



For Immediate Release

### **North American Indigenous Games Council – July 7, 2010**

On Tuesday, June 29, 2010, the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) Council accepted the decision of NAIG USA Inc. (NAIG 2011 Milwaukee) to withdraw their rights to host the 2011 NAIG in Milwaukee, WI. Their decision was stated in a letter from NAIG USA Inc. received on Monday, June 28, 2010.

As was stated by Harold Joseph, NAIG Council President, in his return letter to NAIG USA Inc. “The Council’s decision was made with much misgiving that NAIG USA Inc has decided to not to follow through on their commitment to host the 2011 Games, understanding the damage that this decision may cause Indigenous youth and communities across USA and Canada”.

Several NAIG Council representatives stated their respective teams have begun initiating plans for identification and selection of coaches and athletes for the 2011 NAIG. “What do we do now?” was a common question. In response, NAIG Council will be meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada in early August to discuss those next steps and continue with other ongoing work.

Concerns were raised that the cancellation of NAIG 2011 will impact the 2014 NAIG Bid Procedures, scheduled for a Canadian host that year. The Aboriginal Sport Circle, the domestic franchise holder for NAIG in Canada, has begun mobilizing its board of directors and partners to address the situation.

“The NAIG Council remains committed to the NAIG movement and will undertake a process to determine its options for the Youth of North America in response to the cancellation of the 2011 Games.” stated Mr. Joseph in official correspondence.

The NAIG Council and its domestic national bodies, Aboriginal Sport Circle in Canada and the Indigenous Peoples Sport Circle in the US will work together to move forward from this unfortunate situation to first come up with alternatives first for 2011 and then evaluate this situation and make changes to prevent future cancellations.

For more information, please contact

Harold Joseph, President  
North American Indigenous Games Council  
(425) 299-0106