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## MEDIA RELEASE

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April 13, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **James Smith Cree Nation is proud to host the 2022 Tony Cote First Nations Summer Games.**

***As SHA restrictions are being lifted this amazing event will welcome over 4,000 First Nation athletes, over six days, July 24-30, 2022.***

(SASKATOON, SK)— Chief Wally Burns and James Smith Cree Nation Council has announced today that with the SHA restrictions lifted in Saskatchewan they confirmed plans to move ahead to host the 2022 Tony Cote First Nations Summer on July 24-30, 2022. James Smith Cree Nation members have participated in the Saskatchewan First Nations Games since they began 47 years ago. This is the first time they will be hosting the Tony Cote Summer Games.

*“We believe that the importance of these games deserves our best efforts and it’s time to raise the bar, recognizing and celebrating the successes and achievements of Saskatchewan’s First Nation youth,” said Chief Wally Burns, Chief of James Smith Cree Nation.*

The Tony Cote Summer Games 2022 Bid Committee appreciates the support and spirit of cooperation they have received from, Whitecap Dakota First Nation, Saskatoon Tribal Council, City of Saskatoon, Prince Albert Grand Council and Tourism Saskatoon.



The relationship we build with the City of Saskatoon and its residents will define the success of the 2022 Games. James Smith Cree Nation look forward to a journey of cooperation, partnership and relationship building. It is the goal of Chief Wally Burns and the James Smith Cree Nation Council to raise the standards of this long running regional sports event.

The 2022 games will take place in Saskatoon and Whitecap Dakota First Nation. With first class facilities in both locations for sport & competition, James Smith Cree Nation will have the access to balance the social & cultural ways of the people. The Athletes Village will be located at Whitecap Dakota First Nation, Highway #219, Whitecap Trail, 20 minutes south of Saskatoon along with majority of sports played in Saskatoon at the Gordie Howe Sports Complex and other complexes around the city.

Over 4,000 athletes will participate in seven events: Archery, Athletics, Beach Volleyball, Canoe/Kayak, Golf, Softball, and Soccer. The participation of teams will take place in the city in two waves over the six days of competition.

The week leading up to the 2022 games, July 18-24, 2022, a 7-day lance run will take place as runners will run from Flying Dust First Nation and James Smith Cree Nation to the opening ceremony and the sacred fire at the Ceremonial tipi at the Athletes Camp.

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### **About the games:**

The Tony Cote Winter/Summer Games formerly known as the Saskatchewan First Nation Winter/Summer Games was initiated in 1974 by Chief Tony Cote and the Council of the Cote First Nation and their membership. The Federation of Sovereign



Indigenous Nations have honored this valuable legacy for 47 years. Cote founded Saskatchewan's summer and winter games for First Nations youth. Saskatchewan sporting legend Tony Cote, who is credited with increasing First Nations athlete participation across the province, died on July 31, 2019, at the age of eighty-four.

Just a few weeks before his death, Cote attended the Flying Dust First Nation 2019 Tony Cote Summer Games. The James Smith Cree Nation wish to honour the memory of the founder of the Saskatchewan First Nations Games. Tony Cote gifted us the Summer and Winter Games, a legacy that will continue to enrich the lives of the children yet to come.

**About James Smith Cree Nation:**

This first nation received its name from the original chief, who signed Treaty No. 6 in 1876 at Fort Carlton. The population at the time were 134 members or thirty-two families. The James Smith Cree Nation is located fifty-eight kilometers east of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, and is 15,099 hectares in size. This first nation has a present population of 3,412, with the on-reserve population estimated to be at 1,892 members. The original language spoken is Cree. James Smith Cree Nation lands are situated on the south and north side of the Saskatchewan River on the south side there are fertile lands for farming and the north side of the river there are forestry lands for hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering. Full information: <http://www.jamesmithhealthclinic.com>



**For more information & investment/partnership opportunities:**

**Korey Diehl**

Games Manager

2022 Tony Cote First Nation Summer Games

1-306-960-3200

tonycotegames2022@gmail.com

**Media inquiries & advertising opportunities:**

**Claire Letendre**

Communications/Marketing

2022 Tony Cote First Nation Summer Games

claire@bangupproductions.ca

tcsg2022@gmail.com