



PRESS RELEASE

It's Go Time: Winnipeg hosts the 2017 Canada Summer Games!

Largest city to host the Canada Games 50th anniversary edition

WINNIPEG, MB (July 28, 2017) – After almost four years of planning, the 2017 Canada Summer Games Host Society (the Host Society) and Co-Hosts are ready to welcome the nation for this country's largest multi-sport event for young athletes. Featuring 16 sports, over 250 events and a major cultural festival, the 2017 Canada Summer Games will welcome over 4,000 athletes and coaches, over 500 officials and more than 20,000 visitors from July 28 to August 13, 2017. It all begins with the Opening Ceremony presented by James Richardson and Sons Limited, starting at 7:00 p.m. tonight at Bell MTS Place.

“The athletes have been top of mind in every aspect of preparation for the Games, said Jeff Hnatiuk, President and CEO of the 2017 Canada Summer Games Host Society. “From first-rate sport venues and entertainment to accommodations and transportation, our team is focused on delivering an exceptional athlete experience! We can't wait to watch them compete starting tomorrow.”

“Our host communities of Winnipeg, Gimli, and Kenora have truly embraced the Games,” said Mariette Mulaire, Co-chair of the Host Society, “We are grateful to have had the opportunity to work alongside so many engaged and engaging people, from board members and elected officials, to civil servants, volunteers and sponsors. As they say, ‘It takes a village.’”

“All eyes are on Winnipeg as the city welcomes the nation and its top athletes from all the provinces and territories,” said the Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities. “With the boisterous crowd of the Opening Ceremony setting the tone, it will be a time to reflect on the 50-year history of the Canada Games. As every athlete gets ready to give their all to stand atop the podium, they are all driven by the knowledge that the Games can be a step toward wearing the maple leaf at Olympic and Paralympic Games. I am eager to see how this story unfolds. Let the Games begin!”



Celebrating Milestones

“Since Canada’s centennial year, the Canada Games have become synonymous with athletic excellence and inspiring the next generation of champions,” says Tom Quinn, Canada Games Council Chairman. “ Over the past 50 years, communities across the nation have felt the impact of the Canada Games - a unique, premium, nation-building event that creates lasting legacies. Winnipeg will now feel this impact thanks to the hard work put forth by the 2017 Canada Games Host Society and the thousands of volunteers who make this great event possible.”

Over the past 50 years, millions of athletes have tried out for the Games and over 100,000 athletes have competed. Add to that the over 100,000 coaches, officials and volunteers that have been directly involved in the planning and staging of the Games and you have some idea as to the enormous reach of the Canada Games over a proud history.

75 years ago, the notion of bringing together the entire nation for an “Olympic-style” multi-sport event for developing athletes was just an idealistic vision.

50 years ago, the wheels were put in motion and the Canada Games were created as part of Canada’s centennial celebrations.

25 years ago, the Canada Games had gained momentum and had become a key event in the development of our next generation of athletes.

Now, the Canada Games are widely recognized as a unique, premium, nation building event for youth that create lasting legacies across our nation, and our impact grows every day.

In its 50-year history, through government investment, the Canada Games have cumulatively invested over 250 million dollars in capital projects across the country. From Halifax to Prince George to Whitehorse, communities have benefitted from the legacies that were left behind.

17 days of sport and culture, a lasting legacy

The Games in Winnipeg will have a particularly festive air, starting with tonight’s Opening Ceremony presented by James Richardson and Sons Limited. Titled “We are Canada!”, the two-hour show will celebrate 50 years of amateur sport at the Canada Games and mark Canada’s 150th anniversary at The Hottest Summer in Half a Century. Featuring hundreds of performers from all parts of Manitoba’s community, the show will also feature sports celebrities and Canada Games alumni and showcase all that the province and city have to offer.

Musical headliners for the Ceremony include: Ontario’s Serena Ryder, Québec’s Coeur de Pirate, and Winnipeg’s own Juno-award winning Bros. Landreth, who will perform with a youth chorus from Studio Works and young dancers in a special collaboration with Canada’s Royal Winnipeg Ballet.

Athletes and visitors will also be treated to an 11-day cultural festival at the Forks. The Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries Canada Games Festival offers free music, culture and family fun capped off by fireworks every night of

the Festival. With musical acts from every province and territory and interactive family activities at the MacDon Family Zone at Parks Canada Place, the Forks will be the place to be at the end of a day of sport competition!

And with the Canada Games celebrating their 50th anniversary this year, Games organizers are reminded of the important legacy the Games will leave in the community - both physical and human, added Human Mesman, Co-chair of the Host Society: "Through volunteer engagement, building community spirit, and developing the next generation of coaches and athletes, we will be building and strengthening capacity for sports excellence and community development for years to come."

The Honorable Rochelle Squires, Minister of Sport, Culture and Heritage and the province of Manitoba have been enthusiastic supporters of the Games, the Host Society and Co-Hosts. "Along with my fellow Manitobans, I have been excitedly counting down the days until the Canada Summer Games," said the minister. "The province of Manitoba offers a warm welcome to all visiting athletes, staff and spectators. We can't wait to celebrate and cheer with you for the next 17 days."

"The time is finally here for the Games to begin," added Mayor Brian Bowman. "Winnipeg's fantastic team of organizers and more than 6000 volunteers are ready to spring into action. For people who haven't experienced a Canada Games, they're going to find it's something that will bolster Winnipeg's pride in who we are and show the rest of Canada all the great things this city has to offer. "

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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 acknowledging Canada's 150th anniversary, 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. This event has been made possible in part by the Government of Canada, Province of Manitoba and City of Winnipeg. 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 Metis Nation represented by 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 acknowledge 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.

For more information: Call our bilingual information service 233-ALLO at [204-233-2556](tel:204-233-2556). Service is available 7 days a week, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. until August 15, 2017. Or visit our website at canadagames.ca/2017.

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