



Media Release

For Immediate Release

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York Regional Council endorses 2014 Commonwealth Games Bid

Games will give York Region economy and infrastructure a major boost

NEWMARKET – York Regional Council today formally endorsed a plan to bid for the 2014 Commonwealth Games. With Regional Council’s endorsement, York Region moves forward with the preparation of an official bid package to national bid organizers – Commonwealth Games Canada (CGC).

Canada is a strong contender for the Commonwealth Games in 2014, and York Region is aiming to be the host municipality.

“I very please with today’s endorsement,” said Regional Chair and CEO Bill Fisch. “Hosting the Commonwealth Games brings a range of immediate and long range economic and community benefits that will be felt throughout York Region and our area municipalities, across Greater Toronto and the nation as a whole for years to come.”

It is estimated that the economic impact of the Games for York Region would be over \$3 billion in sport facilities and transportation infrastructure, accompanied by business investment and visitor spending. There could be up to 4,000 person years of employment in facility preparation and construction.

“The Games will attract substantial federal and provincial government commitment, as well as corporate support,” added Chair Fisch. “Hosting the Games will create a sporting legacy for York Region, and accelerate our plans for York Region Transit and Viva Rapid Transit, Regional roads construction and streetscaping initiatives.”

In addition to new sporting facilities, York Region’s area municipalities have been asked to identify sports venues that could be utilized to host the Games. If utilized, they would be upgraded and improved as part of the requirements for the Games and would be used by athletics and sports development programs throughout the Region.

The impact of hosting the Commonwealth Games is also a major contributor towards the development of amateur sport and Olympic athletes. Hosting the Commonwealth Games would be a chance for local athletes to train for, participate and understand the demands and challenges of world wide competition.

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The 2014 Commonwealth Games will be 10 days of elite athletic competition and associated events. It is the third largest multi-sport event in the world. The 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester attracted over 5,900 athletes and accredited officials from 72 countries.

Regional Council has already approved setting aside up to \$500,000 including in-kind support, and has approved the expenditure of up to \$150,000 to fund costs related to the development of the domestic phase of the Bid. The short term expenditures to produce and table the domestic phase of the bid are approximately \$800,000.

It is anticipated that offsetting revenues from corporate support and fundraising will more than cover the costs of preparing the domestic phase of the bid.

Timelines for the Bid Process

1. Domestic Phase (the process of selecting the Canadian Candidate Bid City)

- November 1, 2005 – Deadline for Full Bid Proposal to Commonwealth Games Canada (CGC)
- November 16 - 25, 2005 – Bid City site visits by CGC Bid Review Committee
- December 15, 2005 – Announcement of Canadian Bid City
- March 15-26, 2005 – 2006 Commonwealth Games, Melbourne Australia

2. International Phase (the international competition to host the Games)

- April 2006 – Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) opens 2014 Bid Process
- April 2007 – Deadline for Full Bid Proposal to CGF
- October 2007 – Announcement of 2014 Games Host City (Sri Lanka)

For more information on The Regional Municipality of York, the services we offer and links to our nine area municipalities, please visit our Web site at: www.york.ca

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