



2009 Canada Games Update The Year of the Games is Here!

2009, the Year of the Games is here. August is just around the corner and the excitement is building within the Host Society and throughout PEI.

To kick off the Year of the Games, an impressive lineup of local dignitaries and 2009 Canada Games representatives visited NewCap Radio studios January 5th to talk about activities and events leading up to the Games. In attendance were PEI Premier Robert Ghiz, Hon. Carolyn Bertram, Minister of Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour, 2009 Canada Games Host Society President Joseph Spriet, Myrtle Jenkins-Smith, 2009 Canada Games Host Society Vice President, Volunteer Services and Barb Dunphy-Gotell, Vice President, Media, Community Relations and Communications.

In Charlottetown and Summerside, free Spirit Skates were held to generate even more public buzz about the Games and get Islanders moving. A good time was had by all, who enjoyed free hot chocolate and treats and watched Abbie and Eddie our mascots, as they strapped on their skates and took to the ice for the first time. Many participants signed up for the 2009 Canada games Activity Challenge to track their wellness activities in support of the Games. To register, visit www.peiactiveliving.com.

One of the busiest divisions right now is Volunteer Services, which has considerably stepped up their active campaign to recruit 6,000 volunteers. January 16th a Volunteer Services Program Kick-off attracted media for the unveiling of the "Recruitometer" – an attractive, coloured barometer in the shape of the Games torch, that will gauge the number of volunteers recruited. Journalists and attendees learned more about the benefits of becoming a Games volunteer – and had a sneak peak at the Volunteer Services division pin, which will surely become one of the most traded pins of our Games.

Medical Services has good reason to be pleased. From their recruiting flurry that began in October, they attracted over 80 medical professionals from across Canada who were all excited by the prospect of being involved in our Games. The number of responses received was well beyond their expectations.



Sport Division is busier than ever. Schedules are close to being finalized with Missions and Provincial Sporting Organizations. In other news from Sport Division, the majority of the sporting equipment required by all venues has been ordered.

Preparations are well under way to host territorial and provincial Chefs de Mission from across the country for the second Mission Conference (M2) in May. M1 was very successful and we are certain M2 will meet with the same success.

A new software program is being developed that will serve as a legacy piece will help speed up the registration process for participants. In the past an athlete's information had to be typed in twice – once in their province of registration and again when they registered as a Canada Games competitor. The new program will allow information already input to be uploaded to the new Games system. The project is a joint effort between the 2009 Games, the 2011 Games and the Canada Games Council.