



Words from the Chairman – Spring 2009

Spring has sprung. With a few short months to go, Council's primary attentions and focus are turning to Prince Edward Island, that said, a bid process has come to an end, a new Dreams and Champions program is about to launch, and thousands of school children are about to be invited to celebrate with us.

The announcement has taken place to name the host of the 2013 Canada Summer Games. The selection process was by far the most comprehensive of any previous Games. Led by Olympian and beloved Quebec-based friend to sport, Canada Games Council Board Member Guylaine Bernier, the bid evaluation committee was struck by the passion shown by all three communities. The Council's hope is that the passion for the development of their community, their investment in youth, and also the importance they place on the development of sport in our country is not lost, but instead rallied to other great accomplishments in the future.

The final list of coaches has been released today for the pilot Aboriginal Apprentice Coach Program at the 2009 Games in Prince Edward Island. This joint venture in partnership with the Canada Games Council, the Aboriginal Sport Circle, the Coaching Association of Canada and Provincial and Territorial government partners is a great first step to really build some capacity nationally for these role models and leaders.

For the third consecutive year, the Canada Games Council will be partnering with Physical Health Education Canada (PHE Canada, formerly CAHPERD) on our National School Challenge to promote our Canada Games Day resource. All across the country, athletes are training, qualifying and dreaming of competing in Prince Edward Island. To celebrate this, the annual Challenge will move to a two week period, May 18th to 29th, to allow for even more schools to participate and to promote the 2009 Games. Last year over 29,000 students participated. For 2009 we hope even more.

As the snow melts, and we cross our fingers in the hopes that we don't get hit with a last snowstorm, let's celebrate our promotions and turn our attentions to our island-wide Games.

Larry Smith
Chairman, Canada Games Council