

# Q & A BACKGROUNDER



For immediate release

May 15, 2018

## MNP Canada Games Torch Relay Route and Torchbearer Nomination Process

### Q: What is the MNP Canada Games Torch Relay?

A: For the first time in the history of the Canada Games, the MNP Canada Games Torch Relay will travel from coast-to-coast across the nation. The MNP Canada Games Torch Relay visits almost 50 communities across Canada through a series of celebrations and torch relay stops, with 10 to 15 torchbearers in each torch relay community carrying the torch. Torchbearers across the 26 torch relay stops are selected following a nomination process that opened on May 15, 2018.

### Q: What is the Canada Games Torch?

A: The [Roly McLenahan Canada Games Torch](#) is used to commence each Canada Games Torch Relay and must be used to ignite the official Games flame during the Opening Ceremony of each Canada Games.

### Q: When does the MNP Canada Games Torch Relay start?

A: The relay officially starts in Ottawa from the Centennial Flame on Parliament Hill on October 4, 2018, and visits almost 50 communities across Canada before arriving in Red Deer for the Opening Ceremony of the 2019 Games on February 15, 2019.

### Q: What communities is the MNP Canada Games Torch Relay visiting?

A: In total, 48 communities will be visited through the MNP Canada Games Torch Relay, with 26 torch relay stops and 22 celebration stops being hosted across Canada. The list of communities is available below:

#### Torch Relay Stops

- Ottawa, ON - October 4, 2018
- Halifax, NS\* - October 9, 2018
- Montreal, QC - October 11, 2018
- Niagara Region, ON - October 20, 2018
- London, ON\* - October 23, 2018
- Thunder Bay, ON\* - October 25, 2018
- Winnipeg, MB\* - November 1, 2018
- Regina, SK\* - November 6, 2018
- Saskatoon, SK\* - November 10, 2018
- Victoria, BC - November 21, 2018
- Kelowna, BC - November 30, 2018

#### Celebration Stops

- Markham, ON - October 12, 2018
- Toronto, ON - October 12, 2018
- Kenora, ON - October 30, 2018
- Portage la Prairie, MB - November 2, 2018
- Brandon, MB\* - November 2, 2018
- Humboldt, SK - November 7, 2018
- Prince Albert, SK - November 8, 2018
- Surrey, BC - November 23, 2018
- Abbotsford, BC - November 27, 2018
- Chilliwack, BC - November 27, 2018
- Vernon, BC - December 4, 2018

- Prince George, BC\* - December 8, 2018
- Grand Prairie, AB\* - January 5, 2019
- Edmonton, AB - January 8, 2019
- Lloydminster, AB - January 9, 2019
- Medicine Hat, AB - January 12, 2019
- Lethbridge, AB - January 16, 2019
- Calgary, AB - January 18, 2019
- Rimbey, AB - January 23, 2019
- Leduc, AB - January 25, 2019
- Blackfalds, AB - January 29, 2019
- Olds, AB - January 31, 2019
- Lacombe, AB - February 2, 2019
- Sylvan Lake, AB - February 5, 2019
- Ponoka, AB - February 7, 2019
- Red Deer, AB - February 15, 2019
- Kamloops, BC\* - December 5, 2018
- Drumheller, AB - January 11, 2019
- Taber, AB - January 15, 2019
- Vegreville, AB - January 9, 2019
- Stettler, AB - January 10, 2019
- Kananaskis, AB - January 21, 2019
- Airdrie, AB - January 22, 2019
- Rocky Mountain House, AB - January 24, 2019
- Wetaskiwin, AB - January 26, 2019
- Maskwacis, AB - January 26, 2019
- Innisfail, AB - January 30, 2019

\*Past Canada Games locations

**Q: What is the difference between a torch relay stop and a celebration stop?**

A: Torch relay stops are large scale event, in which the formal torch relay will occur, followed by a community celebration. Each torch relay should be between two to five kilometers and should take between 30 to 45 minutes to complete. Celebration stops are smaller scale celebrations with the torch.

**Q: How were torch relay stops and celebration stops selected?**

A: The locations selected for the stops were chosen due to their past or future involvement with the Canada Games and their community’s alignment with the vision, spirit and values of the 2019 Canada Winter Games.

**Q: What does a torchbearer do?**

A: Each torchbearer walks a leg of the relay, which should be between 160 to 500 meters long depending on the route, carrying the Roly McLenahan Canada Games Torch. The torchbearer will carry the torch for their leg of a community’s torch relay and take part in events, photo-ops and community recognition opportunities.

**Q: How many torchbearers will be selected?**

A: Communities should have 10 to 15 torchbearers from their community or surrounding communities and they can be current or past residents.

**Q: How are torchbearers selected?**

A: Torchbearers will be selected following a nomination process that opens on May 15, 2018.



**Q: How do I nominate a torchbearer?**

A: Individuals can nominate a deserving, past or present community member or themselves by completing the application form online at [canadagames.ca/2019/mnptorchrelay](http://canadagames.ca/2019/mnptorchrelay). Nominations will be accepted until June 30, 2018 at 4 p.m. MT.

**Q: What is the application deadline for torchbearers?**

A: Nominations can be submitted online at [canadagames.ca/2019/mnptorchrelay](http://canadagames.ca/2019/mnptorchrelay) until 4 p.m. MT on June 30, 2018.

**Q: When will the torchbearers be announced?**

A: The 2019 Games will announce torchbearers publicly in September 2018.

**Q: Where can I learn more about the MNP Canada Games Torch Relay?**

A: For the most current information regarding the MNP Canada Games Torch Relay, please visit [canadagames.ca/2019/mnptorchrelay](http://canadagames.ca/2019/mnptorchrelay).

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**About the 2019 Canada Winter Games:** From February 15 until March 3, 2019, the eyes of the nation will be on Red Deer, Alberta as we host the 2019 Canada Winter Games - the largest multi-sport and cultural event for youth in Canada and the largest event to be hosted in Red Deer's history. Featuring over 150 events in 19 sports and a major arts and cultural festival, the 2019 Canada Winter Games will welcome up to 3,600 athletes, managers and coaches and more than 100,000 spectators, with a forecasted economic impact of over \$132 million. The 27th edition of the Canada Games, the 2019 Games is set to provide a stage for Canada's next generation of national, international and Olympic champions to compete and will leave a legacy for athletic and leadership greatness in Red Deer and central Alberta. This is our moment.

For more information on the 2019 Games, please visit: [canadagames.ca/2019](http://canadagames.ca/2019)  
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For more information on MNP, visit [www.mnp.ca](http://www.mnp.ca).

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