

"Goin' for the Bronze"

In a few short days, the whole country will be joining us for two weeks of intense sporting competition.

So now, Mark and I are asking the question that's on everyone's mind: what are the events where Yukon is going to, you know, *dominate* at the Canada Winter Games...

[CHEF DE MISSION: Well, Mark, I'm not sure we're going to dominate in anything... What I'd be extremely pleased about is if we finished top ten or even top five in some sports... I don't think we have any unreal expectations... For these Games, I just hope that everybody comes here and does their best.... TRACK 002: 00:20-00:34 + 01:04-01:08 + 02:40-02:46 (Max: 24 seconds)]

After listening to Trevor Twardochleb, Chef de Mission of Team Yukon, we were prepared to check our egos at the Multiplex door. Sure, some of the Yukon's top athletes are real medal contenders. But on the whole, we won't be outperforming the likes of Ontario and Quebec when the games begin.

There may, however, be one exception.

[HAWAIIAN MUSIC?]

[CHEF DE MISSION: I know there's a lot of people who are going to be hitting the beach... And in some respects, I can't say I blame them... TRACK 003: 00:40-00:55 (Max 15 seconds)]

Yep. When it comes to the unofficial "sport" of renting out the house and splittin' town, a lot of Yukoners are heading straight to the centre podium.

[CLIPS: Voice collage: "I'm going to Hawaii." "We're going to Cuba. I'm going to Golden and skiing" etc]

Thanks to the members of Team Yukon Northstay, we can feel like a true Canada Games powerhouse.

These people have rented their homes to Outsiders for big cash.

You could say they've stripped the gold from those southern contingents. And now they're using all that green to, well, go for the bronze.

For some that means a sunny vacation in seaside paradise. For others, it might mean catching some serious alpine rays while backcountry skiing in the Rockies.

-

Now, if we can put aside our jealousy for a moment, we should take a second to salute their heroic efforts to get in shape for .. getting outta Whitehorse.

[CLIP: Joel or someone talking about something non-heroic]

[CHARIOTS OF FIRE]

You heard right. These high performance "athletes" had to undergo some hardcore training before they could head South. We shouldn't underestimate the rigor these people go through.

[pause for music]

If there's any true unsung heroes of the games, Mark and I think Team Northstay fit the bill. They exhibit the dedication, the courage and the discipline to make this flee from town the best ever.

We had the privilege of catching up with some of the team to discuss their training.

-sting

The first challenge seems to be getting their houses in order.

[clips]

If you think that's dedication, some of our Northstay athletes really go the extra mile.

[clip: Andy renos]

But really, housecleaning and renovations are not the super fun parts of this training regime. I mean really – would you rather be pushing a vacuum cleaner or truly visualizing the showdown here?

[clips]

This is where we see the true heart of your team Northstay. Pulling that focus away from the cold weather, the empty shelves in the supermarkets and the big tent on that vacant lot.

If you're gonna really go for the bronze, you've gotta believe it. You gotta own it.

[clips]

Now this sounds like a team ready for the podium. A team that knows how to reach for the top – or at least reach for something vacation enhancing...

[clips]

So there it is. While Ontario or New Brunswick might be taking home the

hardware here in Whitehorse, Yukon's smartest will definitely be shaking it down in the hot sun.

[clip = andy - HB and HD]

So come on, Yukon! It's time to extend our pride beyond the volunteers and the traditional athletes. Getting out of town is something that we really excel at.

For the Canada Winter Games, we are truly representing far and wide.

Especially far - with hot sun and cocktails and that coconut #4 tanning oil.

You might not know it, but that stuff actually smells like Yukon.