



## 2017 Canada Summer Games announce Relay Route

*Flame will visit communities in Manitoba & Northwestern Ontario; applications open for torchbearers*

(Winnipeg, March 9, 2017) The 2017 Canada Summer Games Host Society and Co-Hosts announced the Manitoba Hydro Torch Relay route and the torchbearer selection process.

In keeping with Canada Games tradition, the relay begins on June 6 with the lighting of the Roly McLenahan Torch at the Centennial Flame on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

“This highly symbolic starting point connects the nation’s capital to the provinces and territories that will be sending 4,000 athletes and coaches to compete in the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Canada Games and is a wonderful way to kick off The Hottest Summer in Half a Century,” remarked Jeff Hnatiuk, President and CEO, 2017 Canada Games Host Society. “We are proudly celebrating sport, community and culture across every corner of the province and thank Manitoba Hydro for helping to make it possible.”

“The Canada Summer Games torch will visit communities across Manitoba kicking off in Steinbach on June 23 and arriving in Winnipeg’s downtown on July 26 in a special celebration,” Manitoba Hydro President and CEO Kelvin Shepherd said. “The route was chosen to reflect the diversity of the province and to include as many Manitobans as possible to participate in this national event and make it a great success. Manitoba Hydro is proud to demonstrate our commitment to the communities we serve, and to the spirit of the Canada Summer Games. The torch relay provides an opportunity for us all to get involved.”

Torch relays are scheduled for the following communities: Steinbach (Friday, June 23), Kenora (Saturday, June 24), Morden (Thursday, June 29), Gillam, Fox Lake Cree Nation (Saturday, July 1), Thompson (Thursday, July 6), The Pas, Opaskawayak Cree Nation (Monday, July 10), Dauphin (Tuesday, July 11), Gimli (Saturday, July 15), Brandon (Thursday, July 20), Sagkeeng First Nation, Great Falls (date TBD) and Winnipeg (Wednesday, July 26).

“I can already picture Canadians of all ages coming together to witness the Roly McLenahan Torch being carried down their streets with pride,” said the Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities. “I hope young Canadians will be inspired to get involved in sports in their communities, with the hope of one day representing their province at future Canada Games. The torch relay will remain a part of Canada’s history long after the Games. Our Government is proud to support the 2017 Canada Summer Games in Winnipeg and the many activities that will make the Games shine bright during the year-long Canada 150 celebrations.”

This project has been made possible in part by the Government of Canada.

“Manitobans have several opportunities to be a part of the 2017 Canada Summer Games as athletes, spectators, performers and volunteers. The torch relay provides another exciting



chance for people living in communities around the province to get involved,” said Rochelle Squires, Minister of Sport, Culture and Heritage. “The games and celebrations surrounding them will create lifelong memories, not only for people in the host city of Winnipeg but for those all along the relay route.”

The torch will journey over 3,500 kms during the course of the relay through Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario. Ten to twenty torchbearers in each rural community and 50 torchbearers in Winnipeg will each carry the torch in 200 metre segments.

“Winnipeg is proud to participate in the Manitoba Hydro Torch Relay to kick off the Canada Summer Games in our city this July,” said Mayor Brian Bowman. “When the torch arrives in Winnipeg, we will be two days out from the start of the Games, and it’s a great way to ramp up excitement and welcome the athletes, coaches, and visitors from all over the country to our great city. The relay is a wonderful celebration of community and diversity, and I can’t wait to watch the final leg here in Winnipeg, followed by a great summer of athleticism and spirit!”

Each community will have the opportunity to nominate torchbearers for their event. Community members can nominate a past or present resident of their community or themselves by completing the nomination form at [canadagames.ca/2017](http://canadagames.ca/2017)

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### **About the 2017 Canada Summer Games**

Winnipeg, Manitoba will host the Canada Summer Games July 28 – August 13, 2017. Featuring 16 sports, over 250 events and a major cultural festival, the 2017 Canada Games will welcome over 4,000 athletes and coaches and more than 20,000 visitors. Celebrating the Games’ 50th anniversary and Canada’s 150th birthday, the Canada Games are this country’s largest multisport event for young athletes. They will leave a lasting legacy of new and enhanced sport facilities, volunteer and leadership development that will benefit athletes and the broader community for years to come. [canadagames.ca/2017](http://canadagames.ca/2017)

### **About the Co-Hosts:**

The 2017 Canada Summer Games Host Society acknowledges and welcomes our official Co-Hosts, the First Nation communities of Treaty No.1, Treaty No.3, and the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) whose traditional lands and waters the 2017 Games will be held upon. As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Canada Games and the 150th anniversary of Confederation, the Host Society also recognizes the thousands of years the First Nations communities have called this territory home and the hundreds of years it has been the home of the Metis peoples.

The Host Society and Co-Hosts respectively thank Turtle Lodge and the many Elders and Grandmothers that have provided the Games with cultural guidance and teachings that will make the 2017 Canada Summer Games one of the most inclusive in its 50 year history.



## About Manitoba Hydro

Manitoba Hydro is a Crown Corporation and the province's major energy utility:

- It serves over 567,000 electric customers throughout Manitoba and over 276,000 natural gas customers in southern Manitoba;
- Is one of the lowest cost providers of electricity in Canada;
- Exports electricity to electric utilities in three wholesale markets in Canada and mid-western United States;
- Generates nearly all of its electricity from self-renewing water power using 15 hydroelectric generating stations, primarily on the Winnipeg, Saskatchewan, Burntwood and Nelson Rivers;
- Has total assets exceeding \$19 billion, making Manitoba Hydro one of the largest energy utilities in Canada. [hydro.mb.ca](http://hydro.mb.ca)

## For more information, or to arrange interviews/media availability, please contact:

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