



At the opening of Avannaarctic Games 2025

By major Palle Jerimiassen, Avannaata Kommunia.

On behalf of the municipal council of Avannaata Kommunia, it is with great joy and honor that I welcome all athletes from Nunavik, Nunavut, Nunakput, and our own athletes from Greenland. I also extend a heartfelt welcome to coaches, leaders, referees, and, notably, the board of Arctic Sport Greenland. We thank you for your help with the preparations and your support for this new tournament for the Inuit Games.

I am proud to stand here as the proposer of this significant tournament, and it is with humility that I warmly welcome all of you.

A dream come true

A dream has turned into reality.

It is a joy for Avannaata Kommunia to be able to host Avannaarctic Games which we have decided will be held every other year here in Ilulissat. We will also work to enable more countries to participate in our games in the future. A heartfelt thank you to the municipal council of Avannaata Kommunia for the realization of Avannaarctic Games.

Politically, we aim to extend the tourist season to a greater part of the year and attract events rooted in our local culture and traditions.

This is a remarkable event that will bring together the Inuit peoples from across the Arctic and strengthen the bonds between our communities.

With the participation of government representatives and the President of the Sports Federation, we demonstrate that sports and cooperation can unite us across borders and cultures. Friendship unites us. Avannaarctic Games 2025 is a unique opportunity for all of us to celebrate our shared heritage and build lasting connections. It is vital for all of us to preserve and strengthen the bonds we share with our kin in the Arctic.

Let us collectively embrace this opportunity and create a memorable tournament that will inspire us to work together for a better future. The significance of this event goes beyond mere competition; it symbolizes our shared history, culture, and values as Inuit people.

By coming together in sportsmanship and camaraderie, we honor our ancestors and pave the way for future generations to thrive. As we gather here today, let us remember the spirit of unity and friendship that unites us all.

We share a long history of traditions, language, and culture. It will be wonderful to come together in person. Throughout the week there is also a program with several cultural events. The theme for those events are storytelling.

Passing stories through generations is one of several strong bonds between Inuit-people. May Avannaarctic Games serve as a beacon of hope, inspiration, and solidarity among the Inuit communities of the Arctic.

A heartfelt “Thank you”

A special thanks to our main sponsors Air Greenland & Avannaata Kommunia and our local sponsors Hotel Ilulissat and Knud Pedersen and our co-partner Arctic Sports Greenland in making these games a reality.

A heartfelt thank you to our elders who will be providing food for all participants throughout the entire tournament.

Everyone in the town will have the opportunity to participate in the numerous events. Together, let us make these Games a testament to our shared heritage and a celebration of the indomitable spirit of the Arctic peoples.

Thank you, and let the Games begin!