

# Tuk family full of hockey stars

*'It's good to see the kids being active'*

by **Katie May**  
Northern News Services  
**Tuktoyaktuk**

At 14 years old, Kevin Krengnektak is already considered one of Tuk's natural-born talents on the rink – he's got a gold ulu and a Most Valuable Player award to prove it.

**"I've just loved to play hockey."**

But when your mother runs the local minor hockey league, your father and your uncle are your coaches, your older sister is a star goalie for a top university team and your older brother keeps you sharp during games, you've got to give a little credit to nurture over nature.

"I've just loved to play hockey ever since I was young," says Kevin, who learned to skate on Tuk's Airport Lake when he was about five years old. "I just keep skating," he added modestly.

He said having a family so involved in the sport adds a bit of pressure at times, but

it keeps him motivated.

"It feels good – everybody's playing hockey," he said, adding that, as a forward, he has learned a lot about the sport from all of his family members. His sister, goalie Leah Sulyma, was named MVP for the Northeastern University Huskies in Boston, where she's been playing for three years. His 16-year-old brother Michael, who plays centre and whom he's

had to go up against a few times during practice games, helps him grow stronger with a little friendly competition.

The brothers were a team on March 28, though, when they won the Jamboree division for team Teslin at the Yukon Indian Hockey Association tournament in Whitehorse – a good game but one that pales in comparison to his gold medal game in Grand Prairie, Alta., Kevin said.

"It was exciting," he said.



photos courtesy of Terri Lee Kuplana

**Tuk's Kevin Krengnektak shows off the gold ulu he won for Team NWT bantam hockey at this year's Arctic Winter Games.**



**Krengnektak waits on the bench during the 2010 Arctic Winter Games.**

While he names his first Arctic Winter Games experience as the highlight of his young career so far, he also gets a kick out of helping his uncle, Pat Kuptana, coach younger kids at the arena.

"It inspires the kids," he said. "They get better every year ... they listen good."

His mom, Sarah Kreng-

nektak, has been organizing Tuk's minor hockey league for nearly 10 years now. She said the kids have grown up to love the sport.

"It's pretty exciting. We've got very athletic children and it's good to see them excel," she said, explaining they all do a lot of travelling back and forth

to games together.

"It's all worth it," she said. "For the whole league, just to see the youth go out and have fun doing something positive rather than getting involved

with drugs, and crimes with boredom and all that other negative stuff. It's good to see the kids being active and doing something positive in the community."

## NORMAN WELLS GUIDE

Photo courtesy of Wendy Ward



**TLEGÓHTI**  
"Where there is oil"

65°17'N, 126°50'W. 80 air km NW of Tulita, 684 air km SE of Inuvik, 624 air km NW of Yellowknife. On the east bank of the Mackenzie River 145 km south of the Arctic Circle.

2006 Census - 761

**INDUSTRY**  
Oil Production & related field activities  
Transportation, Telecommunications & Tourism • Government Agencies  
Various Commercial & Retail Services

**TOWN OF NORMAN WELLS**

Phone: (867) 587-3700 • Fax: (867) 587-3701

**ACCOMMODATION**

Welcome to Norman Wells



**Yamouri Inn**

RESERVATIONS  
**1-800-661-0841**

**BARGING SERVICES**

**Cooper Barging Services**

• Marine Transportation  
Tug & Barge Service on the Liard & Mackenzie Rivers

For more information on our schedules contact our offices:

(867) 695-3720 (250) 774-6659  
Fort Simpson, NT Fort Nelson, BC  
TOLL FREE 1-800-663-5220

**OPPORTUNITIES**

**ADVERTISE HERE!**

Call our advertising experts today and see how effective your advertising dollars can be in this space  
**(867) 873-4031**

advertising@nnsi.com  
Yellowknife

**Your Photos Welcomed**

Do you have a favourite photo, colour or black and white, taken in or around your community, that you would like to see published in this guide?

If so, send it to us with a description of the photo and your return address to News/North, Box 2820, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2R1

**OIL PRODUCTION**

**IMPERIAL OIL RESOURCES**

A Commitment to the North  
**NORMAN WELLS OPERATION**

1001 Canol Drive  
Bag 5000  
Norman Wells, NT X0E 0V0

**TRANSPORTATION**



**TRANSPORTATION**

Aircraft ground handling, local cartage, warehousing and expediting of household goods and freight. Transportation services over winter road and barge.

Box 39, Norman Wells, NWT  
**Phone: (867) 587-2351**  
Fax: (867) 587-2588  
Website: www.matco.ca  
Email: norman.wells@matco.ca

**POPULATION**

Norman Wells approx. 761  
Deline approx. 616  
Ft. Good Hope approx. 644  
Tulita approx. 450  
Colville Lake approx. 90

**RECREATION**

Ray Pearrson Memorial Arena  
Penguin Palace  
Swimming Pool  
Norman Wells Curling Club  
Ptarmigan Baseball Field  
Norman Wells Fitness Centre

**TRANSPORTATION**

Daily Jet Service (north & south)  
Daily Air Service to surrounding communities  
Chartered Air Service  
Winter Ice Road  
Summer Barge Service

**SERVICES**

Kindergarten up to Grade 12  
Piped & Trucked  
Water & Sewer

**Piped Natural Gas, Trucked Oil**

Volunteer Fire Department  
RCMP - 1 Corporal, 2 Constables  
3 Hotels  
2 Grocery Stores  
Catholic & Non-denominational Church Services  
Nursing Station  
Post Office  
Liquor Store