

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

The Regional Municipality of York submits bid to host 2014 Commonwealth Games

Strong backing from Commonwealth Games athletes, world-class facilities round out bid

NEWMARKET – The Regional Municipality of York confirmed its intention to host the 2014 Commonwealth Games, submitting a formal bid to the games organizers, Commonwealth Games Canada, in Ottawa.

“The 2014 Commonwealth Games is an exceptional opportunity to showcase York Region and Greater Toronto to the rest of Canada and the world, while creating a legacy of world-class venues for generations to come,” said York Regional Chair and CEO Bill Fisch. “York Region and our municipalities has the capability and acumen to host this esteemed event, and we look forward to proving to the bid committee that York Region is the superior venue of choice.”

The 2014 Commonwealth Games will comprise 10 days of elite athletic competition and numerous associated events. It is the third largest multi-sport event in the world with 6,000 representatives from 72 countries.

It is anticipated that the successful host venue will see a tremendous economic benefit, with more than \$3 billion in potential new buildings, transportation infrastructure, business investment and visitor spending. The Commonwealth Games host will attract substantial federal and provincial government commitment, and will help accelerate plans for York Region Transit, Viva Rapid Transit and GO Transit and subway expansion into York Region.

The Commonwealth Games could produce some 11,000 related jobs, with the tourist industry reaping the rewards of international exposure.

“The Commonwealth Games represent a pinnacle in sporting competition, and York Region as one of Canada’s most economically, socially and culturally progressive communities, embodies all that these games symbolize,” said Markham Regional Councillor Jim Jones, Co-Chair of the Region’s Commonwealth Bid Committee responsible for Community Building. “I am convinced that the Commonwealth Bid Review Committee will see that York Region’s unique abilities, talents and facilities will make for a wonderful host venue in 2014.”

“The biggest legacy of these Games will be its impact on amateur sport,” said Bid Committee Legacies Co-Chair Bill Crothers, an Olympic and Commonwealth Games medalist and current Chair of the York Region District School Board. “Young competitive athletes across York Region and Greater Toronto will benefit from the sporting infrastructure and facilities that these Games will bring, in addition to the tremendous benefit to the Region’s multicultural fabric.”

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“York Region is a wonderfully diverse collection of different cultures and communities, and is a glowing example of what the Commonwealth Games is all about,” said Kris Burley, a multi medal winning gymnast from the 1994 and 1998 Commonwealth Games, who trained in the City of Vaughan. “York Region has world class athletic facilities and a positive sporting climate that would offer a wealth of amenities to athletes.”

Dozens of Commonwealth, Olympic and Paralympic athletes have endorsed York Region’s Commonwealth bid on the strength of its dynamic and diverse community, with a unique blend of small town charm and big city facilities. Bid city site visits will begin starting November 16th by the Commonwealth Games Canada Bid Review Committee. The successful Canadian bid city will be announced on December 15th, with the successful international bid candidate announced in October 2007.

York Region is the fastest growing part of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), with one of the largest rates of economic growth in the country. Together with our GTA neighbours, York Region is a financial, media and entertainment hub of Canada, offering access to world-class experience, resources and talent.

Among the many athletic facilities York Region and our surrounding communities are proposing will include:

- A National Sports Institute (NSI), a major multi-sport training and competition facility that will include world-class sport training facilities, an international competition venue, accommodation services and the highest sport expertise in coaching, sport medicine and sport science
- A National Soccer Stadium featuring an international soccer pitch and track and field stadium
- A Cycling Velodrome
- New hockey arenas
- Additional Field Houses
- New and upgraded playing fields
- Improved facilities and equipment across York Region schools
- Significant upgrades to many York Region recreational facilities
- Significant use of many York Region locales, including hotels, restaurants and other establishments

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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