

The first Western Canada Summer Games was held in Regina in 1975 to provide an opportunity for Western Canadian athletes to further prepare for the 1976 Montreal Olympics. In 2007 the Games are being held in Strathcona County, Alberta. British Columbia has only hosted the Western Canada Summer Games once since the inception of the Games and that occurred in 1999 when the event was held in Abbotsford, B.C. The Western Canada Games Council has determined that the 2011 Games will be held in British Columbia and is currently seeking submissions from B.C. municipalities that may wish to host this event.

In addition to a plethora of competitive sporting events, the Western Canada Summer Games generally involves a number of ceremonies and family-friendly festivals that are designed to bring art, sport, culture and community together. Games festivities commonly include things such as musical performances from professional and up-and-coming artists, themed food nights, “kiddy fairs”, sport demonstrations, merchandise tents, pin trading and other family focussed events. Colourful festival events are intended to complement sport competitions throughout the Games by giving visitors and local residents an opportunity to enjoy the artistic talent of local and national level artists, performers and youth.

DISCUSSION

Facilities/Sport Selection

The Western Canada Summer Games bid guidelines document indicates that bidding communities are responsible for providing the required infrastructure for the prescribed list of sports and that the Western Canada Games Council is not responsible for provision of capital for facility construction. Wherever possible, the Western Canada Summer Games should serve as a developmental vehicle for part-time athletes eligible to compete in future Canada Games.

Appendix “A” attached to this report provides a listing of the core sports for inclusion in the Western Canada Summer Games.

Operational Considerations

The Western Canada Games Council prescribes that essential operating costs for the Western Canada Summer Games shall be shared approximately as follows :

- 50% provincial government
- 30% municipal government
- 20% by the host society

The Government of British Columbia will provide a total of \$1.75 million over 3 years for the administration & operation of the Games. Based on information contained in the Western Canada Summer Games bid guidelines it is estimated that operational costs related to hosting the Western Canada Summer Games (the responsibility of the host municipality), would be in the range of \$1.1 million.

Benefits/Legacy

At the conclusion of the Games, it is hoped that Surrey would benefit from legacies from the Games. One legacy would be the increased positive profile and image of Surrey resulting from hosting a successful event. Also, a financial legacy, arising from profits from souvenir sales,

ticket & merchandising and sponsorships could arise, with the funds reinvested in Surrey for the development of sport.

The 2007 Western Canada Summer Games host community (Strathcona County, Alberta) estimates there will be a \$10 million regional economic impact from hosting the Games. Significant spenders are the Host Society itself, which uses many local suppliers and personnel to help stage the Games, and the thousands of spectators who travel from throughout the western provinces and territories to follow a family member or their team.

Proposed Bid Submission Timelines

- December 2006 – Letter of “Intent to Bid” submitted by the City of Surrey
- December 2006 - Resolution adopted by Council to support the bid.
- January 2006 – Resolution adopted by Surrey School District to support a bid
- February 16, 2007 - Bid submission deadline
- March 2007 – Bid applicants informed of short-listed sites
- March/April 2007 – Short-listed municipalities to host a site selection tour (if required)
- May 2007 – Successful applicant municipality announced

As part of the bid submission process, a Municipal Council resolution is required indicating support for the Bid Application. A draft resolution is included for Council’s consideration in the RECOMMENDATIONS section of this report.

A resolution will also be sought from School District No. 36, stating support for the Western Canada Summer Games and a willingness to provide the necessary school facilities that are required for competition and possibly accommodation purposes, and the necessary buses for transportation of participants during the Games.

Host Community Responsibilities

- The Mayor and Council of the host community will select the Games Chairperson.
- The Games Chairperson, with input from the Municipal Council, will choose the Board of Directors.
- The host community is responsible for providing competition facilities at no cost to the Games organizing committee.
- The host community is responsible to cover any deficit incurred by the local organizing committee.

CONCLUSION

The 2011 Western Canada Summer Games is a nationally prominent competition that provides an opportunity for the celebration of athletic achievement, cultural richness and a promotion of active living themes. This event will showcase Surrey’s many high calibre athletes and state of the art athletic facilities, will contribute significant sport tourism dollars to the local economy and is consistent with the City’s 2010 Olympic and Ahead Of the Game strategies. In addition, it will provide opportunities for highlighting the cultural richness of Surrey and contribute towards Surrey’s image as a Character City.

Surrey has the potential to receive very positive national exposure through the hosting of this event, as it will represent one of the most significant athletic events in Canada following the conclusion of the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Staff are seeking Council support to submit a bid to host the 2011 Western Canada Summer Games. Should the Games be awarded to Surrey, the 5-year financial plan will be adjusted to meet the requirements of being a host city for the event.

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APPENDIX “A”
List of Sports for Inclusion in Western Canada Summer Games

Sport	Max. Number per Contingent (Includes athletes & coaches)	Estimated Total of all Provinces / Territories	Technical Officials (approximate)
Athletics (male/Female Includes Wheelchair athletes)	61	365	25
Badminton (Male/Female)	12	84	10
Baseball (Male)	21	84	15
Basketball (Male/Female)	30	180	20
Canoeing (Male/Female)	19	76	18
Cycling (Male/Female)	13	65	10
Field Hockey (Female)	18	70	10
Artistic Gymnastics (Male Female)	15	90	35
Golf (Male/Female)	10	60	5
Rowing (Male/Female)	21	85	10
Rugby (Male)	12	48	10
Soccer (Male/Female)	40	260	25
Softball (Male/Female)	34	170	20
Swimming (Male/Female includes SWAD athletes)	38	242	35
Tennis (Male/Female includes wheelchair athletes)	13	75	5
Triathlon (Male/Female)	8	48	15
Volleyball (Indoor and Beach) (Male/Female)	36	215	30
Wrestling (Male/Female)	24	120	15
Total (per Contingent)	<u>425</u>	<u>2337</u>	<u>170</u>
Total Approximate Participants	<u>2507</u>		

Note: The four western provinces generally have maximum or near maximum participants. The Three territories have reduced team sizes and do not participate in all sports.