

## **Government of Canada, Province of Alberta and City of Calgary Announce Support for the Creation of a Bid Corporation for a Calgary 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Bid**

### **Overview**

The Government of Canada, the Province of Alberta and the City of Calgary today announced support for the creation of a bid corporation that will continue the work required to both bid for and potentially host the 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Calgary.

The City of Calgary has been exploring the feasibility of bidding for the 2026 Winter Games since mid-2016. This culminated in the City's initiation of the 2026 Candidature Process. The City and the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) signed a Candidate Cooperation Agreement with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in October 2017.

The IOC has redesigned their candidature process based on initiatives that were established as part of the IOC [Agenda 2020](#) strategic roadmap. The 2026 Candidature Process aims to reduce costs for potential host cities and provides them and National Olympic Committees (NOCs) with greater support and more flexibility in developing Games concepts. The process involves an ongoing dialogue with the cities, enabling continuous improvement of their Olympic Games bid proposal.

The two phases of the 2026 bid process are:

- Stage one, the Dialogue phase, is non-committal and will give Interested Cities and NOCs an opportunity to engage with the IOC to assess the benefits and requirements related to hosting the 2026 Winter Games.
- Stage two, a shorter and lighter Candidature phase, will streamline and simplify the period when Candidate Cities work with the IOC to increase value propositions of their Games delivery plans.

The Winter Games is the pinnacle event on the global winter sport calendar and is of significant importance to the Canadian sport system. The 2026 Winter Games will be the 25<sup>th</sup> edition of the Winter Olympic Games and 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the Winter Paralympic Games. Canada hosted the Olympic Winter Games in 1988 (Calgary), the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in 2010 (Vancouver) and the Summer Olympic Games in 1976 (Montréal).

The Winter Olympic Games are usually hosted over 17 days in the month of February. The most recent Games in PyeongChang included over 2,900 athletes, competing in 7 sports across 15 disciplines in up to 102 events. The Winter Paralympic Games have been hosted in March of the same year since 1992 (prior to that year, the events were hosted separately). The Winter Paralympic Games were hosted over 10 days this year, with more than 500 athletes competing in 5 sports in up to 72 events. Canadian athletes obtained a record number of medals in both the Olympic and Paralympic Games this year, and the Canadian Olympic Committee and Canadian Paralympic Committee both sent their largest teams to date.

## Important Steps in the 2026 Candidature Process:

October 2018	IOC session to determine national Olympic committees / cities for Candidature phase
January 11, 2019	IOC deadline: submission of bid book (candidature file)
September 2019	Selection of host city by IOC members

## Canada's Olympic and Paralympic Games Legacies

- Canada has a strong history of realizing significant impacts and legacies from hosting major international sport events.
- The 1976 Olympic Summer Games in Montréal left a legacy of sport infrastructure that is used by high-performance athletes and community programs to this day. The Olympic Park is home to the Institut national du sport du Québec and continues to host national and international competitions each year.
- The 1988 Calgary Olympic Winter Games continue to provide the city with a strong volunteer base and culture, as well as world-class sport infrastructure that continues to be used by athletes as training facilities and venues to host world cup and world championship events each year. Calgary is also home to Canada's Sports Hall of Fame and the Canadian Sport Institute Calgary, which was founded on the legacies of the 1988 Games.
- Sport infrastructure was also a legacy of the 2010 Vancouver Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, along with a considerable list of social, environmental, cultural and economic benefits, along with what are still considered to be best practices for such events.
- As an example of sport infrastructure legacies, the Richmond Oval was converted into a multiuse sport facility that continues to serve the community today. Other benefit areas were realized through the Government of Canada's commitment to the creation of the Legacy Endowment Fund (\$55 million), which was matched by the Province of British Columbia. It included funding to support legacies for First Nations (\$36 million); a Canada Tourism Strategy (\$26 million); international business development and protocol (\$3.69 million); engaging communities in the torch relays (\$24.9 million); and numerous other funded and unfunded strategic horizontal leveraging initiatives.
- The 2015 Toronto Pan Am and Parapan Am Games provided the Greater Toronto Area with the Milton Velodrome, Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre (TPASC), and the York Track. Along with providing sport and recreation programming for the community, TPASC is also the home of the Canadian Sport Institute of Ontario.

## Indigenous Partnerships

- The 2026 Games provide an excellent opportunity to work closely with Indigenous leaders in the planning and delivery of the event, in promoting sport within Indigenous communities, and in showcasing and promoting Indigenous culture in a manner that contributes to reconciliation. Indigenous culture can also

be highlighted either separately or as part of a broad celebration of diversity and inclusion linked to the event.

- If the 2026 Winter Games are hosted in Calgary, the Government of Canada will encourage all parties to build on the best practices of the 2010 Vancouver Winter Games. As stated in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission final report, “The 2010 Winter Games were held on the traditional territories of the Squamish, Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh, and Li’wat peoples, who were an integral part of the event. In the spirit of reconciliation, which aligns with the spirit of the games themselves, the Four Host First Nations and the Vancouver Olympic and Paralympic Organizing Committee formed a partnership that ensured that Indigenous peoples were full participants in the decision-making process—a first in Olympic history.”