

Inuvik comedians set sights on fame

Dez Loreen, Brendan Callahan and Brandon Larocque create comedy skits for a chance to produce their own show

by Dana Bowen

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Inuvik

DEZ LOREEN, Brendan Callahan and Brandon Larocque have created their own sketch comedy group, called Inuvik Comedy, after hearing about a nationwide competition.

Comedy Coup offers comedians a chance to win \$500,000 to host a half-hour special on television.

Inuvik Comedy is the only group from the three territories competing, said Loreen.

The group posts comedy skits on a weekly basis featuring all three comedians. The videos are short and to the point, poking fun at therapy, friendship between two males and their love of bingo.

When it comes to making jokes, "it's like there's three cooks in the kitchen," said Loreen. "One has an idea good enough on its own and we run with it. Whereas one day I'll set up a scene and ask what they can add to it."

Starting Oct. 2, the registered comedy groups' profiles went live on the Comedy Coup website with a 90-second teaser video of their work.

Comedy Coup then chooses



photo courtesy of Dez Loreen

Inuvik Comedy features Dez Loreen, in front, Brendan Callahan hanging off the tree and Brandon Larocque in the back.

es the top 100 groups to proceed. For 10 weeks afterward, the groups compete for votes in a weekly challenge.

Inuvik Comedy intends to

present North of Normal for the contest in hopes of making a regular series of the half-hour show they're hoping to win.

"At first, we were going to be focused on the North, but as of now we are broadening everything with our jokes," explained Larocque.

He said the show will follow the same idea as series like the Dave Chappelle Show, where they have a host who introduces the skits.

Loreen explained that though the trio has always been into comedy and have performed skits separately, it was the contest that pushed them forward as a group.

They put Inuvik Comedy together in August and have been working on creating new videos every week.

"It's funny, people ask how we have the time to do all this stuff," said Larocque. "It's pretty easy when you like what you do."

But even if Inuvik Comedy doesn't win the competition, Loreen said he is, "happy with where it is now. It's a blessing."

North of Normal can be found on Facebook and already has more than 700 likes since it was posted in August.

Loreen said he wants to, "give a shout out to the fourth member of our group: the carbon-fibre tripod," he joked, saying it has "three strong legs that make up the fourth member of the crew."

The public can sign up and vote for their favourite groups to help them advance from the top 50 to 15.

The contest ends in December.