



## TEAM BC EARNS FIVE BASKETBALL MEDALS AT 2014 NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS GAMES

July 19-26, 2014  
Regina, Saskatchewan

Team BC sent six basketball teams to the 2014 North American Indigenous Games last week. It was a great showing for British Columbia Basketball as five out of the six teams reached the podium in Regina.

Fourteen states, provinces and territories from across North America were represented at the U14, U16 and U19 basketball levels: Alberta, British Columbia, Colorado, Eastern Doors & the North, Florida, Manitoba, New Brunswick, New York, Northwest Territories, Nova Scotia, Nunuvut, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Wisconsin.



The U14 Girls were the first TEAM BC basketball squad to win GOLD! They played in three close nail-bitter games, winning Nationals by a cumulative 6 points in all 3 games: Alberta (38-34), Wisconsin (41-40) and Ontario (46-45). Coaches Sarain Lafond and Mitra Tshan attribute the team's success to an early spring break tournament in Westbank along with their

training camp at Britannia in the week leading to NAIG. Team Manager and Athletic Trainer, Navnita Gautam, played an integral part keeping the girls healthy. To help build team chemistry, the U14 girls scrimmaged against various Summer Games zone and club teams and explored Vancouver on tandem bikes around the Stanley Park seawall. Thank you to the City of Vancouver and the Mayor's Office for your generous hospitality.

The U14 Boys earned with a bronze medal after finishing 2-1 in their round robin pool play: beating Wisconsin (44-43) on a free-throw, losing to Manitoba (54-57) in overtime and rolling through Saskatchewan (82-20). They defeated Colorado (54-42) in a thrilling win in front of an electrifying crowd at the University of Regina. Head Coach David Lafontaine was proud of the way the boys battled through this season. In the weekend prior to NAIG, the U14 boys finished second at the Best in West tournament.





(70-77). Congratulations on your silver medal at NAIG!

The U16 Boys also had a great showing at NAIG, finishing second after four days of competition. "I'm proud of how our team came together," said Head Coach David Sundher. "The boys should be thrilled to leave with a silver medal!" TEAM BC U16 boys won over Northwest Territories (78-47), New York (74-54) and Manitoba (53-36) in pool play before meeting Wisconsin (48-78) in the Championship Game. Prior to Regina, the boys had a week-long training camp at the Richmond Olympic Oval.



Team BC U16 Girls dominated their pool play beating every team by at least 30 points. Coach Mike Morgan's emphasis on an impressive full court defensive pressure paid off as they defeated Alberta (66-19), Eastern Door & the North (75-16) and New York (66-35). Heading into the championship game against Wisconsin, Team BC never gave up and continued to battle for every possession right down to the buzzer before losing to Wisconsin



presence at every Team BC basketball playoff games were noticeable from the baselines.

Team BC U19 Girls had an exciting first game against Manitoba, coming back from a 16 point deficit to win 71-70. They finished 2-2 in pool play after a dominating win over Nova Scotia (82-12) in between loses to Wisconsin (51-78) and Alberta (57-80). Although they were eliminated from playoffs, their team spirit carried them through the rest of the week as their cheering

The U19 boys' basketball brought home GOLD in the most competitive division at NAIG. "We had a dream team of players who played unselfish basketball," said Head Coach, Pam Baker. "It was fun watching them come together like they did." The boys had a dominating performance against Florida (82-26) and Nunuvut (100-39) in round robin playing before solid wins over New Brunswick (78-47) in the quarterfinal and Alberta (65-45) in the semifinal. Team BC U19 boys secured the gold medal over Wisconsin (88-71) with their fifth straight win. All games were won by double-digit scores.



Team BC has made history at the Regina 2014 North American Indigenous Games (2014 NAIG). They are the first team in the history of the Games to win both the Overall Team Title and the John Fletcher Spirit Award. The John Fletcher Spirit Award is presented to the contingent that best demonstrates the spirit of teamwork, fair play, respect and integrity throughout the NAIG competition week.

Team BC competed in 13 sports and won a total of 160 medals (63 gold, 49 Silver, 48 bronze) over the course of the competition week. This put the team in first place, just one medal ahead of Team Saskatchewan – the Host province. This is the first time BC has won the Overall Team Title at the NAIG.

It was a real nail-biter,” said Lara Mussell, Team BC’s Chef de Mission. “We exchanged the lead with Team Saskatchewan several times throughout the Games and it came down to the last few events of the final day. What makes this win even more special was also being awarded the John Fletcher Spirit Award. The team’s performance, perseverance and conduct, both on and off the field, exemplified the ideals of the North American Indigenous Games: *The Spirit—Strong, Brave, True.*”

In preparation for the 2014 NAIG, the Partners Council, in collaboration with a number of Provincial Sport Organizations including Basketball BC, established a comprehensive process to select and prepare a contingent of 500 Aboriginal athletes and coaches that represented British Columbia at the Regina 2014 NAIG, including Aboriginal Provincial Championships and Athlete Development Camps.

For more information on the North American Indigenous Games, please visit <http://regina2014naig.com> or <http://aboriginalsportbc.ca/>

Our Team BC Basketball athletes and coaching staff include:

<p><b>U14 Boys</b></p> <p>Donovan Stevens – Gitwinksihlkw, BC            James Harry – Kitimat, BC            Kobe McKnight – Vancouver, BC            Lyle Wilson – Surrey, BC            Jalen Williams – Vancouver, BC            Davin McDonald – Skidegate, BC            Michael Hughan Blazic – Skidegate, BC            Gavin Bruce – Maple Ridge, BC            Branden Azak – Gitwinksihlkw, BC            Nicholas Lafontaine – Kelowna, BC            Braden Tallio – Bella Coola, BC            Rowan Rudrum-Steinhauer – Kelowna, BC</p> <p><b>Coaches:</b></p> <p>David Lafontaine – Kelowna, BC            Terry Monture – Thornhill, BC</p>	<p><b>U14 Girls</b></p> <p>Jada Dennis – Port Simpson, BC            Mackenzie Gladstone-Howard – Gitsegukla, BC            Robyn Moore – Greenville, BC            Somer McCarthy – Vancouver, BC            Karalee Antoine – Vancouver, BC            Jenna Shelford – Skidegate, BC            Brandee Quewezance – Nanaimo, BC            Keitha-lyn Atleo – Ahousaht, BC            Shakyla Croft – Ahousaht, BC            Memphis Dick – Port Alberni, BC            Shianna Allison – Keremeos, BC            Summer DeGuevara – Westbank, BC</p> <p><b>Coaches:</b></p> <p>Sarain Lafond – Kelowna, BC            Mitra Tshan – Vancouver, BC</p> <p><b>Manager:</b></p> <p>Navnita Gautam – Vancouver, BC</p>
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<p><b>U16 Boys</b>  Nicolis Campbell – Terrace, BC  Dion Lewis – Masset, BC  Sterling Peterson – Cawston, BC  Cedric Mack – Nanaimo, BC  Hayden Jeffrey – Nanaimo, BC  Will Nicholls – Victoria, BC  Jason Allison – Keremeos, BC  Treyton Waardenburg – West Kelowna, BC  Coby Felsman – Port Alberni, BC  Darnell Calder – Prince Rupert, BC  Braden McKay – Burnaby, BC  Jared Sharp – Salmon Arm, BC</p> <p><b>Coaches:</b>  David Sundher – Victoria, BC  Peter Waardenburg – West Kelowna, BC</p>	<p><b>U16 Girls</b>  Billie Leeson – Prince Rupert, BC  Megan Metz – Kitimat, BC  Aerianna Antoine – Vancouver, BC  Jasmine Hamilton – White Rock, BC  Shaneeeka Swift – Nanaimo, BC  Madison Terbasket – Cawston, BC  Nicole Jules – Chase, BC  Reiley Terbasket – Cawston, BC  Tamika Tallio – Kamloops, BC  Lynn Morrison – Kamloops, BC</p> <p><b>Coaches:</b>  Mike Morgan – Langley, BC</p> <p><b>Manager:</b>  Gina Pearson – Port Alberni, BC</p>
<p><b>U19 Boys</b>  Corey Clifford – Terrace, BC  Perry Terrell – Prince Rupert, BC  William Barker – Terrace, BC  Joel Richardson – Nanaimo, BC  Taylor Ross – Vancouver, BC  Nathan Vogstad – Queen Charlotte, BC  Corey Hauck – Abbotsford, BC  Matthew Lafontaine – Kelowna, BC  Adam Phillips – Lytton, BC  E.J. Link – Agassiz, BC  Jesse Vissia – Keremeos, BC  Sky Terbasket – Keremeos, BC</p> <p><b>Coaches:</b>  Pam Baker – West Vancouver, BC  Desmon Pack – West Vancouver, BC</p> <p><b>Manager:</b>  Nathaniel Kirk – Vancouver, BC</p>	<p><b>U19 Girls</b>  Kylie Johnson – Hazelton, BC  Pala Kovacs – Mt. Currie, BC  Denelle Hauck – Abbotsford, BC  Vanessa Parnell – Vancouver, BC  Jaylene Soegard – Abbotsford, BC  Kaitlyn Lafontaine – Kelowna, BC  Meaghan Bradshaw – Chilliwack, BC  Shaniece Angus – Vancouver, BC  Gabby Jeffrey – Nanaimo, BC  Nicola Terbasket – Cawston, BC  Shania Sabbas – Nanaimo, BC  Laurissa Jimmy – Ahousat, BC</p> <p><b>Coaches:</b>  Duane Jackson – Prince Rupert, BC  Kimberly Edwards – Duncan, BC</p> <p><b>Manager:</b>  Cherish Mason – Nanaimo, BC</p>