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Medals, symbols unveiled for North American Indigenous Games

Prizes were designed by host society

THE LEADER-POST MAY 14, 2014

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NAIG symbols Paskw a-Mboostos (Cree for buffalo) and Tatanka C'Stina (Dakota for little buffalo) and Community Development Corporation chairman Stan Bobb unveil the medals Tuesday.

Photograph by: Don Healy, Regina Leader-Post

Athletes at the Regina 2014 North American Indigenous Games will have a chance to take a little bit of the Queen City home with them.

At a media conference Tuesday at the Ramada Plaza Regina, the NAIG host society unveiled the gold, silver and bronze medals that are to be presented at the Games, July 20-27 in Regina.

The medals were designed by Laurie Artiss, a Regina company which is supplying NAIG medals for the third time.

"I think any athlete that comes to Regina during the Indigenous Games will be so proud to take these medals home," said Ron Crowe, the CEO of the NAIG host society.

The Games are to feature athletes and teams from 26 regions across North America competing in 15 different sports. NAIG also is to celebrate indigenous cultures through language, tradition, art, song, dance and ceremonies.

The images on the medals incorporate the logo of the Games, which was designed by the host society.

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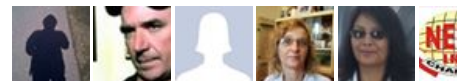
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"Symbols are very important to our community, to our values, our traditions," Crowe said. "To have a representation of our medals and our logo based on our values speaks to the fact that we have traditions and values that we want to explain and showcase to the general public."

The host society also introduced its symbols for the Games - an adult buffalo and a young buffalo - during the media conference. The adult symbol is known as "Paskwa-Moostoos," which is Cree for "Buffalo." The youth symbol is known as "Tatanka Ci'Stina," which is Dakota for "Little Buffalo." Collectively, the symbols are to be known as The Gathering of the Buffalo Children.

"Our Games of course are for the parents and for the coaches and for the adults to watch and enjoy, but the young symbol that we have represents the youth - the participants that will be participating in our Games," Crowe said.

"It (also) represents the fact you have the older one protecting the younger one. That's part of our job as older members of our community to protect and make sure that our young ones are protected. That's part of the symbolism of our symbols as well."

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