

Calgary Bid Exploration Committee

Recommendations to City Council: Background

CBEC believes the potential economic and social benefits of hosting the 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Games (OPWG) warrant careful consideration of a bid. CBEC asked two separate but inter-related questions:

1. Is it feasible for Calgary to successfully host the 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games?
2. And if so, is it prudent for Calgary to bid and seek to host the 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games?

In other words, “can we do it” and “should we do it”?

Is it feasible for Calgary to host the 2026 Games?

On the question of feasibility, the Committee arrived at an unconditional “yes.” Fourteen key questions (which can be found in Section 1.0.1 of CBEC’s Final Report) were used to objectively assess and define feasibility, and the answer to all those questions is “yes.”

Is it prudent for Calgary to bid and seek to host the 2026 Games?

While CBEC believes a Calgary 2026 Games bid is feasible, the question of prudence is quite different. To determine the prudence of a bid, CBEC operated on the principle that the Games must fit into the City’s and its citizens’ vision for the future. Reaching a decision on prudence is a holistic process encompassing both an objective and subjective assessment. Due to new and changing information, the following considerations need to be assessed.

Consideration	
Do the IOC changes make a meaningful difference in CBEC’s cost and revenue estimates?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification of potential cost reductions • Determine potential for increased IOC financial support • Determine how the changes may reduce operating costs and requirements from Canadian taxpayers
Will governments support and fund the Games?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement of municipal, provincial and federal governments to support and fund the games as required by the IOC • Assessment of a financial structure to accommodate the cash flow and debt level constraints of the City
Can the Games generate a positive return and provide meaningful value to Calgary, Alberta and Canada?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent IOC changes to the bidding and hosting process will require review of current financial models to ensure positive returns and meaningful value including legacy benefits, economic development and job creation potential

<p>Will there be a new event centre/arena and fieldhouse in Calgary so CBEC's Master Facilities Plan (MFP) remains relevant?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new arena has been identified as a requirement to competitively position Calgary for a bid • A decision on facilities will help focus the MFP for any potential bid
<p>Would the Games fit into the future vision for Calgary and region and is there a broad coalition of support for the Games?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public support needs to be re-evaluated after assessing the impact of the IOC changes • Further engagement with communities, including Treaty Seven First Nations, is required
<p>Is there a valid expectation that a bid to host the Games would be successful?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comparative evaluation against potential competitor bids should be conducted at the appropriate time • A full assessment can only be done once the previous five questions have been answered

Due to new and changing information from the IOC, CBEC recommends further exploration of a potential Calgary bid be undertaken to assess the prudence of a bid. CBEC recommends City Council to direct City Administration, in consultation with CBEC, to develop a plan on how to determine if the outstanding questions can be satisfied and report back at the September 11, 2017 Council meeting.

To read CBEC's recommendations to City Council in full, please visit:
<http://www.calgary.ca/CSPS/Recreation/Pages/Calgary-2026-Olympic-bid/Olympics-Bid-2026.aspx>

If you have any further questions, please contact:

Sean Beardow
 Communications Manager
 Calgary Bid Exploration Committee
 403 909 8498
 sean.beardow@calgarybec.ca