



## **Biathlon Canada Awards Demo-Day Grant to Hay River Biathlon Club**

### **NWT Biathlon News Release**

Biathlon Canada announces SPDP Grant Recipients  
August 19, 2010

Biathlon Canada has awarded the Hay River Biathlon Club a special Demo-Day Grant of \$2,000.00 for the purpose of promoting Snowshoe/Ski Biathlon with First Nations groups. Pat Bobinski, the founder of the club, received special recognition at the recent Biathlon Canada AGM for his outstanding contribution to the development of biathlon in the north. The funding will assist Pat and the club members in providing a one day workshop targeting youth in a number of local communities. The club will work through the community recreation directors to coordinate the program.

The Hay River club is the currently most active biathlon club in the NWT, and has developed a number of biathlon champions including Olympian Brendan Green. Brendan still trains with the club as and when his National Team training and competition schedule permits. Yellowknife and Fort Smith have also had strong programs over the years and has provided most of the clubs competition. Because of the distance, logistics and the expense of travel, it is difficult to organize more than a few interclub events each season. If more clubs can be developed in the local area, the opportunities for competition will increase which will help raise the level of the sport.

Snowshoe Biathlon is a sport unique to the north, and an ideal outdoor activity for individuals living in the smaller communities of the N.W.T. It combines two traditional activities: racing on snowshoes, and shooting. Pat has developed a Snowshoe Biathlon Outreach Program to enable small communities with limited trail systems and other resources to run successful programs. He introduces the sport using air-rifles to increase the safety and reduce the cost of the program. Although other jurisdictions in Canada are now moving to air-rifles for starting biathlon programs, we are unique in combining it with snowshoeing. Snowshoe Biathlon promotes healthy outdoor activity and develops a high level of fitness. For communities that have facilities and athletes involved in cross country skiing, our program can be easily modified to expose them to Ski Biathlon.

For more information contact:  
NWT Biathlon (867) 874-2956



Members of Hay River Biathlon Club with coaches April Glaicar, Chuck Lirrette and Pat Bobinski at a training session in June.



Brendan Green instructing Roller Skiing to NWT biathletes (Hay River)