



## NEWS RELEASE

### **Cagers converge on the capital!**

**Yellowknife** – While the big winter show is happening in Vancouver, Yellowknife will play host to one of the northern Canada’s largest winter sports events over the next 10 days: the NTPC Cagers Basketball Tournaments.

This weekend and next, hundreds of youngsters from Nunavut and the Northwest Territories will compete for basketball crowns at seven different grade levels.

The NTPC Junior Cagers Tournament begins Feb. 19 and features over 350 kids on 36 teams, grades 6-8. The finals will take place on Sunday, Feb. 21.

The Cagers Tournaments were established in the early 1990’s. In 2006, a partnership was developed between Basketball Northwest Territories (BNWT) and NTPC.

“With the Corporation’s support, we’re able to host one of the largest youth sporting events of the year. It’s important that these kids get a chance to compete, but as importantly, they get a chance to meet and make friends with people from other communities and cultures,” says Damien Healy, BNWT’s Executive Director.

“Supporting sports initiatives that reach youngsters across the North has always been a priority and the BNWT has developed a tournament that reaches into every NWT community so it’s a great fit,” says Leon Courneya, NTPC’s President and Chief Executive Officer.

Every year the Corporation donates \$100,000 to dozens of community initiatives such as the Cancer Society’s Relay for Life, Christmas hamper and food bank programs, and the NWT Track and Field Championships. These donations are not recovered from customers in rates.

The NTPC Senior Cagers Tournament is scheduled for Feb. 26 to 28. Participants range from grades 9-12. The number of athletes and teams will be confirmed next week.

All games take place at six Yellowknife school gyms. Awards are presented after the final game.

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