

May 13, 2026

North of 60 Classic – Presented by Air North, Yukon’s Airline

Basketball NWT is proud to announce the inaugural **North of 60 Classic Presented by Air North**. The first event of its kind, the tournament will bring six university women’s basketball programs from across Canada to Yellowknife for five days of competition, athlete development, and community engagement from October 7–12, 2026.

Participating universities include:

- University of Victoria
- University of Lethbridge
- University of Toronto
- Wilfrid Laurier University
- Mount Saint Vincent University
- Lakehead University



The event will also highlight Northern talent, with four Yellowknife athletes returning home to compete for their respective university programs.

More than just a basketball tournament, the North of 60 Classic is designed to create meaningful opportunities for youth engagement, athlete mentorship, and exposure to post-secondary pathways in sport. Local athletes will have the opportunity to learn directly from high-performance university athletes and coaches while seeing firsthand that athletes from the North can succeed at the next level.

Visiting teams will also participate in Indigenous cultural learning experiences and community activities, gaining a deeper understanding of the North and the unique challenges athletes from remote communities often face in pursuing high-performance sport opportunities.

“I am beyond excited to play in front of the community that gave me my passion for basketball and to share the beautiful culture of Yellowknife with my teammates and fellow hoopers from across the country.”

— **Janet Enge, Eagles Basketball alumni and University of Toronto athlete.**

“I’m incredibly excited that, after years of conversations, this event is finally becoming a reality. Providing female athletes with the opportunity to learn, grow, and be exposed to more than 100 university athletes and coaches over the course of five days is truly a once in a lifetime experience.”

— **Aaron Wells, Director of Player Development, Basketball NWT**

“The North of 60 Classic provided Air North with an opportunity to help create a lasting legacy in the Northwest Territories. Sport has always been an important part of the communities we serve, bringing people together, supporting youth, and strengthening overall community wellness. As one of the largest areas of support for our airline, we believe investing in sport creates meaningful and lasting impact. We are proud to be part of this milestone event and the positive experiences it brings to the North.”

— **Ben Ryan, Chief Commercial Officer, Air North**

The North of 60 Classic also aims to address barriers unique to Northern athletes, who are often required to travel significant distances to gain exposure and access to high-level competition. By bringing university programs directly to Yellowknife, the event represents an important step toward creating more equitable opportunities for Northern youth.

As with many initiatives in the North, community collaboration has been essential in bringing this event to life. Basketball NWT extends its appreciation to the local businesses and partners who have already stepped forward in support of the event. Additional sponsorship and partnership opportunities will continue to become available as planning progresses.

For information about the event, you can visit <https://northof60classic.ca>.

For media inquiries or partnership opportunities, please contact:

Aaron Wells

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North of 60 Classic Organizing Committee

- Aaron Wells — Director of Player Development, Basketball NWT
- Janet Enge — Eagles Basketball Alumna & University of Toronto Athlete
- Tina Locke-Setter — Board Member, Basketball NWT
- Paige Crozon — Founder, Living Skies & Canadian National Team 3x3 Athlete
- Mike Tanton — Living Skies

