greenland's leading IT companies providing mission critical administrative and logistical software systems for government, local authorities, and the private sector in Greenland, Denmark, and Canada. Formed and owned by a core team of highly specialized technicians and consultants who have been working together for over 20 years, KIMIK iT is committed to the advancement of amateur and professional multi-sport events through a continual growth of the company's Games and Event Management Systems: **GEMS.pro**

The 2002 Arctic Winter Games held in Nuuk, Greenland were the first Games to use GEMS as its hosting solution. Since then, the GEMS.pro team has worked closely with every Arctic Winter Games host society to develop standardized processes and further refine the system as a turn-key solution. Signing on for the 2016 Arctic Winter Games marks the evolution of a partnership that has aimed to support, develop, and grow the Arctic Winter Games movement through the delivery of the strongest set of comprehensive IT hosting services.



## NUUK 2016 Arctic Winter Games



Through the partnership with Arctic Winter Games, GEMS.pro has become a successful transfer of knowledge tool for disseminating the best practices and hosting standards in between games – and with other major multi-sport games happening worldwide.

KIMIK iT and the GEMS.pro Team are extremely proud hosting partners, working closely with the Arctic Winter Games International Committee and Host Society as they prepare to stage the Arctic's best athletes in Nuuk, Greenland – March 6th-11th, 2016.

For more information on KIMIK iT and the Arctic Winter Games partnership please visit: [www.gems.pro](http://www.gems.pro)



by KIMIK iT





For Kommuneqarfik  
Sermersooq mayor Asii  
Chemnitz Narup, waiting for  
AWG2016 is like counting  
down to Christmas.

## Chair of the host city: **AWG2016 a learning experience Greenland can grow on**

The mayor of  
Kommuneqarfik  
Sermersooq, who holds  
the chairmanship of  
the host city organising  
committee, will work  
hard to retain the skills  
Greenland obtains by  
hosting AWG2016

**By Martine Lind Krebs**

Photo: Helle Nørregaard

Photo: Bo Ø. Kristensen

The 2016 Arctic Winter Games will be the largest event of its kind ever to be held in Greenland. The 1.400 participants competing in the games and 800 other guests will add 12% to the population of host city Nuuk.

Ulu News spoke with Asii Chemnitz Narup, who is the chair of the host city organising committee and the mayor of Kommuneqarfik Sermersooq, the municipality that encompasses the capital city. For her, waiting for AWG2016 is like counting down to Christmas.

"I can't wait. I'm really excited. Some nights I wake wondering about the things that could go wrong, but when the show begins I'm convinced it will be a great experience," Chemnitz Narup says.

As mayor, Chemnitz Narup inherited the task of hosting AWG. The cost of holding the event is shared between the municipal and the national governments. The 2016 Games in Nuuk are being held after Greenland repeatedly postponed being host.

"We put it off until we couldn't in good conscience excuse ourselves from holding it anymore. To me it's a privilege to host AWG. We have to see possibilities, not the costs," she says.

Some of those benefits, she feels, are the chance to promote Nuuk, to welcome young people and to allow them to make friends across the Arctic.

### Inspiring volunteers

Another benefit the Games will bring to Nuuk is the practical experience that comes with organising a major event.

"We have been planning this event for a year and half. It's been a new experience for us and we have learned new skills. That's why it makes sense to host AWG," Chemnitz Narup says.

These skills, she explains, come in three main areas. Firstly, organising a major event and planning everything in detail. Secondly,

learning to co-operate to achieve a common goal. And, lastly, she hopes the group of 1,500 volunteers helping out with AWG will continue to be involved in their community after the Games are done.

"We have to maintain the experiences that we are building," she says. "The work doesn't end in March. It is equally important to maintain our ability to put on an event and to cooperate with other organisations, and to make the most of the beneficial effect for our civil society that people's interest in volunteering brings with it."

#### A generous city

When the guests show up five months from now, Chemnitz Narup is hoping they will take note of Nuuk as a generous, welcoming city.

"Nuuk is a colourful capital, and because we have a number of educational institutions here we have the whole of Greenland represented. We have over 40 different languages and ethnicities and we excel in hospitality."

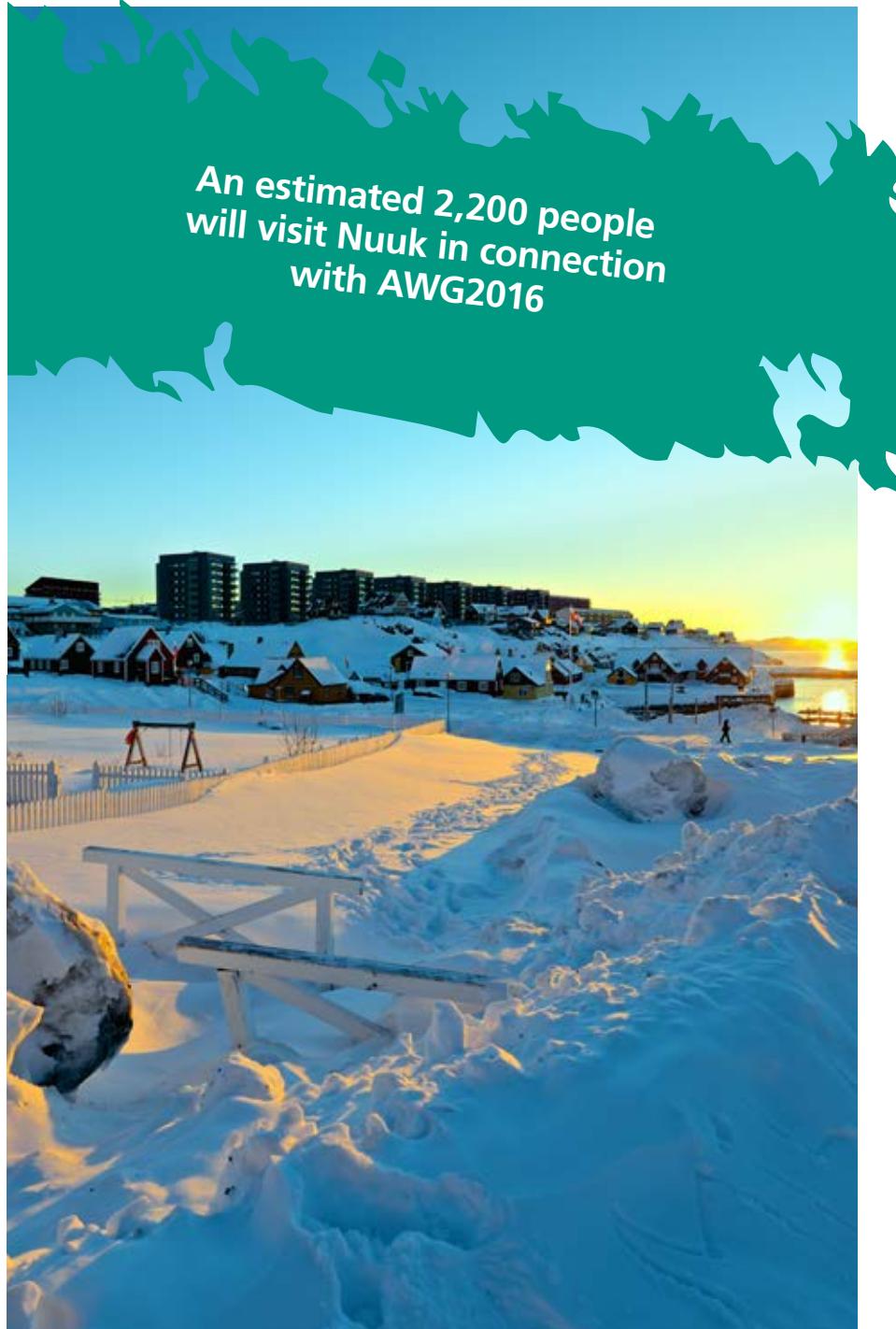
On September 6, the Arctic Winter Games Secretariat held an enormous dress rehearsal that featured a march through Nuuk and an opening ceremony. Everything went off without a hitch, but Chemnitz Narup was most pleased with the 1,200 people that turned up to help out.

"Until the rehearsal we were mostly just hoping that the people of Nuuk would support AWG2016. But for 1,200 people to turn up ... that made me so happy. Now the important thing for the next five months is to stay focused," she says.

#### Creating Arctic friendships

No matter how well the AWG2016 team prepares, there is still one variable that it cannot do anything about: the weather. And that, Chemnitz Narup admits, can keep her up at night.

"The Games are highly dependent upon the weather and the snow. So I will keep a very close eye on the forecast. Apart from that, I hope AWG2016 will involve the entire city of Nuuk and create many friendships across the Arctic region. I also hope that our Greenlandic athletes will take home a lot of medals."



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# Making a name for Greenland in the Arctic

One of the main goals of the 2016 Arctic Winter Games will be to make others in the region more aware of Greenland, say members of the International Committee

By Karline Platou

Photo: Leiff Josefson

Photo: AWG2015

With five months until the AWG flame is lit in Nuuk, it is crunch time for the organisers of the 2016 Arctic Winter Games.

As part of final preparations for the Games, the International Committee was in Nuuk in September to meet with the organising committee to get a progress report.

While in Nuuk, Jens Brinch, the committee president, emphasised that one of the points of the Games is to make it possible for young people, many of whom live in isolated communities, have the chance to meet other young people from their region.

"It's a big experience for them to get out and meet new people from other parts of the Arctic," Brinch says. "It's also a way for them to expand their horizon and learn more about Arctic communities."

The Arctic Winter Games, according to Brinch, are a big opportunity for Greenland to make a name for itself in the Arctic.

"We saw this in 2002, when the Games were last held in Nuuk. Everyone who took part has memories from Greenland that they still speak fondly about. Something like that gives people a good impression of Greenland, its young people and its society."

He notes that even though Greenland's population is small, Nuuk, with 17,000 residents, is relatively large for the region.

"Preparing for the games and hosting 2,200 people helps the city come together. AWG is only possible with the help of volunteers, host city residents and businesses. People do this together, and they come away from it having done something they can be proud of," Brinch says.

Nuuk, according to Brinch, will have plenty of space to accommodate AWG participants and guests. He points out that AWG2018, by comparison, will be held in an even smaller city.

"Nuuk has good facilities. Their schools are spacious enough to house participants.

Everything is going to work out fine. The next host is Slave Lake, with 5,000 residents. In that respect Nuuk isn't small at all," Brinch says.

In addition to serving as president of the International Committee, Brinch is also a writer and the author of the book *The Psychology of Sport*.

"When you participate in sport, you are outside and competing with or against others. That is a different way of getting to know people. Being together with others is extremely important when it comes to forming your own identity. If you are trying to figure out who you are, you compare yourself with others, and participating in sport is a way to be around people so you can do that. If you want to know who you are, you need to find your limits. You need to know when you get tired. You need to work hard. You need to compete. Win. Lose. These are all important for becoming who you are. Doing something together with others makes you happier and satisfied with your life."

By holding AWG2016, Greenland, Brinch reckons, will be setting itself up for an increased number of visitors in the years to come.

"A lot of people will travel home and tell others they had a good time here. They will act as your ambassadors and be able tell people about all the nice young people they met during the Arctic Winter Games. It's going to be an experience they never forget."

All of the territories that participate in the Arctic Winter Games are represented on the International Committee. John Flynn, the Yukon representative, says the athletes who will participate are hard at work preparing.

"They are looking forward to coming," Flynn says. "We've seen in the past that the young people who participate in AWG make friends, they experience new cultures, and they have unforgettable experiences. Some of



John Flynn, Yukon: "Some of them come from small communities and never get the chance to experience other cultures."

Coming to Greenland this March is going to be a big experience for them."

them come from small communities and never get the chance to experience other cultures. Coming to Greenland this March is going to be a big experience for them."

Like Brinch, Flynn believes that Nuuk, in a regional context, is a big city that is worth visiting.

"Everything is special about Greenland. Everything is new. People from away think it's a great place. They are awestruck by Greenland, and when they get home, they go on about wanting to go back some day. We saw that in 2002. People want to come to Greenland."



**Jens Brinch:** "If you want to know who you are, you need to find your limits. You need to know when you get tired. You need to work hard. You need to compete. Win. Lose. These are all important for becoming who you are."

## About the International Committee

The Arctic Winter Games International Committee (AWGIC) is the Games' governing body. The Committee's main roles are to promote the philosophy and the principles of the Games, choose and assist a host country and control the visual image of the Games.

There are 12 members on the committee offering guidance and issuing directives for the Games. The committee meets four times a year. During meetings, the 12 members evaluate and discuss offers from member countries interested in hosting the Games. They also determine policy, decide which events are held, draw up the rules for the individual sports, which medals are to be presented and work out formal agreements. Committee members are appointed by the country they represent.



## Arctic Winter Games

The International Committee's logo consists of three circles, symbolising: athletic competition, cultural display and social interaction amongst the peoples of the Arctic. A band of the northern lights is set against a black backdrop representing the night sky. The logo is surrounded by a white circle representing the circumpolar world.



## The International Committee

Jens Brinch, President

Appointed 1998

Appointed Director of International Affairs in 2011

John Rodda, Vice President

Anchorage, Alaska

Appointed 1998

Doris Landry, Secretary

Grande Prairie, Alberta

Appointed 2012

Meika McDonald, Treasurer

Fort Smith, Northwest Territories

Appointed 2007

Ian Legaree, Technical Director

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

Appointed 1990

Lloyd Bent, Director

Edmonton, Alberta

Appointed 2000

Karen Thomson, Director

Whitehorse, Yukon

Appointed 2001

Peter Frederik Lyberth, Director

Nuuk, Greenland

Appointed 2009

Mikael Kristensen, Director

Nuuk, Greenland

Appointed 2011

Kyle Seeley, Director

Iqaluit, Nunavut

Appointed 2013

Jeff Jacobson, Director

Fairbanks, Alaska

Appointed 2014

John Flynn

Dawson City, Yukon

Appointed 2014

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**Seven questions for the president of the International Committee**

# **Still a lot of details to be sorted out**

Ulu News spoke with Jens Brinch of the International Committee during the September visit to Nuuk. Planning of AWG2016 is well begun, but there is much to be done

**By Poul Krarup**

Photo: Leiff Josefson

Photo: Bo Ø. Kristensen

**ULU NEWS: How does the International Committee feel the work of the AWG2016 organising committee is progressing so far, six months before the Games begin?**

Jens Brinch: I'm sure they are going to be busy during the next six months. They are well prepared, but there are a lot of details that need sorting out. The most important thing in the months to come will be to mobilise all the volunteers that are necessary for holding a successful AWG.

**ULU: Is the committee satisfied with the plans to transport participants to Nuuk and Iqaluit?**

JB: The secretariat and Air Greenland have

put a lot of time and energy into finalising the transport plans. There are contingency plans in the event of inclement weather, but it's a big job. Fortunately, there are qualified people trying to come up with the best possible plans. Beyond that, the only thing we can do is hope for good weather.

**ULU: Are you satisfied with the sleeping and bathing arrangements?**

JB: Things look good. They are still working on making sure that the bathing facilities are up to standard. They need more showers for the boys, and they need to work on the girls' showers so they have separate stalls.





Doris Landry (Alberta), Ian Legaree (Yellowknife, Northwest Territories), Jeff Jacobson (Fairbanks, Alaska), Jens Brinch (International Chair), John Flynn (Dawson City, Yukon) John Rodda (Anchorage, Alaska), Karen Thomson, (Whitehorse, Yukon), Lloyd Bentz (Edmonton, Alberta) and Peter Frederik Lyberth, (Greenland)  
Not pictured: Meika McDonald (NWT), Kyle Seeley (Nunavut)

#### **ULU: How is the food situation looking?**

JB: We've approved the menu and the logistics. A lot of people will need to be fed at the same time, but it looks like they have it under control.

#### **ULU: Are the sports facilities ready?**

JB: They look okay. We're going to arrange test competitions in some of the sports we aren't that familiar with, like basketball and biathlon, so that we have time to address any problems that might arise.

#### **ULU: Are you satisfied with the plans for transporting participants to and from events?**

JB: There is a good network of buses the participants will be able to use. It would be good if the participants could also use the public buses, but apparently that is still being discussed. Fortunately, most of Nuuk's sport facilities are located close to each other.

#### **ULU: Something that you aren't satisfied with?**

JB: We've sent the organising committee a list with topics of concern, but we're convinced everything will be cleared up in time.

## **Qanoq sillimmaseqqavit? *Hvordan er du forsikret?***



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# Kuluk



AWG2016 mascot Kuluk is based on a drawing submitted by Stella Josefson, a fourth grader at Tuisaq School, in Paamiut (shown above with her classmates)

## The dear mascot Kuluk

What could be more suitable than having a seal as the mascot for an Arctic Winter Games hosted by Nuuk

By Martine Lind Krebs

Kuluk was created by Stella Josefson, a fourth-grader at the Tuisaq School, in Paamiut.

All fourth-graders in Greenland were invited to participate in a contest to draw the mascot for AWG2016. Submitting the winning drawing earned Stella's class 3,000 kroner (\$450) to be used to hold a party.

Illustrator Christian Fleischer Rex gave the mascot its final appearance.

The name 'Kuluk' was also chosen in a na-

tional contest. Of the 228 names submitted, three people proposed 'Kuluk'. Karla Kreutmann was chosen as the recipient of a gift certificate to a travel agency in the value of 5,000 kroner (\$760).

Kuluk in Greenlandic means dear, and is used for both boys and girls.

Our Kuluk is the first seal to be used as an AWG mascot.

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## Hvordan kompetenceudvikle 1.500 frivillige?

Arctic Winter Games er et fantastisk event og en helt unik mulighed til at kompetenceudvikle en masse mennesker i det grønlandske samfund. Mentorix bidrag som Nanoq sponsor er at stille kompetence til rådighed for AWG organisationen til at udvikle kurser til de frivillige. Mentorix i Grønland har stillet sin e-learning platform til rådighed for AWG 2016 og har i tæt parløbmed AWG organisationen lavet en plan for hvordan kompetenceudviklingen sker bedst muligt. Mentorix er med fordi det er sjovt, fordi det er vigtigt og fordi det er naturligt for os at bidrage til at løfte kompetencerne i det grønlandske samfund.

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# From Shulu to Kuluk, the mascots of Arctic Winter Games

Since 1986 every Arctic Winter Games has had a mascot, from sledge dogs to a paddle steamer. Meet all the past mascots here

Before Games started featuring mascots, AWG nations often produced their own logos as a supplement to the official logo. Some of the logos included mascots, including a ptarmigan (1976), a husky (1982) and a raven wearing a hat (1984).

By Martine Lind Krebs



## Raavee

The mascot for AWG2014 in Fairbanks, Alaska, was Raavee the Raven. "I'm taking the spirit of the Games and the dreams of the participants to new heights," was its promise.



## Borealis

A sledge dog that took its name from the northern lights was the mascot for AWG2012 in Whitehorse, Yukon. Borealis has one blue eye and one brown, as is normal for huskies.



## Aluk

The mascot for AWG2010 in Grand Prairie, Alberta, was a pachyrhinosaurus dinosaur named Aluk. Bones belonging to Aluk's ancestors were unearthed in the area near Grand Prairie.



## Foxy

During AWG2008, in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, a red fox named Foxy took a lot of interest in the nutrition of participants. The fox was selected as mascot after a regional contest involving suggestions submitted by a wide range of groups, from school children to professional graphic designers.



## Rascal the "Rascal"

The raven has had great significance for people in the Arctic for generations and was the mascot for AWG2006, Kenai Peninsula, Alaska. Its name, Rascal, was submitted by a five-year-old.



## Buddy

What else could the mascot for AWG2004, in Wood Buffalo, Alberta, be than a buffalo? As it turns out, being a mascot runs in Buddy the Buffalo's family. His son, Mistiki, was the mascot for the 2015 Western Canada Summer Games.



### **Qunga og Tuttu**

AWG2002 was held jointly by Nuuk, Greenland and Iqaluit, Nunavut. Twin reindeer, Tuttu from Nuuk and Qungu from Iqaluit, were chosen to symbolise the two cities that year.



### **Awgie**

Crazy, funny Awgie from Whitehorse, Yukon, wore a parka and snow shoes and played a whole bunch of different sports during AWG2000. His name, if you didn't guess it, comes from the acronym 'AWG'.



### **Husky**

A forefather to Borealis, maybe? AWG1998, in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, also used a husky as its mascot.



### **Fish**

Maybe he had a long forgotten name. Either way, a fish was an appropriate choice of mascot for AWG1996, in Chugiak, Eagle River, Alaska.



### **Rocky**

As an inukshuk, Rocky was an accomplished pathfinder. He was also a memorable mascot for AWG1994 in Slave Lake, Alberta.



### **Padi**

In the early years of the AWG, mascots weren't always animals. AWG1992, in Whitehorse, Yukon, featured Padi the Paddle Steamer as mascot.



### **Knifee**

As the name implies, Knifee is a knife. Equally obvious was that he was the mascot for Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, host of AWG1990. He was imagined up by a local fifth grade.



### **Polar bear**

In 1988, the AWG committee was unable to agree upon a logo. Most members wanted a polar bear in a stocking cap but a single member, arguing the polar bear was too trendy, insisted on an athlete with outstretched arms. The compromise was the athlete as logo, and the polar bear as an unofficial mascot. Merchandise with the polar bear far outsold items with the athlete design.



### **Shulu**

AWG's first mascot was Shulu. A ram, Shulu was chosen by Whitehorse, Yukon, for AWG1978. Since then each Games has had a mascot.



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# 15 different sports will be involved in competitions during Arctic Winter Games 2016



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Basketball



Ice Hockey



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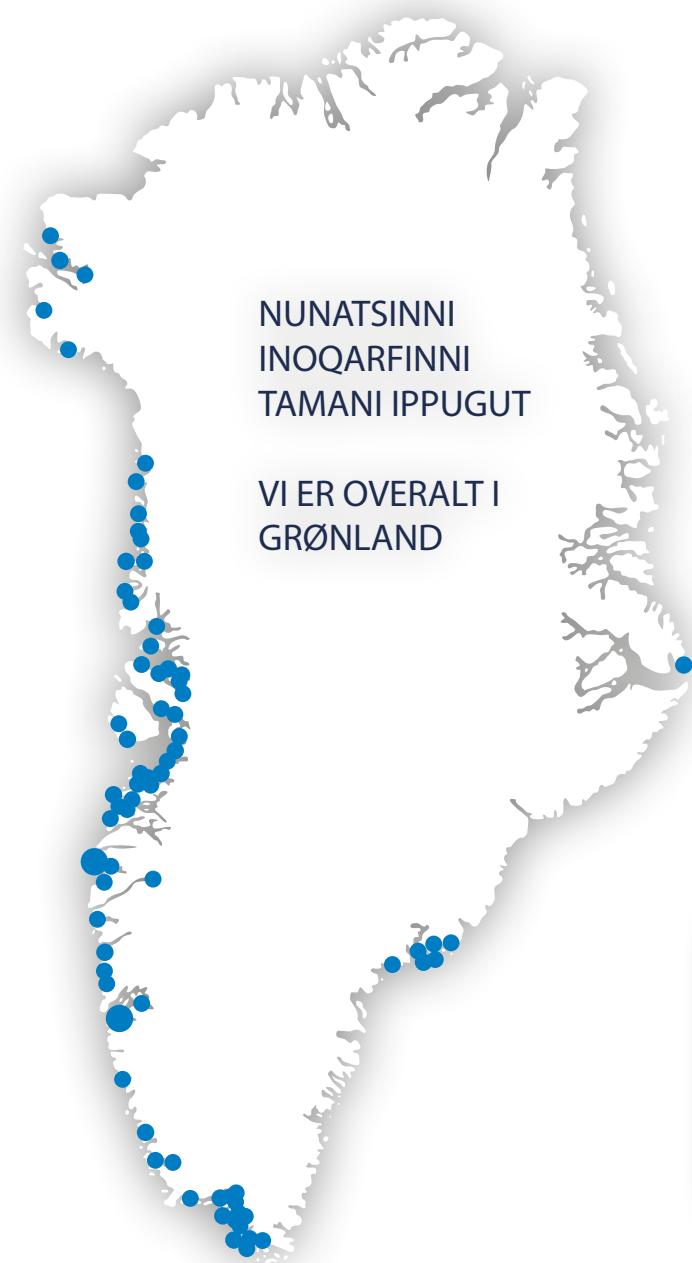
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## Biathlon:

# A new type of competition

The 2016 Arctic Winter Games in Nuuk will feature several new disciplines

Photo: Bo Ø. Kristensen

Photo: Marie Kuitse Kristensen

Akannguaq Lennert is a fighter. With five months to go until the 2016 Arctic Winter Games begin in Nuuk, he is ready to introduce two new disciplines to the competition: biathlon ski and biathlon snowshoe.

But while the disciplines he is working on are new, Lennert himself, at 33, is a veteran of several AWGs and he is looking forward to AWG2016.

"I competed in downhill skiing in the '96 Games, in Eagle River, Alaska," he says.

In 2010, in Grand Prairie, Alberta, he was a trainer for the Greenland downhill team. When the 2016 Games roll around next year

he will work as a volunteer helping to organise the competition for the biathlon in skiing and snowshoeing.

Other new disciplines are basketball and wrestling.

### New disciplines

Biathlon in skiing combines cross-country skiing with shooting. During AWG2016, there will be four different competitions: individual, mass start, sprint and relay. The competition will be open to boys and girls ages 14-17.

"There will be different lengths and the longest route is six kilometres long. In that competition the competitors will do three laps, and have five shooting stops every round. For each missed target, a competitor will have to ski an extra 100 metres as a penalty. The winner is the competitor with the fastest time," Lennert says.

### Shooting

There will be two types of shooting. Competitors in the 14-15 age bracket, will shoot from a prone position at targets measuring 4.5 centimetres in diameter. The 16 and 17 year olds will shoot at 11 centimetre targets from a standing position.

The biathlon snowshoe competition is similar to the skiing competition, the only differences being that competitors wear snowshoes, and the course is shorter.



Akannguaq Lennert:  
AWG2016 biathlon  
organiser.



Royal Greenland Kalaallit Nunaata suliffeqarfutiit-gaa nunarsuaq tamakkerlugu siaruarsimasoq aam-malu kalaallinut inuaqatigiinnut iluaqutaasumik aalisarnermik, tunissiornermik kiisalu aalisakkanik nunarsuarmi pitsaanerpaanik tuniniaanermik aallus-saqartoq. Inuaqatigiinni akisussaaqataanerput aallaavigalugu AWG2016 tapiissuteqarfigaarput. Tapiissuteqarnerput ikorseeqatigiinnertut paasis-iaqarpooq, tassami iniusuttunut timersortartunut, najukkami inuaqatigiinnut aammalu kalaallinut inuaqatigiinnut ikorsiinerummat.

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Arctic Winter Games





Mathilde (centre), her brother, Hans, and Regine Arendt, another AWG2016 participant

# A girl with a talent

**Mathilde Lynge is looking forward to compete in the 2016 Arctic Winter Games**

**By Marie Kuitse Kristensen**

Photo: Marie Kuitse Kristensen

Like most other twelve-year olds, Mathilde Lynge attends elementary school. In her case, Kangillinnnguit Elementary School, in Nuuk. But, like few others her age, she will be competing, as one of the youngest participants, in AWG2016 in downhill skiing. Her interest in skiing began early: by the time she was four she was already on the slopes and has since then been devoted to her sport.

## Excitement

Saturday, July 11, 2014 was a memorable day for Mathilde: it was the day she was told she would be competing in AWG2016. She

remembers playing outside when her mum, Ulla, told her the big news.

Mathilde was astounded. Suddenly, AWG2016 was a reality.

"It took me a long time to fall asleep that night," she remembers.

## Preparations

Mathilde has been a member of ski club NS-84 since January 2014. Her performance has been steadily improving.

"I participated in the 2014 National Championships, in Nuuk, and won two bronze medals," she says.

Mathilde and her parents took part in the September 6 AWG dress rehearsal.



This year, Mathilde competed in the Danish national championships where she was eighth out of a field of 15. She took home a silver in the the 2015 Greenland national championship, in Sisimiut.

"She is an extremely good competitor. That's why she was chosen to participate in AWG2016," Mathilde's mum says.

### Training

In order to give her more opportunity to train, Mathilde joined NASP (Nuummi Arpalluni Sumiissusersiorartartut Peqatigiiffiat) an orienteering club. Since being chosen to compete in AWG2016, her training programme has included orienteering, biking and hiking in the Quassussuaq Mountains.

### Competition and ski clothing

In order to compete, Mathilde must have two types of skis, poles, speed suit and protective gear.

"It's not cheap to buy all her equipment, but as long as we can afford it we will always support our children's interest and hobbies," Ulla Lynge says.

Mathilde's parents have always been there for her. They volunteer to raise money for trips, and they have asked businesses to sponsor the ski club.

"Fortunately, each request succeeded in collecting money and clothing," Ulla Lynge says.

While Mathilde and the other children from the ski club train, their parents use the time to meet and talk over coffee.

If Mathilde hadn't been the fighter she is, she would never have got this far. But, she says, her dreams don't stop with AWG2016. She plans to keep improving and, maybe, some day, take up speed skiing.



Mathilde trains each Tuesday with the other members of NS-84.

**AWG2016 includes 15 sports.  
All competitions except  
ice-hockey will take  
place in Nuuk**

Mathilde and her family. From left, mum Ulla, Mathilde, brother Hans and dad Hans.





## AWG2016 general manager: Time to kill our darlings

Running the Arctic Winter Games secretariat has taught Maliina Abelsen that she cannot control everything. And that most things require more time than you think

Photo: Rasmus Preston

Photo: Bo Ø. Kristensen

### **ULU NEWS: The 2016 Arctic Winter Games are approaching rapidly. How stressed out are you right now?**

Maliina Abelsen: I'm starting to feel the pressure. We just had a visit from the International Committee, and they made us aware of even more things we'll need to get done in the next six months. So I am excited and busy.

### **ULU: What has turned out to be the biggest challenge?**

MA: The biggest challenge right now is trying to plan everything in detail, while at the same time knowing that the plans may change. We can't keep coming up with good ideas; at one point the only thing needed is hard work. Everyone in the secretariat and all the volunteers have to share that understanding. That is a challenge.

### **ULU: So it's time to kill your darlings?**

MA: Yes, it is time to focus on the essentials. People are lining up with great ideas, but even if we had two more years we wouldn't be able to address them all. More time isn't always what you need. We also need to realize that everything isn't going to work out as planned. With so many volunteers and people involved there will always be a certain amount of unpredictability, but that is also the beauty of it. For me it is a personal challenge to accept that I can't control everything or know everything.

### **ULU: Has anything turned out to be easier than you thought?**

MA: We work in close collaboration with the community and with businesses. That's what gets me out of bed in the morning. It's motivating to believe and to feel that we are doing something together, something that will be



amazing for a lot of young people and which will create friendships and teach us new skills.

**ULU: What has surprised you?**

MA: I'm surprised how big AWG is and how many things we need to be in control of. We need constantly to coordinate the work of the different groups. Whenever you adjust one detail, it affects another. I've been surprised by the amount of patience this requires. I tend to be a very impatient person and sometimes think: "Come on. Let's get this done." But working with so many organisations and people forces you to be patient. Sometimes, though, you just need to make a decision.

**ULU: What will you be spending the next six months doing?**

MA: My most important task will be to lead and motivate. However, I will also be working a lot with logistics, planning specific details, emergency planning: in short, all the practical aspects, like transporting luggage, what the participants will eat, who will stay where etc. Beyond that, we need to prepare the city and get as many people as possible involved. Everyone has to feel like a host.

**ULU: Knowing how unpredictable the weather in Nuuk can be, what are you doing in terms of a 'Plan B'?**

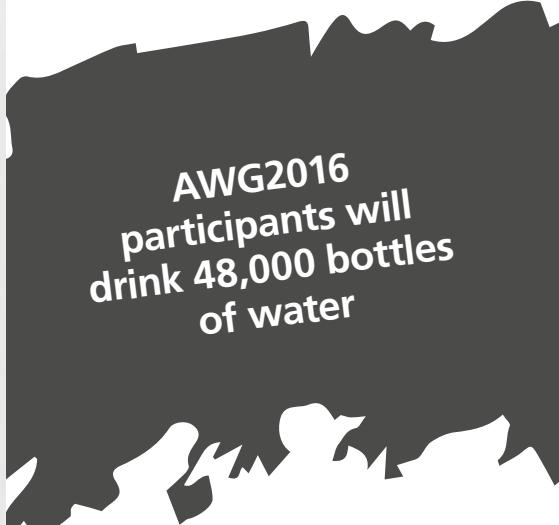
MA: We are working with different scenarios, but of course there comes a point when there's nothing we can do. The weather is a difficult factor to work with, but it's not something we can do anything about. The only thing we can do is to plan what to do if the weather works with us.

**ULU: What will Greenland get out of hosting AWG2016?**

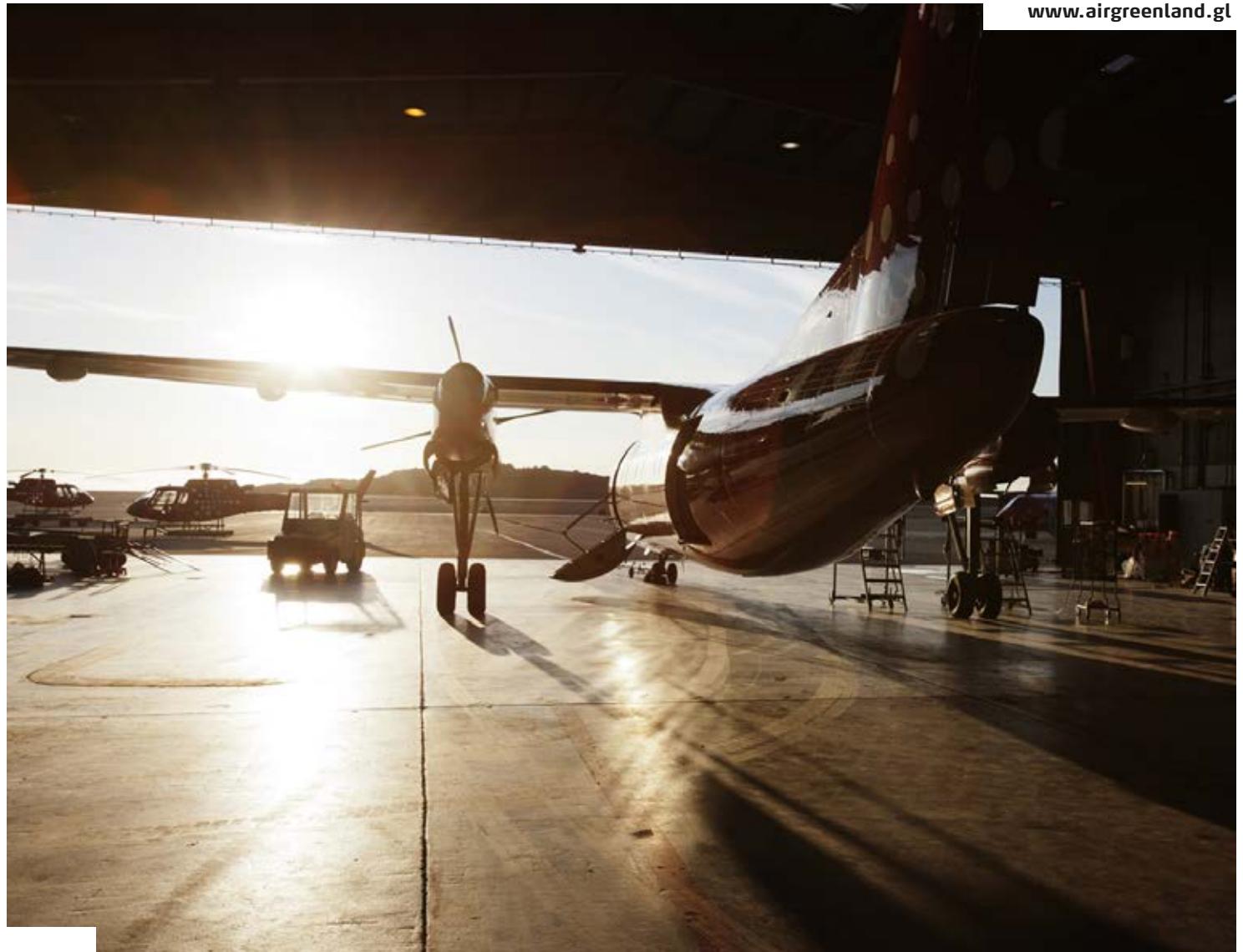
MA: The people of Greenland shall be proud. We are raising the bar for what we as a community and a country can achieve. I envision AWG2016 encouraging Greenland to seek to organise other big projects. Doing this will inspire many different types of people.

**ULU: What does your ideal AWG2016 look like?**

MA: I dream of an AWG2016 in which all participants and visitors have an incredible time and we as a country show the best we have to offer, and how much we can do if we work with a common purpose. I dream of volunteers that feel proud and happy to be part of AWG2016.



**AWG2016  
participants will  
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"We're pretty proud to have written a song that will represent Greenland in an international setting"

## "We are the Arctic"

Small Time Giants wrote the theme song for AWG2016. Residents of Nuuk could hear the song for the first time on September 6, during the dress rehearsal

By Karline Platou

Photo: Bo Ø. Kristensen



Back in 2014, the 2016 Arctic Winter Games organising committee invited anyone in Greenland who was interested to submit a theme song for the Nuuk Games.

The winner wound up being Small Time Giants, with the song 'We are the Arctic'. Today, the band lives in Denmark.

The band's four members are Jakob Skovaa, Jonas Lundsgaard, Miki Jensen and Pilutannnguaq Hammeken.

"All of us are busy with other projects on the side," Hammeken says. "I am a secretary for an MP representing Greenland. Jakob works freelance for Anorak Film. Jonas teaches drums and Pilutannguaq is a sound designer at a school."

The band describes itself as indie rock/pop, but when they wrote the AWG2016 theme song they decided they would need a different style.

"We wanted to be more lively, and more pop, but we also needed to sound like us. I'd describe it as rock with a lot of pop," Jensen says.

The band received 10,000 kroner (\$1,500) for winning and their song was played in public for the first time on September 6, during the dress rehearsal for the opening ceremony.

Next up is a video. The first scenes have already been filmed, and the video itself should be ready by January.

"We're happy that we won the competition, especially since so many people will

be there to hear the song. We're also pretty proud to have written a song that will represent Greenland in an international setting. We wrote and recorded the song as a demo over a period of four days," Jensen says.

Small Time Giants was formed in Qaqortoq in 2005, when all four band members were studying. The band sings in English, and their songs can be heavily political.

"We were teenagers when we formed the band. Jakob and I have known each other since childhood, but we didn't start playing music together until we got to high school. We met Pilutannguaq when he moved to Qaqortoq and it became clear to us that he was a good musician, so we asked if he would form a band with us. When we moved to Denmark to study, we met Jonas in Aarhus and he joined us a drummer," Jensen says.

Even though the band sings in English, most of its foreign activity has been focused on German-speaking countries. They're hoping AWG might be the opportunity they need to become better known in Canada.

"We've always dreamt of playing in the land of our Inuit cousins," Jensen says. "AWG will be a good way for us to get our name out there. It's something we are working on."

You can download the song for free on [www.awg2016.org](http://www.awg2016.org)

# Working together to put on a memorable AWG

The 2016 Arctic Winter Games open on March 6. More than 2,000 participants and spectators from throughout the Arctic will be coming to Nuuk. If they are to have a memorable AWG, Nuuk's residents need to work together

By Karline Platou

Photo: Bo Ø. Kristensen

Photo: Benny Kokholm

In less than five months, on March 6, the 2016 Arctic Winter Games will be underway, and athletes and cultural performers from nine Arctic territories will be in Greenland for the country's largest event ever.

When Greenland last hosted the Games, in 2002, there were 800 athletes. In 2016, an expected 1,400 athletes from Greenland, Alaska, Yukon, the Northwest Territories, Yamal, Sapmi, Nunavut, Nunavik and Alberta North will take part.

When coaches and other officials are added in, the number of participants, reckons Arnakuluk Jo Kleist, will be over 2,000.

"On top of that, we often get contacted by family members who want to come and watch their child compete. When they ask about lodgings, we have to refer them to places in the city where they can stay."

## Accommodations

Athletes will bunk in converted classrooms at Nuuk's schools. As a result, students will have the week off during AWG. Officials and other invited attendees will stay at the city's hotels and boarding houses.

During the games, Nuuk residents are invited to open up their homes to guests.

"People who want to have someone stay

with them can contact travel bureaus. People travelling to Nuuk to watch will be able to find them that way. Our most important job is to take care of the delegations, the participants, the officials, invited guests and volunteers."

In all, five schools will be used to house students. Despite their large size, bunk beds will still be needed in order to accommodate everyone.

"We can fit a lot of people in the schools, but we're still going to need to find room for 900 bunk beds for the 1,800 people that are going to be sleeping there," Kleist says.

The amount of sleeping space, as well as the number of seats on the planes to Nuuk, Kleist says, determined how many people could participate.

"We've set aside two days as travel days to the Games. One of the days, all air traffic will be concentrated on getting people from Kangerlussuaq to Nuuk. There will be a lot of flights, but each one will be full, so that sets a limit on the number of people who can come."

## Volunteers make it work

For those interested in volunteering, Kleist recommends visiting the AWG2016 website. Currently, 700 people are registered as volunteers.

Sunday, September 6, six months before the Games get underway, the Nuuk organising committee held a dress rehearsal for the opening ceremony. Over 1,000 Nuuk residents and other volunteers walked the route in groups representing the individual delegations. The groups walked from the city centre to the indoor arena where the ceremony will be held.





"We've also got a lot of businesses that want to help," Kleist says. For example, Brugsen, a supermarket chain, is going to help make food. Royal Greenland will transport employees in other towns to Nuuk if they want to help out.

Food, Kleist admits, will be a big challenge. Not least due to the participation of people from a variety of different cultures.

"We just finalised our menu. We need to make breakfast, lunch and dinner for the participants, every day. Some people are allergic to certain things and others are vegetarians, but we've got options for them as well."

Several options will be served at meals. "So the participants will get something they like to eat," Kleist says. "Right now we are planning the food service."

#### **Working together**

The AWG2016 secretariat organising committee is in touch with the participating delegations on a monthly basis.

"We make sure we agree on an agenda before we speak," Kleist says. "The games start in five months. In September, the International Committee visited to go over our preparations. Before they came, we sent them a 460-page report detailing our preparations. They

gave us some good advice for how to improve and how to avoid making mistakes."

Although many of those participating and attending will likely use English to communicate, not everyone will be able to do so. For them, interpreters will be available.

"We have volunteers who can speak several of the languages spoken by participants. Two days before the March 6 opening, we'll be meeting with the International Committee and the delegation leaders about this. Participants from Greenland will be arriving in Nuuk on March 4, as will the participants from Nunavut and Nunavik. The other participants will be here on the March 5," Kleist says.

With five months until the games begin, much has been done, but, Kleist admits, much work also remains.

"We're busy, and it feels like things are always hectic. There are times when we need to make changes to things we've already finalised. Fortunately everyone is enthusiastic and has a positive attitude. If we didn't things would just be a mess. It's not possible to change the dates. March 6 is coming whether we like it or not, so sometimes we have to ask ourselves what needs to be prioritised. And if we're to get through our priorities, we need to work together."

Assistant General Manager Arnakkuluk Jo Kleist: It's not possible to change the dates. March 6 is coming, whether we like it or not.



# Being an AWG volunteer

Volunteering takes time and effort, according to volunteer Tina Kuitse

By Winnie Filemonsen

Photo: Tina Kuitse

Photo: Vagn Hansen

Tina Kuitse, 29, has been an Arctic Winter Games volunteer since 2014. She is a chair of the the Exhibition Committee and has been actively helping to organise AWG2016.

When not working as a volunteer, she is a student at Ilisimatusarfik/the University of Greenland, where she studies cultural and social history.

## Hard, but worth it

Kuitse found out through the local media that the organisers of the Arctic Winter Games were looking for a chairperson.

"It was something that interested me, especially because it so closely matches my studies" she says.

Even though it is a great opportunity, vo-



Tina Kuitse, with her daughter Iluuna.



## Facts

Registered volunteers are now about 700, but 1,500 will be needed during the Games themselves. Most will be needed in Nuuk, but people are also signed up to help out in Kangerlussuaq, site of Greenland's international airport, and Iqaluit, Nunavut, where the ice-hockey competition will be held. Two committees will be working in Kangerlussuaq, and in Iqaluit 300 volunteers will be needed.

In order to be accepted as a volunteer, you may not have a criminal record. If you are under 15, you must have permission from a parent or guardians. Volunteers aged 13-17 are needed as ball kids, general assistants and to help with medal ceremonies.

lunteering can be physically and mentally demanding at times.

"You have to have a strong will if you want to work as a volunteer, but it's all worth it," Kuitse says.

### Excited

It hit her during the September 6 dress rehearsal that in just six months, 1,400 athletes from throughout the Arctic will be in Nuuk.

"I'm really excited about the kindness and warmth they are going to share with us," Kuitse says.

### Preparation

She feels that the AWG2016 team is ready for the event, and, even though each committee has its own job to do, they are all working together.

"A few weeks ago the chairs of the nine contingents were in Nuuk, and each department presented its preparations so far, and from what I have seen everybody is well prepared," Kuitse says.

Kuitse's job is to present art to visitors and to Nuuk residents. She is looking forward to welcoming participants and other guests with warmth and calmness.

"I hope that everything is going to work out."

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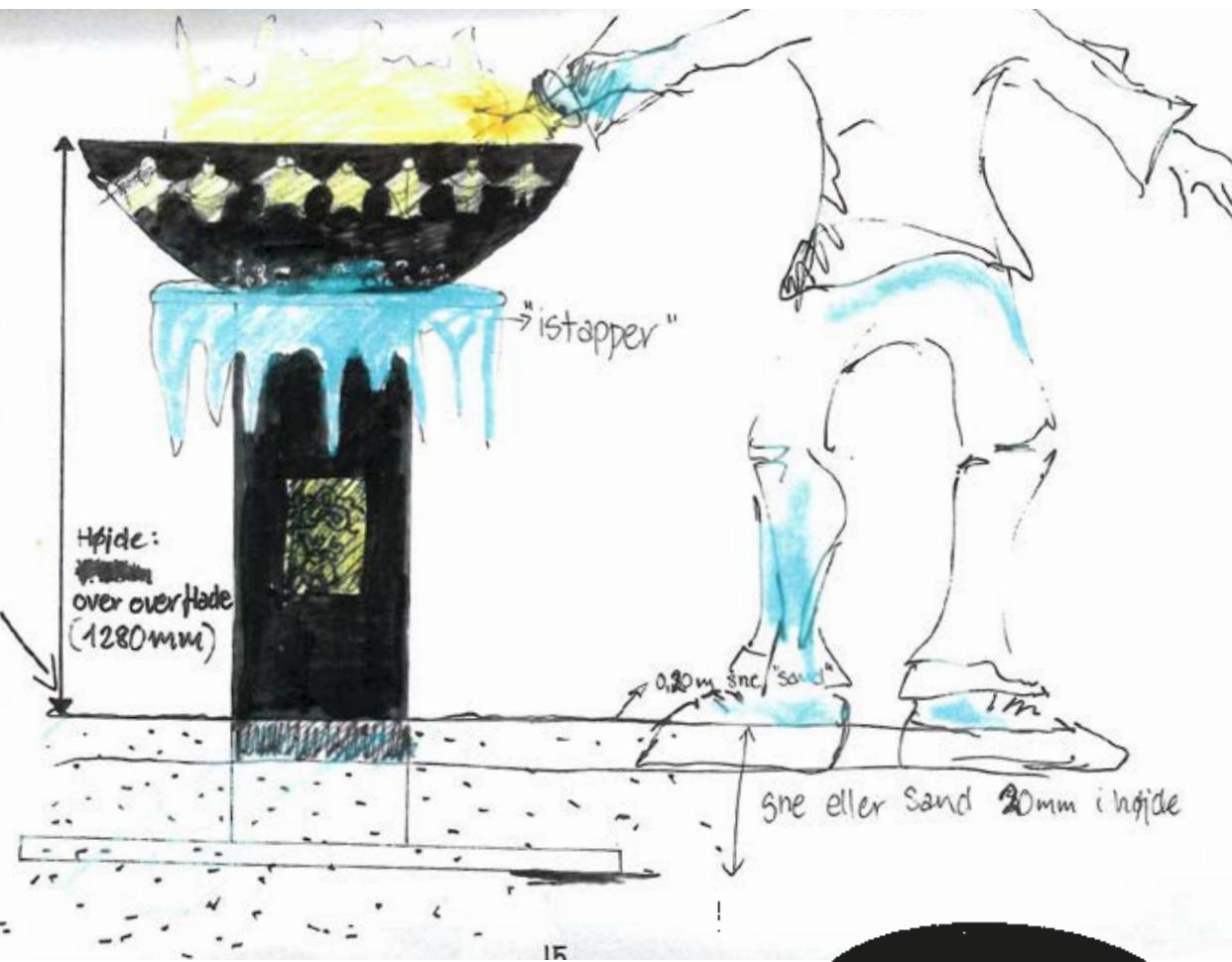
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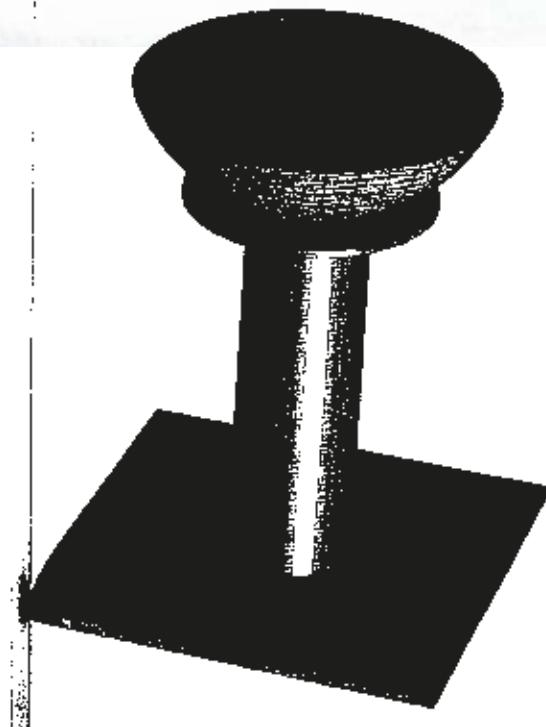
## Uncle Arctic Winter Game 2002 -



### The flame that makes the games

The cauldron used during AWG2002 in Nuuk and Iqaluit (pictured) was designed by artists Camilla Nielsen and Miki Jakobsen. Symbolically, the same cauldron will be used during AWG2016.

Before the games begin though the cauldron will be given a thorough refurbishment. Students from KTI, the Nuuk metalworking school, have taken apart the cauldron and will have it back together in time for the opening ceremonies and the lighting of the flame. Nielsen is overseeing the work.



# The cauldron

Two athletes will light the cauldron during the AWG2016 opening ceremony

By Paninnguaq Steenholdt

Artists Miki Jakobsen and Camilla Nielsen have designed the cauldron that will hold the flame of the Arctic Winter Games. The cauldron is being redesigned in partnership with KTI, the Nuuk metalworking school.

Two athletes, who are not participating in AWG2016, will light the cauldron during the opening ceremony on March 6, 2016.

Kalaallit Nunaanni Timersoqatigut Kattuf-

fiat, Greenlandic sports' governing authority, has yet to choose who will light the cauldron.

The cauldron was first used during the 2002 Arctic Winter Games. Camilla Nielsen and fellow Greenlander Miki Jakobsen designed that cauldron, and the same drawings will be used to redesign the 2016 cauldron.

The cauldron will remain lit throughout the entire Games.

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#AWG2016





# 37 flights to transport participants to Nuuk

Transporting 1,700 people to Nuuk is a major task in a country with no roads between cities

By Martine Lind Krebs

Photo: Leiff Josefson

Photo: AWG2016

When the 1,250 athletes from the Northwest Territories, Yukon, Alaska and Alberta North start arriving to Kangerlussuaq Airport on Saturday, March 5, it will be the start of a very busy day for the planes serving the Kangerlussuaq-Nuuk route.

The only way to move from one city to another in Greenland is by boat or plane. There are no roads.

In all, it's going to take 37 flights from Kangerlussuaq to Nuuk to make sure all the participants are in place by the time the opening ceremony starts.

## Meticulously planned

If you're familiar with the modestly sized Kangerlussuaq Airport, you might think that the task is unrealistic, but Line Frederiksen, AWG Director of Logistics, says everything has been planned out down to the smallest detail.

"We are planning the arrivals to be staggered to avoid too much waiting. It's going to be a continual flow," she says.

Not all of the participants will be passing through Kangerlussuaq on Saturday. Athletes from Sapmi, Yamal, Nunavut and Nunavik arrive the day before. The Canadian delegation will be travelling on their own charter flights

On December 17, 2014 Arctic Command chief Major General Stig Østergaard Nielsen and AWG2016 head Maliina Abelsen signed and agreement to co-operate on planning of the Games.





Air Greenland's red Dash 8 aeroplanes will serve as an air bridge between Kangerlussuaq and Nuuk on March 5.

directly to Nuuk, and the Sapmi and Yamal delegations will be travelling from Kangerlussuaq to Nuuk on Air Greenland's regular routes.

The Greenlandic AWG participants will arrive in Nuuk aboard regular Air Greenland flights during the week before the games.

#### 900 bunk beds

In Nuuk the athletes will be staying in schools. A total of 900 bunk beds are to be set up during a single day. This is going to be almost as big a task as getting the participants to Nuuk, but Frederiksen says the trial runs she has held has shown it can be done.

"We work closely with the schools," she says.

A security task-force has been set up to make sure that the young participants can sleep safe and sound. All schools will have 24-hour security.

"Parents can rest assured that we are taking good care of their children," Frederiksen says.

Letting AWG use the schools means Nuuk schoolchildren will get the week off, but the

days will need to be made up at the end of the year.

#### Stranded passengers

One thing Frederiksen cannot plan for ahead of time is the weather. Bad weather is always a risk in Greenland.

"We have worked out a contingency plan should we have bad weather in Nuuk and passengers get stranded in Kangerlussuaq and need a place to sleep," she explains.

The Danish military's Arctic Command, which is taking part in the logistic planning for AWG2016, is ready to help if that situation occurs. The military has a unit in Kangerlussuaq, and in 2014 agreed with the AWG2016 organising committee that it would help out with logistics, safety and emergency planning.

Frederiksen says it's impossible to say how bad the weather will have to get before flights are cancelled, "but AWG2016 has been scheduled during what is statistically the best time for good weather for winter sports in Nuuk".

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Ruth Montgomery-Andersen,  
AWG2016 Director of Culture

On March 5, Air Greenland will fly  
1,259 AWG2016 participants from  
Kangerlussuaq to Nuuk

# AWG2016, more than just sport

The 2016 Arctic Winter Games will be held on March 6-12 in Nuuk. Back in 2002, Iqaluit and Nuuk co-hosted the games, marking the first time that two countries worked together to hold an AWG

By Paninnguaq Steenholdt

Photo: Leiff Josefson

Photo: Vagn Hansen

On September 6, Nuuk's AWG2016 organising committee held a dress rehearsal for the 2016 Arctic Winter Games. The event, held six months before the Games, began drew 1,200 Nuuk residents, who walked the same route participants will follow during the opening ceremony. The route ran from a central playground to Inussivik, a multi-functional arena. Participants included throat singers and drum dancers and offered a real taste of the Arctic Winter Games. The event also gave participants the chance to be the first to hear the official AWG2016 theme song, "We are the Arctic", by Small Time Giants, an alternative rock band from Greenland.

"First of all I was amazed that 1,200 people came out to help that day. They were the ones who did the work. We learned a lot that day, we certainly had a vision of what AWG2016 is going to be like," says Ruth Montgomery-Andersen, the AWG2016 Director of Culture.

## Send volunteers

The Arctic Winter Games thrives with the help of volunteers and the number of volunteers

needed for AWG2016 is slowly reaching its goal. "We need more people, people from different ages who can have smaller or bigger responsibilities," says Montgomery-Andersen. Age is not an obstacle, whether you are 13 or 80 there will be a job that suits your skills.

Greenland did not start participating in the Arctic Winter Games until 1990. After co-hosting AWG2002, the time had come to apply the lessons it learned back then and host a Games on its own.

The biggest differences between AWG2002 and AWG2016 will be the number of participants (nearly twice as many athletes and artists) and the extra amount of time it now takes to organise the games.

When the opening day of the games finally does arrive, participants will be able to see how all the planning came together.

"We made a deal with nine different institutions, so each delegation would have a place to go on the day they arrive," Montgomery-Andersen says. When they get there, they can expect a traditional Greenladic kaffemik, a gathering over food, cake, coffee and tea.



The official walk is being rehearsed by the citizens of Nuuk

#### Workshops for kids

During AWG2016, there will be workshops for children ages 9-18. The workshops will be held at Ilammarfik/the University of Greenland and other venues, starting on Monday, March 7, and ending on Friday, March 11. The workshops will take over the university during the week and will provide lessons in dancing, singing and acting, while others will feature film festivals and shows. It will be a great opportunity to show children possible career choices.

For grown-ups interested in culture, there will be concerts, shows and other events all around Nuuk. The cultural committee of AWG2016 reviews applications from artists interested in participating in AWG2016, and the Culture Committee makes final selections. As host, Greenland may select between nine and 15 participants. Other countries can have five participants in the opening ceremony.

During AWG2016, there will be a shop where artists can sell their works.

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# When in Greenland, eat Greenlandic

Whether it is fish, shellfish, musk ox or lamb, some of Greenland's best foods will be on the menu during AWG2016

By Martine Lind Krebs

Photo: Leiff Josefson

Braised musk ox with root vegetables is just one of the Greenlandic dishes AWG2016 participants can look forward to being served during their stay in Nuuk. The hearty meal is included on the menu that was recently approved by the International Committee and by a sports nutritionist.

"We want to serve food with local ingredients. Some of it may be different from what the young athletes are used to, but we have tried to create different types of meals, but which are still appetising," says Krissie Berthelsen Winberg, who, together with Sússanna Poulsen, leads the AWG2016 Catering Committee.

During each meal there will be different alternatives to choose from, so there's no reason to leave the food court hungry, even if the Greenlandic dishes do not tempt the palates of the young participants.

"We've considered the possibility that there are dishes on the menu the young people won't like. But we can't serve pizza and hamburgers every day," Winberg says, adding that

her basic guidelines were: green, unprocessed and delicious.

Putting together a menu that takes all special needs into consideration, including gluten allergies, vegetarian and lactose intolerance, took some thinking.

"It's important that we don't have too much food going to waste, but it is essential that no-one goes to bed hungry. Everyone has to be able to eat," says Aviája Lyberth Lennert, AWG Director of Sponsorship and Project Management.

Unlike AWG2012 in Fairbanks, the food in Nuuk will not be prepared by AWG staff. Instead it will be made by a firm that AWG has contracted with. Kalaallit Nunaanni Brugseni, a national supermarket chain, is sponsoring the dinner every night, and Royal Greenland, one of the the country's biggest exporters, will provide fish and shellfish, including 9,000 bags of dried cod. Some 100 volunteers will be working as food-court runners, dishwashers and cleaning staff during AWG2016.



Súsanna Poulsen and Krissie Berthelsen Winberg are the heads of the AWG2016 Catering Committee. They both work in the food industry in Nuuk, Winberg runs several cafés and Poulsen is deputy manager of Pisiffik, a chain of supermarkets.

## AWG2016 to host test meal

In November, the AWG2016 catering group is hosting a test meal for students in Nuuk. The goal will be to ensure that when the Games begin there will be enough food to go around

When AWG2016 opens in Nuuk, the organisers will be having 1,913 hungry athletes over for dinner.

Serving that many people takes an enormous amount of teamwork from the volunteers in the Catering Group and from those supplying the meals. If the food line gets too long, some of the young athletes may give up and leave the food court hungry. In order to prevent that from happening, the Catering

Committee has decided to host a test meal as a way to get an idea of how well the system works, according to Aviája Lyberth Lennert, AWG Director of Sponsorship and Project Management.

The meal will take place in November and 600 students from different schools in Nuuk will be invited. The meal will be served at Qassi, the canteen where meals will be served during AWG2016.

By Martine Lind Krebs

Nuuk city centre, where the official walk will begin.



# A colourful plan for AWG2016

Arctic Winter Games is a sport event, but also a possibility to show the capital of Greenland

By Winnie Filemonsen

Photo: Tony Street

AWG2016 is almost here, and the excitement is in the air. The athletes are getting ready to compete and the organisers are preparing to put on a great show. But they are not the only ones who are getting ready, Visit Greenland, the national tourism board, is also making plans.

According to AWG2016 organisers, this will be the biggest event in Greenlandic history, and will include the participation of athletes, cultural performers and foreign medias. Anders Stenbakken, the head of Visit Greenland, sees the event as a great opportunity to show other Arctic countries what Nuuk is all about.

"Nuuk is an oasis of civilisation. There is harmony between nature and urban life. It's like an Arctic metropolis," Stenbakken says.

## Plans for 2016

"Even though the athletes won't have a lot of time to see Nuuk, we are hoping the Games will bring a lot of media attention," Stenbakken says.

During AWG2016, Visit Greenland will show journalists around, in the hopes they will be able to create tourism interest.

"I don't want to have high hopes, but I hope that there will be a number of articles and TV reports about Greenland," Stenbakken says.

## Colourful Nuuk

Visit Greenland's Colourful Nuuk marketing campaign will be another aspect of the strategy.

"It is not about the tourism, it's about diversity, ethnicity and language," Stenbakken says.

Nuuk, according to Visit Greenland, isn't high on most people's lists of places to go, even though the city has a large tourism potential. Visitors, the find, would rather experience the "real" Greenland.

The Colourful Nuuk campaign was created in order to show potential visitors that the capital has a lot to offer, and Visit Greenland expects it to be useful during AWG2016.

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Sport and Culture Minister Nivi Olsen believes it is important for businesses to lend a hand.

## We need to work together

If Nuuk is to be able to pull off the Arctic Winter Games, we're all going to need to pull together as a team

By Poul Krarup

Photo: Leiff Josefson

Photo: Benny Kokholm

Come March, and the start of the 2016 Arctic Winter Games, Nuuk will be adding over 2,200 people to its population of 17,000. If the city is make the Games a success, it's going to be a team effort, according to Malinna Abelsen, the general manager of the organising committee.

Speaking in September to businesspeople, Abelsen underscored that the thrust of her organisation's efforts was on organising a good sport and culture event, but that other areas were still getting a lot of attention. Aspects like transport, food-service and lodgings for the athletes also pose a challenge, but with the help of an army of volunteers everything should go off smoothly.

Greenland's biggest firms all support AWG2016 as sponsors, and Brian Buus Petersen, the managing director of the Greenland Business Association, is a member of the Host Society.

"We invited him to take part in order to underscore just how important it is for businesses to support the Games," Abelsen says.

A number of the country's biggest companies, including Royal Greenland and Brugsen, a supermarket chain, are chipping in as sponsors and are encouraging their employees to volunteer during AWG2016.

According to Abelsen, AWG2016 is spending

almost all of its funding in Greenland. The total amount spent abroad will be less than 8% of the organising committee's total budget.

One of the areas where the organisation will be spending most money is on food service for the participants.

"Food-service firms of all sizes are working together to make this work," Abelsen says.

Housing is another area where the organising committee is putting a lot of effort into. Participants will be sleeping in school classrooms that have temporarily been converted into bunkrooms. In all, some 900 beds will need to be set up. Figuring out how long that will take, and assigning where individual participants will sleep is a time consuming, but essential, process.

"What we've decided is that individual teams will be assigned an area, and the coaches will decide who sleeps in what bed," Abelsen says. "But we will be strict about boys and girls sleeping in different places."

Accomplishing the task of receiving participants and other guests is something, Abelsen underscores, that would be impossible without the help of volunteers and Nuuk's businesses.

"They're showing up on a weekend, and it's inevitable that some will have forgotten something. We're hoping, therefore, that sto-

res stay open, for the sake of the guests and for their own. We expect that stores are going to be busier than normal during AWG2016."

Not being able to buy the essentials, noted Nivi Olsen, the sport and culture minister, during the meeting, would be an inconvenience for the participants and it would be bad for business.

Teens being teens, there will no doubt be a run on phone cards when they arrive at Kangerlussuaq Airport, especially if there are delays. But once they get to Nuuk, they'll probably also need to find stores where they can buy power adaptors so they can recharge their smartphones and tablets, or just to get a hand connecting the Greenlandic mobile network.

Once the games begin on Monday, they'll have little time to deal with this sorts of things, and it will help if stores are open over

the weekend.

"Retailers are going to see increased demand for everything," Abelsen said. "The sport facilities will be able to lend a hand with some things, but there are going to be other situations where they'll need to find someone who can help them."

Nuuk will also be welcoming officials, parents and other guests who will all need to eat and shop.

"We can't have people waiting half an hour in line to get food," Abelsen said. "If that happens, we'll have to take items off the menu and try to serve people faster."

Abelsen also expects souvenir sellers to have a busy time. "All the participants will want to take something home. There will also be people who can spend more money on better items, and we'll need to be able to

make sure they have something to buy."

The Nuuk chamber of commerce, one of the co-hosts of the meeting, reckons that a lot that businesses can contribute, but also that many were expecting that a special effort was going to be made to involve them.

"Most businesses are of the opinion that they are too small to do anything," Jan Joe Seidsen, a representative of the chamber of commerce, says. "But the way the food-service companies are working together shows what can be done."

Seidsen said it appeared that the organising committee was working hard, but he hadn't seen anything being done to work with small businesses.

Hes says that for Nuuk businesses a little preparation will help them gain immensely from AWG2016.



The chamber of commerce and the AWG2016 organising committee have joined forces to make the Games a success. Pictured: Claus Christoffersen, vice president of the chamber of commerce, and Maliina Abelsen

Over 200 players will take part in the AWG2016 ice-hockey tournament, being played in Iqaluit.



The hockey rink in Iqaluit will be the site of the AWG2016 ice-hockey tournament.

# Ice hockey competitions in Iqaluit

With no ice-hockey rink in Nuuk, Iqaluit is helping out

By Martine Lind Krebs

Photo: Aviaq Brandt/AWG2016

As soon as the AWG2016 opening ceremony is over, 200 participants will head for Nuuk Airport. All of them will be taking part in the ice-hockey tournament, which is being held in Iqaluit. Six Dash-8 aeroplanes will fly the hockey players, their trainers, team staff and cultural participants to Nunavut.

Aviaq Brandt is AWG2016 Project Co-ordinator for Venue and Iqaluit. She says the city is going to be ready.

"Iqaluit has a strong volunteer organisation. We're working with the Iqaluit Amateur Hockey Association, and we have a great relationship with the Government of Nunavut," she says.

Her work has been helped by the similar culture and close bonds between Nunavut and Greenland.

"We resemble each other a great deal. That makes it easier to co-operate. Iqaluit could almost just as well have been another city in Greenland," Brandt says.

There is a two-hour time difference between the two cities. Upon arrival in Iqaluit the athletes will have a day off to practice before the tournament starts. When the tournament is done, they'll return to Nuuk to participate in the closing ceremonies.

Initially, ice hockey had been cut from AWG2016. That decision, however, proved unpopular, and in 2011 Iqaluit offered to make the ice-hockey tournament.

Curling, figure skating, short-track speed skating, mushing and gymnastics remain off the programme in Nuuk.





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