

Brent gets rock star treatment from



Brent Nakogee, Air Creebec agent in Fort Albany, meets Canadiens defenceman Hal Gill.
Brent Nakogee, agent d'Air Creebec à Fort Albany, avec le défenseur du Canadien Hal Gill.

Getting ready to leave Fort Albany on the trip of a lifetime to a Winnipeg Jets game is Brent Nakogee, second from right, with his cousin, Jonathan Nakogee, on the right and his best friends, Rex Knapasweet, left and Michael Knapasweet.

Brent Nakogee de Fort Albany, deuxième à dr., quitte pour « le voyage d'une vie ». Il s'en va voir jouer les Jets à Winnipeg avec son cousin Jonathan Nakogee, à dr., et ses amis Rex Knapasweet, à g., et Michael Knapasweet.



Brent with his three-year-old daughter, Karis.
Brent avec sa fille de 3 ans, Karis.

North West Company's President & CEO Edward Kennedy and Executive Vice President, Northern Canada Retail Division, Michael McMullen, with Brent and his friends.



Avec Brent et ses amis, le président et chef de la direction de la North West, Edward Kennedy, et le vice-président exécutif de la division Northern Canada Retail, Michael McMullen.

Brent Nakogee of Fort Albany says he was treated like a rock star and a VIP when he won a trip of a lifetime.

Brent's first prize was a trip to Winnipeg for the first NHL game of the new Winnipeg Jets.

He had to write about why he was Hockey's Biggest Fan – and his story told about how he went to Toronto to see his favourite NHL team, the Toronto Maple Leafs – by airplane to Timmins, then by car 750 kilometres to Toronto.

Brent won what he called “the trip of a lifetime” to Winnipeg for him and three of his Fort Albany buddies.

“I enjoyed being there because it was a part of history and the atmosphere was amazing.

“I was a little nervous because it was my first time out of the province of Ontario.

“But Northern Stores treated us like rock stars. They picked us up in a limo and gave us gifts and snacks and we had tickets that were near the penalty box, about three rows from the ice.”

While Brent, who is 28, and an Air Creebec agent at Fort Albany Airport for the past five years, called it “the trip of a lifetime” he said it was not the best time of his life.

“I have a three-year-old daughter, Karis, and I have to put my family first – so the day Karis was born was the best day of my life,” he said. “The trip to Winnipeg was a close second.”

Brent has lived in Fort Albany for 11 years after being brought up by his grandparents, John and Emalda Nakogee in North Bay, after his mother died when he was five years old.

Brent worked on the winter road to get enough money together for a trip to see the Toronto Maple Leafs and take his partner, Joslyn's younger brother to see an NHL game.

He paid \$400 each online for two 200-level tickets at the Air Canada Centre. But then his partner, Joslyn, took those tickets to be with her brother.

Brent purchased a 300-level ticket from a scalper outside the Air Canada Centre. “He told me it was a good seat,” said Brent, “But it was in the nosebleed section. In fact, it was in the very last row. But I didn't mind. I could see Joslyn and her brother. We all had a great time.”

The only disappointment was that the Leafs lost the game to Chicago.

With regards to the Winnipeg home opener, he would have preferred a Jets win, rather than a Habs win. “But when you consider how many people were looking for tickets to that historic first game, and I had four for me and my friends, it was really amazing. We could not have been treated better by Northern Stores, they made it special for us,” said Brent.