

Team Ontario's 2011 Legacy Project

For the 2011 Canada Summer Games, Team Ontario has created a legacy project that will result in hundreds of new children's books and a collection of musical instruments being donated to the Tim Horton's Children's Camp located at Tatamagouche. This legacy project is a wonderful opportunity for athletes, coaches, managers and mission staff to say thank you and to give back to one of the communities playing host to the Canada Games.

The 2011 Canada Winter Games marks the third legacy project for Team Ontario. First implemented at the 2007 Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse, Yukon, Team Ontario wanted to build on a stellar record of excellence on the field of play. The legacy was established in recognition of the hard work that a host society does to put on a set of Games.

Team Ontario's past legacy projects have been partnership efforts with Ontario's Lieutenant Governors, the Hon. James K. Bartleman in 2007 and the Hon. David C. Onley in 2009. Many will recall the Hon. Bartleman's efforts to increase literacy among aboriginal youth here in Ontario. The hallmark of his efforts were two book drives in which almost two million books were collected and distributed to First Nations communities in Ontario.

Team Ontario took this inspiration and applied it to their legacy project. Children's books were donated by members of Team Ontario and donated to aboriginal youth. In 2007, more than 4,700 new and gently used books were collected and brought to the Yukon for Commissioner Geraldine Van Bibber to distribute to aboriginal children in communities all across the Yukon. In 2009, even more books were collected and distributed by the Hon. David C. Onley to aboriginal communities in remote Northern Ontario. In total, more than 10,000 books have been donated by Team Ontario over the course of two Canada Games. Each book that was donated had a bookplate inserted inside the front cover that let the reader know the book was part of the Team Ontario legacy program in partnership with Ontario's Lieutenant Governor.

2011 LEGACY

The Tim Horton's Camp at Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia, will host a remote athlete's village during the 2011 Canada Winter Games. While the camp is well supported by the Tim Horton Children's Foundation, the funds donated are directed to giving thousands of children the chance to attend one of the camps such as Tatamagouche. This can be a life-changing opportunity for these kids, many of whom come from economically disadvantaged homes. Many of the kids attending the Tim Horton's camps don't have access to support and services that are essential to helping develop positive life skills.

During a visit to the Camp in January 2010, Team Ontario chef and assistant chef de mission agreed that the camp would make an ideal legacy project recipient. Staff from the camp met

with Team Ontario and discussed needs of the camp and past legacy projects. Staff indicated that a children's library was something they have wanted to establish as they encourage the kids attending the camp to read. However, there is no collection of reading materials at the camp. Staff also indicated that they want to have a small collection of musical instruments for campers to play.

Both needs are easy ones for a legacy project to address. Members of Team Ontario will be asked to donate one new children's book that will be given to the Tim Horton's Camp. Members of both teams may also make a small cash donation in lieu of a book donation. Funds collected will be used to purchase new musical instruments for the camp. Team Ontario will seek partners such as vendors and manufacturers of musical instruments as part of this legacy project.