



# Corporate Report

NO: R188

COUNCIL DATE: September 29, 2008

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **September 19, 2008**  
FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture** FILE: **8200-20/BC**  
SUBJECT: **Invitation to Host the BC Summer Games**

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## RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Approve the submission of an application to the B.C. Games Society for the City of Surrey to host the BC Summer Games (the “Games”) in 2014; and
2. Approve the inclusion in the application, as required by the B.C. Games Society, of:
  - a. a commitment of \$45,000 for general expenses plus \$50,000 of in-kind services and facilities toward hosting the Games; and
  - b. a commitment of \$45,000 for a full time Games Operations Manager to be employed by the City for a 9-month period in advance of and during the Games.

## BACKGROUND

In August, the City of Surrey received a letter from the BC Games Society inviting Surrey to apply to host the BC Summer Games or B.C. Winter Games in either 2012 or 2014. These Games are held every two years.

With the Surrey-based volunteer time that will be absorbed by the Olympic and Paralympic Games being hosted in Vancouver in 2010, staff holds the view that there will be a greater pool of volunteers available for the 2014 Summer Games than in 2012. The Games in 2014 are scheduled for July 17<sup>th</sup> to July 20<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for bid submission is December 15, 2008.

A report on the invitation to host the B.C. Games was considered by the Parks and Community Services Committee at its meeting on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 meeting at which time the Committee resolved to recommend to City Council that Surrey apply to host the 2014 B.C. Summer Games with funding commitments as noted in the recommendation section of this report.

As an aside, the City of Surrey has already submitted a bid to host the BC Disability Games in 2013 (deadline September 30, 2008), which was endorsed by the Parks & Community Services Committee and approved by City Council. The decision on the BC Disability Games will be made by the organizing Society in the late fall of this year.

## **DISCUSSION**

The B.C. Games were initiated by the Government of BC in 1978. Since that time, the BC Games have played an important part in the development of amateur sport and athletes as well as communities in British Columbia. The purpose of the B.C. Games is to:

- assist in developing B.C. athletes, coaches, and officials in preparation for higher levels of competition;
- promote interest and participation in athletic and sports activities by the citizens of B.C.; and
- assist in the development of strong and vibrant communities in the Province.

The Government of BC, through the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport, will provide \$600,000 for the administration and operation of the 2014 BC Summer Games. As part of the application process, the prospective hosting community is required to commit resources to the BC Games. A minimum of \$45,000 cash and \$50,000 of in-kind services and facilities is required for the planning and staging of the Summer Games. In addition, the Host Community must employ a full-time Operations Manager for approximately 9 months in advance of and during the Games to ensure that the Games are properly planned and managed. It is estimated that such a position would cost approximately \$45,000 for the 9-month period. Planning for the BC Summer Games typically begins about 2 years prior to the Games.

Typically, the B.C. Summer Games attracts about 3,600 participants and is held over a 4-day period. One of the benefits to the host community is the significant economic impact that is created by the athletes and visitors that come to the host city immediately prior to and during the Games. This economic impact is estimated to be in the range of \$2 million to \$3 million.

Surrey hosted the BC Summer Games in 1989. These games were very successful in raising awareness of the abilities of BC athletes and showcasing the City of Surrey as a sport tourism destination. The City has the capacity to support the Summer Games through an excellent range of venues, some of which are located in School District facilities. A resolution will be required from the Board of School District #36, indicating support for the bid application and willingness to donate the necessary School District facilities during the Games.

The City of Surrey has the capacity to recruit the necessary number of volunteers to ensure a successful Summer Games through our full time volunteer coordinator and central volunteer registry, which contains the names of hundreds of willing volunteers.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council:

- Approve the submission of an application to the B.C. Games Society for the City of Surrey to host the BC Summer Games (the “Games”) in 2014; and
- Approve the inclusion in the application, as required by the B.C. Games Society, of:
  - a commitment of \$45,000 for general expenses plus \$50,000 of in-kind services and facilities toward hosting the Games; and
  - a commitment of \$45,000 for a full time Games Operations Manager to be employed by the City for a 9-month period in advance of and during the Games.

Laurie Cavan  
General Manager,  
Parks, Recreation and Culture

## Appendix A – Letter from the BC Games Society



MAYOR'S OFFICE

Received Aug 21/08  
File No. 0640-011

Our file: 4020-01

August 18, 2008

Her Worship Mayor Dianne Watts  
City of Surrey  
† 4245-56th Avenue  
Surrey BC V3X 3A2

Dear Mayor Watts:

On behalf of the Government of British Columbia and the BC Games Society, it is our pleasure to invite your community to bid to host the following:

- 2012 BC Winter Games
- 2012 BC Summer Games
- 2014 BC Winter Games
- 2014 BC Summer Games

Your community may bid on any or all of these available BC Games, however, only one Games will be awarded to a community. Please indicate your community's bidding preference with your submission, should you wish to apply for more than one Games.

The BC Summer and BC Winter Games have been providing community development opportunities since 1978. Communities that have hosted a BC Summer or BC Winter Games indicate the Games provide an amazing rallying point for their citizens while building a strong core of knowledgeable volunteers. New confidences emerge and improved sport and recreation opportunities remain. The economic impact to a community is also significant, with \$1.79 to \$2.2 million being spent through the hosting cycle with much of these expenditures coming from families and guests attending the Games.

The Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport, through the BC Games Society, will provide approximately \$525,000 to each of the successful communities to host the BC Winter Games and approximately \$600,000 to each of the successful communities to host the BC Summer Games. BC Games Society staff assist your community in the implementation of this large undertaking through proven guidelines, systems and software, and working with the key volunteers all the way through the planning and hosting stages.

SURREY PARKS RECREATION  
& CULTURE DEPARTMENT  
8200-20/BC ✓  
AUG 25 2008  
RECEIVED BY  
Pat

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Submissions, as detailed in the enclosed Bid Package, will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, December 15, 2008 by:

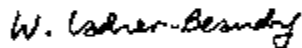
Mr. Kelly Mann  
President and CEO  
BC Games Society  
200 - 990 Fort Street  
Victoria BC V8V 3K2

BC Games Society staff will review all submissions and forward them to the BC Games Society Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will submit its recommendations to the Minister Responsible for Sport. Following this review, the communities selected as hosts for these Games will be announced as soon as possible.

Should you have any inquiries regarding the BC Games or questions about submitting a bid, please contact Kelly Mann at 250-387-1375.

Best wishes for a successful bid.

Sincerely,



Wendy Ladner-Beaudry, Co-Chair  
BC Games Society



Frank Lento, Co-Chair  
BC Games Society

WUFL/glr  
Enclosures

pc: Parks & Recreation Director  
Spirit of 2010 Chair  
Regional District Chair  
Sport Tourism Contact