



## 2017 Canada Summer Games Major Legacy Announcement

*Sargent Park Beach Volleyball Centre announced as Official Venue for the 2017 Games*

WINNIPEG (August 4, 2016) - Today the 2017 Canada Summer Games Host Society announced a major legacy project at the Cindy Klassen Recreation Complex. The newly created Sargent Park Beach Volleyball Centre will be the official beach volleyball venue for the 2017 Games.

2017 Canada Summer Games President and CEO Jeff Hnatiuk detailed the importance of this permanent venue to current and future competitors.

“The Sargent Park Beach Volleyball Centre will be a major part of the physical legacy left by the 2017 Canada Summer Games, 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.”

Beach volleyball is scheduled in the first week of the Games, from July 29 - August 4, 2017. Two competition courts and four practice courts will be set up for the event that will feature one male and one female team per province/territory. Following the Games, the space will accommodate 10 permanent courts.

“One of the key legacies of any Games—including the 2017 Canada Summer Games—is the sport and recreation infrastructure that is left behind, providing our communities and our young people with access to sport facilities to enjoy long after the Games have ended,” said the Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities. “Important legacy projects like the Sargent Park Beach Volleyball Centre will provide a top-notch training and competition setting for the Games next year and for future volleyball talent to develop for years to come. I commend the 2017 Canada Summer Games Host Society on its work to prepare Winnipeg and the surrounding area for the Canada Games.”

“We are excited to host these Games, and look forward to the facilities and the memories the games will leave behind,” said Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage Minister Rochelle Squires. “With improved facilities, there will be even greater training opportunities for Manitoba athletes to help them prepare to represent our province for years to come.”

One hundred and twenty-five truckloads of high quality sand were brought in to build the playing area, which is located inside the Susan Auch speed skating oval. During the 2017 Games, 2,000 temporary seats will be placed at the venue.

“It’s great to see our beach volleyball players of the future getting the chance to develop at the location that celebrates two of Winnipeg, Manitoba and Canada’s greatest athletic legacies: Cindy Klassen and Susan Auch,” said Mayor Brian Bowman. “Today’s announcement is fantastic news for the sport of beach volleyball in Winnipeg.”

Representatives from the Province of Manitoba, City of Winnipeg, Volleyball Manitoba, and 2017 Canada Summer Games Host Society, along with athletes and leaders in the sport community were on hand today to officially open the venue.

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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 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:**

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