

# Blais named official AWG 2010 ambassador

Debbie Reid, president of the 2010 Arctic Winter Games, named Ryan Blais, member of the Canadian Freestyle Ski Team and one of the top aerialists in the world, as the 2010 Arctic Winter Games Sports Ambassador.

Blais, 29, was born and raised in Grande Prairie and his family still resides here.

He was introduced at a press conference wearing 2010 Games merchandise that will be available for purchase online.

"Ryan really embodies the theme of our games - DREAM ACHIEVE INSPIRE, and his journey from a young Grande Prairie athlete to a world-class aerialist will truly be an inspiration to all of our participants," said Reid.

"What is especially remarkable about Ryan, however, is that he is an excellent mentor and role model for young people who each day demonstrates that through perseverance and belief in oneself, you really can live the dream."

Blais put on skis in Grade 6, started freestyle at 16, joining the freestyle skiing club when he was 18.

He is a current member of the Canadian Freestyle Ski Team - Aerials, has seven World Cup Podiums with two World Cup wins and is bidding for a spot in the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

Blais also contributes to the local community as a spokesman/ambassador for Kid-Sport Grande Prairie and is founder of the "Come Fly With Me Foundation."



Photo: Mike Ridewood

"The thought of young kids participating in the 2010 AWG in Grande Prairie fills me with excitement because I know that for many of them it will likely be the pinnacle of their young sporting career, while for others it will be the catalyst that inspires them to follow their dreams for the rest of their lives," said Blais.

"These Games will teach the kids so much about themselves and will foster a self confidence that is priceless."

Added Blais: "I'm excited to be the 2010 Arctic Winter Games Ambassador because I know how transformative an experience this can be for young kids and I'm looking forward to re-living the spark I felt 10 years



Ryan Blais

ago."

As Sports Ambassador, Blais will participate in Arctic Winter Games events, visit schools and make public speaking appearances to promote the 2010 Games theme and to encourage young people to be champions wherever their pursuits lie.

Dressed in 2010 Arctic Winter Games attire, Blais earlier introduced the first line of merchandise available to the public for purchase online.

The 2010 Arctic Winter Games merchandise consists of 12 items available at [www.awg2010.org](http://www.awg2010.org).

These range from long- and short-sleeved shirts, hoodies, jackets, touques, stainless water bottles, vests, mugs, and baby wear.

Games wear is also available at the Games shop in the Ernie's Sports Experts plaza.

Blais' first public appearance as Sports Ambassador was, when he greeted members of the Arctic Winter Games International Committee who provide leadership to the biennial Games, as well as the Chefs de Mission - the people responsible for the overall selection, preparation and supervision of their team.

The 20 international delegates were visiting our city from as far away as Greenland and Russia.

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*The County of Grande Prairie is proud to be a sponsor of the 2010 Arctic Winter Games.*

**Best Wishes for a successful Arctic Winter Games!**

Hon. Mel Knight, M.L.A.  
Grande Prairie-Smoky

Wayne Drysdale, M.L.A.  
Grande Prairie-Wapiti

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We welcome our international friends to Grande Prairie March 6<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>, and are a proud sponsor of the 2010 Arctic Winter Games.

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