

## Canada Games Backgrounder

The Canada Games are where greatness begins. Since 1967, the Canada Games and their lasting legacies continue to be the catalyst for the growth of sport and recreation across our country. Held every two years, alternating between summer and winter, the Games are Canada's largest multi-sport event and represent the pinnacle of interprovincial/territorial sport competition. As the best in their age group, these young competitors come to the Games having trained long and hard to be among those chosen to represent their respective province or territory. Since 1967, nearly 100,000 athletes have participated in the Games with hundreds of thousands having engaged in try-outs and qualifying events. 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. The Canada Games *Inspire Dreams and Build Champions*, and work to create the ultimate impact on Canada's next generation of national, international and Olympic Champions

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Since the inaugural 1967 Canada Games, new and existing sports venues have benefited from capital improvements because of the opportunity to host a Canada Games. From arenas to pools, fields to courts, close to 500 venues in total have been upgraded to national standards through the Canada Games resulting in the availability of quality venues to host other provincial, national or international events.

The Canada Games name lives on with stadiums and complexes (Charlottetown, Summerside 2009), Aquatic Centres (Saint John 1985, Kamloops, 1993), and Canada Games Centres (Corner Brook 1999, London 2001, Whitehorse 2007, and Halifax 2011), and a legacy of sports facilities has been built from coast to coast. Cumulatively, over \$250 million has been invested in the Canada Games; about half of it in capital projects in the various host communities. From individual sport fields-of-play to multi-sport complexes, infrastructure upgrades have represented legacies that have become community centers and landmarks within the municipalities.

The Canada Games, a celebration of youth, sport, culture and community, are the product of ongoing collaboration between the Government of Canada, provincial/territorial governments, host municipalities, the private sector and the Canada Games Council.

National Partners/Partenaires nationaux

## About the Canada Games

*“The illustrious alumni alone are living proof that these Games are as important as anything we do in Canadian sport.”*

- Journalist covering the 2001 Canada Summer Games

Bob Gainey remembers his Canada Games experience as “the first big step.” “It was a really important time for me. It was in Saskatoon in 1971 and while I’d played many hockey tournaments before, it was the first time I’d played against players my own age from right across the country. It was a tremendous experience for me.”

Since their inception in 1967, the Canada Games have played a prominent role in developing some of Canada’s premier athletes. The Games have acted as a stepping stone for many of Canada’s celebrated athletes, including: Toller Cranston (1967), Bob Gainey (1971), Sylvie Daigle (1979), Catriona LeMay Doan (1983 and 1987), Bruny Surin (1985), Annie Pelletier (1989), Hayley Wickenheiser and Marc Gagnon (1991), Steve Nash (1993), Maryse Turcotte (1995), Alexandre Despatie and Adam Van Koeverden (1997), Jeff Francis (2001), Sidney Crosby and Charles Hamelin (2003) Marianne St-Gelais, Steven Stamkos and Mark McMorris (2007), Anthony Bennett (2009), Nathan Mackinnon and Jonathan Drouin (2011), Andre De Grasse (2013).

### *The Canada Games are:*

- the pinnacle of inter-provincial/territorial sport programs,
- a springboard for Canada’s Olympians and Paralympians,
- an event that inspires Canada’s aspiring young athletes,
- a celebration of sport, culture, youth and community that unites our ten provinces and three territories.

The Canada Games leave valuable legacies in host communities; enhanced facilities, new sport programs and equipment, and a human legacy creating stronger communities ready to take on new challenges.

## The Canada Games Council

In 1991, the Canada Games Council was incorporated as a private, non-profit organization responsible for the ongoing development of the Canada Games. The Council is the governing body for the Canada Games. As the Games move from one host community to the next, the Council provides the continuity, leadership and support to Host Societies in key areas such as sport technical, organizational planning, ceremonies and protocol, marketing and sponsorship. In addition, the Canada Games Council ensures effective long-term partnerships with national sport organizations, governments and the corporate sector.

The Canada Games Council is a well-established, national organization that fosters on-going partnerships with organizations at the municipal, provincial and national levels. It allocates resources in support of the following mission and strategic directions.

### **Mission**

The Canada Games Council ensures the Canada Games are delivered as a unique, premium, nation-building, multi-sport event and are strengthened as a property.

### **Strategic Goals**

- Strengthening sport development in Canada
- Providing leadership to communities
- Implement an efficient and effective Transfer of Knowledge program
- Innovative management