



## 2017 Canada Summer Games Legacy to Benefit a Generation of Track & Field Athletes

### *Resurfaced track and facility improvements to bring facility at University of Manitoba up to elite standard*

WINNIPEG (September 24, 2015) – Today, the 2017 Canada Summer Games Host Society announced another major legacy project currently underway at the University of Manitoba. The track at University Stadium will see numerous upgrades based on a joint planning process between the 2017 Canada Summer Games, University of Manitoba, and Athletics Manitoba. The 2017 Canada Summer Games are contributing nearly two million dollars to the project, primarily to the resurfacing of the track and other enhancements to the field of play and warm up areas.

The media conference brought together representatives from the Province of Manitoba, City of Winnipeg, University of Manitoba, Athletics Canada and 2017 Canada Summer Games Host Society, along with athletes and leaders in the sport community.

“This facility is a wonderful symbol of the legacy the Canada Summer Games will have for our city and province,” Minister Ron Lemieux said. “From positive economic spinoffs, to inspiring our families and youth, I know the Games of 2017 will have a lasting impact, truly showcasing that Manitoba is where Canada’s heart beats.”

Speaking on behalf of the 2017 Canada Summer Games, Host Society President and CEO Jeff Hnatiuk detailed the importance of these upgrades to current and future competitors.

“University Stadium is an important training and competition venue, and has provided the foundation for many thousands of Manitoba athletes to achieve their personal best in their chosen discipline over the past 48 years. The upgrades to this venue were identified as a key component of the 2017 Canada Summer Games’ physical legacy, and will help developing athletes in Manitoba realize their fullest potential, as well as enhance our province’s capacity to host national and international competitions.”

Upon completion, the track will achieve the distinction of being certified as an IAAF Class II track & field facility, of which there are only nine in all of Canada. Class I certification is reserved for tracks meeting Olympic specifications. University Stadium hosted the Athletics competitions of the 1967 and 1999 Pan Am Games, and was once home to the University of Manitoba’s Bison Football program. As part of the overall project plan, the University of Manitoba has committed to making the stadium a dedicated Athletics facility, one of only a handful across Canada.

- 30 -

## About the Canada 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 multi-sport 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.

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

Martin Lussier  
Manager, Communications  
2017 Canada Summer Games  
Office: 204-594-4241  
Mobile: 204-890-6757  
[mlussier@2017canadagames.ca](mailto:mlussier@2017canadagames.ca)