



News Release

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BC GAMES SOCIETY BEGINS BID PROCESS FOR 2012 AND 2014 BC SUMMER AND BC WINTER GAMES

The BC Games Society has launched the bid process to select BC communities to host the BC Summer and/or BC Winter Games in 2012 or 2014. The BC Games are the province's largest multi-disciplinary organized competitions and contribute to community, volunteer, and sport development.

Bid packages were sent to community mayors and regional districts across BC. Potential host communities are required to submit information on event hosting history, available venues for sport and accommodation, and evidence of community support for hosting the Games. The deadline for bid submissions is December 15, 2008.

With the Olympic and Paralympic spotlight now focused on Vancouver, British Columbians are keenly aware of the benefits of sport hosting. The BC Games have been providing sport hosting opportunities for communities for over 30 years and will continue to do so after 2010.

"The BC Games are a vital step in the sport development pathway and bring together the best young athletes in the province," said Minister of Healthy Living and Sport, Mary Polak. "B.C. already has an international reputation for excellence in sport hosting and the BC Games give communities the opportunity to gain experience in hosting, while showcasing their town or city to the rest of the province."

Host communities welcome athletes and coaches but also build volunteer capacity, engage local business, and realize a direct economic impact of approximately \$2 million.

"We are excited to begin the process to select communities to host the 2012 and 2014 BC Games, said Kelly Mann, President and CEO of the BC Games Society. "We expect a competitive process as community leaders around the province recognize the enormous positive benefits that come as part of hosting the BC Games."

For detailed information on the bid process and the associated documents please visit www.bcgames.org.

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