



Nishnawbe Aski Nation
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**GRAND COUNCIL
TREATY #3**
The GOVERNMENT of THE ANISHINAABE NATION in TREATY #3

NAN, GCT#3 Congratulates Anishinaabe Musher Jesse Terry as 2026 Iditarod Rookie of the Year

March 20, 2026

Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler and Grand Council Treaty #3 Ogichidaa Francis Kavanaugh congratulate Anishinaabe musher Jesse Terry for being named the 2026 Iditarod Rookie of the Year:

“Jesse’s achievement in completing The Last Great Race with the fastest rookie time reflects years of dedication to the sport of mushing, as well as the strong foundation built through family, mentorship, and hard work.

His personal journey, from his early passion for sled dogs to building dog sleds and training his own team of 30 dogs, demonstrates the values of perseverance and respect for the land and animals. His determination, resilience, and commitment to excellence have earned him this well-deserved recognition on an international stage.

We celebrate Jesse not only for his success in the Iditarod, but also for the pride he brings to his community and to First Nations across our territories. His accomplishment is an inspiration to young people and a powerful example of what can be achieved through dedication, cultural connection, and community support.”

Jesse Terry is a member of Lac Seul First Nation who lives in Sioux Lookout, Ontario. He was named Rookie of the Year in the 54th running of the Iditarod after finishing 14th overall, crossing the Burled Arch with his team of 12 dogs on March 19 at 3:36 a.m. He posted the fastest rookie time by completing the course in 10 days, 23 hours, 36 minutes, and 3 seconds.

For more information please contact:

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