

Canada Games and Western Canada Summer Games



Multi-Sport Games Pathway

Athletes and coaches who have participated in a BC Games, North American Indigenous Games, Western Canada Summer Games or Canada Games understand that competing in a multi-sport games' environment is very different than competing in a single sport competition. Athletes must learn how to manage distractions – from residing in an athletes village with athletes from numerous sports and with very different schedules, to dealing with heightened media attention and transportation challenges, to competing in front of a larger crowd.

Athletes also quickly understand the significance of competing as part of a larger team - whether for their zone at a BC Games or province in the case of the North American Indigenous Games, Western Canada Games and Canada Games – and that every individual result counts towards the greater team goal of finishing first overall. As athletes progress along the development pathway, BC Games, NAIG and Team BC provide valuable learning experiences that prepare them for international multi-sport games competitions.



Olympic / Paralympic Games



**Regional International Games
(i.e. Pan Ams / Commonwealth Games)**



Canada Games



Western Canada Summer Games



BC Games

Canada Games

The Canada Games are a national sport and cultural institution. From the outset, the Games have been a celebration of sport.



The thought of staging the Canada Games first arose in 1924, at a meeting in Winnipeg of the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada. For more than 40 years it remained a frequent subject of discussion. Finally, in 1966 in Quebec City, the governments of Canada and Quebec gave their joint approval to a proposal to hold the first Games the following year.

A small voluntary committee of businessmen and educators was established. Planning and organization were hurriedly begun. The event was designed to coincide with Canada's 1967 Centennial celebrations.

The first Winter Games were an outstanding success. Despite monumental problems of planning, financing, logistics, and eventually abnormal snow and cold -- minus 37 C. for the opening ceremonies -- a makeshift torch was set alight.

Since then, at two year intervals, eighteen more ceremonial torches have been ignited to signal the start of successive Canada Games. With Prince Edward Island having hosted the 1991 Winter Games, each province has now hosted the Games at least once, with several having hosted twice already.

An estimated 45,000 young Canadians have participated in the Games. Another 180,000 have engaged in try-outs and qualifying events. Many millions of Canadians have watched the Games either first-hand or on television, and over 67,000 have volunteered.

Over 40 different sports have shared the spotlight in Summer or Winter Games. Each one has grown in popularity by having been on the sports calendar. Unfortunately, lack of time, space, funding and other considerations has prevented many more sports from participating in the Games as often as they might wish.

From a modest initial investment of approximately \$800,000 in public funds in 1967, the Games have grown in size, scope, complexity and cost. The 2001 Games in London project gross revenues of over \$15 million from three levels of government, corporate sponsorships, ticket and merchandise sales and other marketing initiatives. This is in addition to the contributions of the participating provinces and territories in training and outfitting their athletes, which will account for an estimated \$5 million.

Cumulatively, over \$230 million has been invested in the Canada Games since their inception, about half of it in capital projects. From track and field complexes to ski hills, soccer pitches to swimming pools, a legacy of sports facilities has been built up in 19 medium-sized communities across Canada. These facilities have provided a springboard for growth in sports excellence and fitness, as well as for the training of coaches, technical officials, and sport administrators.

Perhaps just as important, has been the human legacy bequeathed to these scattered Canadian cities and towns. Communities such as Thunder Bay, Chicoutimi-Jonquière, Saint John and Saskatoon have recruited thousands of willing volunteers to share the host role. With experience gained from the Games, they have gone on to assume other important commitments in their communities. They have left a record of giving and sharing which no amount of bricks and mortar or money can match.

The character of the Games has changed little over the years, although the 1990s have seen an increased importance on sport development. National and provincial sport organizations will increase their emphasis on building a comprehensive Canadian sport system, and host communities will be challenged with creating facilities and programs that will serve sport needs long after the Games have left.

For nearly 40 years, the Games have been a showcase of Canadian athletic talent and a high profile forum for inter-provincial competition. Alternating summer and winter, at two-year intervals, they have been hosted by every Canadian province. In recent years, the strategic importance of the Games as a sport and athlete development mechanism has received stronger emphasis.

In 1997, federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for sport signed a resolution, at their conference in Clear Lake Manitoba, re-affirming the support of all jurisdictions for the Canada Games. The resolution describes the cultural significance and abiding values of the Games. It confirms the commitment of governments to the Games, including the commitment by governments to select, train and enter teams. Team BC is British Columbia's manifestation and fulfilment of that commitment.

Excerpts from the Clear Lake Resolution

"The Ministers hereby declare that the Canada Games represent a unity of purpose in sport on the part of the Federal and Provincial/Territorial Governments to celebrate the sporting character of Canada through a high quality multi-sport event, which includes opportunities for regional exchange and learning, making the Canada Games a national sport development asset..."

"...the Federal, the Host Provincial/Territorial and the Host Municipal Governments continue to provide direct financial support to the staging of the Canada Games, while the Provincial/ Territorial Governments also support the selection, training and entering of provincial/territorial teams to compete at the Games, demonstrating their continued interest in and expectations of the Canada Games..."

Included in the Clear Lake Agreement is a federal, provincial and territorial cost sharing formula for the Canada Games. The formula is relevant to this evaluation to the extent that it illustrates the commitment of provinces and territories to field teams as part of the costs they are expected to share.

Canada Games Cost Sharing Formula:

Essential Operating Costs:

- 52% by the Federal Government
- 16% by the Host P/ T Government
- 32% by the Host Society

Base Capital Contribution:

\$6 million comprised of a \$2 million capital grant by each of the Federal and the host provincial/ territorial governments, plus \$2 million in capital through a municipal grant, provided by the host municipalities).

Athlete Transportation:

The federal government provides additional funds for the transportation of athletes, coaches, mission staffs and officials, while provinces and territories provide funding, support services and uniforms to their athletes.

Canada Games Backgrounder

February 1967, in Québec City, the dream was finally realized. For the first time in Canada's history, 1,800 athletes from 10 provinces and two territories gathered to compete in 15 sports. Under the Games motto 'Unity through Sport', these first Canada Winter Games paved the way to what is now Canada's largest multi - sport competition for young athletes.

Held every two years, alternating between summer and winter, the Canada Games are a key event in the development of Canada's young athletes. 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 and compete for the Canada Games Flag and Centennial Cup. With the Canada Games poised as a key step in the development of Canada's future stars, Canada Games athletes are Canada's next generation national, international and Olympic champions.

The Canada Games and their lasting legacies continue to be the catalyst for the growth of sport and recreation across the country. Since 1967, over 100,000 athletes have participated in the Games with hundreds of thousands having engaged in try - outs and qualifying events. Over 100,000 coaches, officials and volunteers have been directly involved in the planning and staging of the Games. Cumulatively, \$300 million has been invested in the Canada Games, about half of it in capital projects in the various host communities. From the Saint John Canada Games Aquatic Centre (1985) to the Hillside Stadium and Aquatic Centre in Kamloops, B.C. (1993); from the Corner Brook Canada Games Centre and Annex (1999) to the TD Waterhouse Stadium in London, Ontario (2001), a legacy of sports facilities has been built in over 16 communities across Canada.

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. The 2009 Canada Summer Games are being hosted by the entire province of Prince Edward Island. Two years later, Halifax, Nova Scotia will host this prestigious event.

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), Marianne Limpert, Annie Pelletier and Anne Montminy (1989), Hayley Wickenheiser and Marc Gagnon (1991), Steve Nash (1993), Maryse Turcotte (1995), Alexandre Despatie (1997), Adam Van Koeverden (1997), Jeff Francis (2001), and Sidney Crosby (2003).

The Canada Games are:

- Canadian sport icon,
- the pinnacle of inter-provincial/territorial sport programs,
- springboard for Canada's Olympians and Paralympians,
- an event that inspires Canada's aspiring young athletes,
- 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 works in partnership with governments, the private sector and the sport community to enrich the lives of young athletes through the Canada Games and Canada Games movement.

Strategic Directions

- Strengthening sport development in Canada
- Providing leadership to communities
- Nation building
- Innovative management

Canada Games at a Glance

Stage of Athlete = Train to Compete

Age = 12 – 23 years of age

Frequency = every 4 years (alternating summer/winter every 2 years)

Athlete (Summer)

- The Summer Games involve over 3,400 athletes, 39 young artists, 450 coaches and 230 managers
- Total P/T Team Size = 430

Athlete (Winter)

- The Winter Games involve over 2,800 athletes, 39 young artists, 500 coaches and managers
- Total P/T Team Size = 324

Coaches (Summer)

- Total P/T Team Size = 75

Coaches (Winter)

- Total P/T Team Size = 57

Coach Certification

- Canada Games / Team BC Coaches = NCCP Level 3 or equivalent under the Competency Based Program
- Team BC Managers = Team BC Managers must have NCCP Level 1 Theory or "Trained" status in the Ethics Module for NCCP.

Sports (2009 Summer Games)

- Athletics, Baseball, Basketball, Canoeing, Cycling, Diving, Golf, Rowing, Rugby, Sailing, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Tennis, Triathlon, Volleyball and Wrestling.
- Sport selection process prior to each Games

Sports (2011 Winter Games)

- Alpine Skiing, Ice Hockey, Archery, Artistic Gymnastics, Badminton, Biathlon, Boxing, Cross-Country Skiing, Curling, Figure Skating, Freestyle Skiing, Judo, Ringette, Shooting, Snowboarding, Speed-Skating (Long/Short), Squash, Synchronized, Swimming, Table Tennis and Wheelchair Basketball.
- Sport selection process prior to each Games

Volunteers (Summer) = 6,000 / (Winter) = 6,000

Officials = 400

Days of Competition = 15



Western Canada Summer Games

Over the past number of decades in all areas of Western Canada there has been a remarkable hosting of sports competitions of all kinds, held under a wide variety of authorities, but all, in their own individual sport rights, worthy, effective and official.



These have been local and area competitions, regional and provincial games, some featuring many sports, some held in the winter season, some in the summer, and some staged indoors with others, outdoors. Some of the competitions had varied recognition and sanctions from national sport governing bodies, while others didn't. Most of the competitions had age restrictions, scholastic or geographic restrictions of some kind. It was inevitable that people concerned closely with the development of athletes and sport, started to take a long critical look at what was going on in Western Canada.

This concern led one provincial government to engage in one-on-one talks with its sport federations, which led to larger group talks then formal meetings and conferences that viewed, reviewed and over viewed the total situation. The crunching conclusion – the existing sport competitions just were not developing athletes of national and international calibre and were not providing adequate outlets for greater recognition of many sports and athletes. That conclusion was not a criticism of the benefits of existing sports programs but recognition simply that athletes just were not progressing along the continuum to achieve national and international results.

The various provincial games of 1972 combined to form the idea of staging major multi-sport games in Western Canada, based on the highly demanding rules and regulations of international Games, which would attract the greatest number of Western Canadian athletes for open competition. By 1973, the final refined idea was a major program that would provide Western Canadian athletes with an opportunity to train for and participate in high standard competition as well as create an interest in some lesser-known sports on the part of younger athletes.

The Western Canada Summer Games were officially launched in Regina, Saskatchewan in August 1975, in a pre-Olympic Games year, along with the decision to hold the Games every four years, one year ahead of the Olympic Games, and using the same 23 summer sports disciplines.

In 1983, the Yukon and Northwest Territories applied for membership to the Games and debuted with a total of 23 athletes between the two territories.

Following the 1987 Games, a review of the Games was conducted and it was agreed that the purpose of the Western Canada Summer Games should be to provide developing athletes with an opportunity to compete in competitions that support provincial/territorial plans and which might lead to greater competitions at the national level (i.e. Canada Games, National Championships etc.).

The 1990 Western Canada Summer Games held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, saw provincial/territorial team sizes grow to in excess of 700 athletes and coaches participating in 31 sports with the focus shifting from the original pre Olympic showcase of the "Best in the West", to a more broad approach that allowed each individual sport to determine an age group for their sport. This approach proved to be beyond the financial capacities of the provinces/territories to sustain, and the mix of categories was deemed difficult for hosts to market and for provinces/territories to rationalize their involvement.

At the 1995 Games in Abbotsford, B.C., team sizes were reduced to approximately 500 athletes and coaches participating in 23 sports, with many of them focusing on developmental age groups. During the Ministers meeting in 1995, direction was given to the Western Canada Games Council by the Ministers to further reduce the teams to a limit of 400 participants, and to determine a fit for the Games. Alberta and Yukon withdrew from the Western Canada Games following the 1995 Games due to lack of clear fit for the Games. The Northwest Territories increased the size of their team and brought a record 152 athletes to participate.

By the 1999 Games in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, team sizes had been reduced to approximately 400 and more sports were fitting into the model of developing athlete's age eligible for the next Canada Games (especially in the case of Canada Summer Games team sports). For these reasons, Alberta agreed and was reinstated in the Games. The Yukon Territory was also welcomed back to the Games family.

In June 2003, Nunavut debuted as the third Territory to participate, and brought the total membership of the Western Canada Summer Games to 7 jurisdictions.

The current rationale for the Western Canada Summer Games is to bi-sect the Canada Summer Games cycle (the Technical Packages are aligned two years younger than the Canada Summer Games ages where possible) and provides an opportunity for top age-class athletes to test their athletic talent against the best in the west.

The following is a list of the Games hosted to-date:

YEAR	HOST COMMUNITY
1975	Regina, SASKATCHEWAN
1979	Saskatoon, SASKATCHEWAN
1983	Calgary, ALBERTA
1987	Regina, SASKATCHEWAN
1990	Winnipeg, MANITOBA
1995	Abbotsford, BRITISH COLUMBIA
1999	Prince Albert, SASKATCHEWAN
2003	Selkirk, Stonewall, Gimli, and Beausejour, MANITOBA
2007	Strathcona County, ALBERTA

The following hosting rotation has been approved by the Ministers:

YEAR	HOST COMMUNITY
2011	Kamloops, BRITISH COLUMBIA
2015	Alberta
2019	Saskatchewan
2023	Manitoba
2027	Northwest Territories

Western Canada Summer Games at a Glance



Stage of Athlete = Train to Train

Age = range: 13 – 23 years of age (technical packages are aligned 2 years younger than Canada Summer Games)

Frequency = quadrennial (bi-sects the Canada Summer Games)

Athlete

- Total P/T Size = 2,300
- Team BC = 338

Coaches

- Total P/T Size = 400
- Team BC = 87

Coach Certification

- Canada Games / Team BC Coaches = NCCP Level 3 or equivalent under the new Competency Based Program
- Team BC Managers = Team BC Managers must have NCCP Level 1 Theory or "Trained" status in the Ethics Module for NCCP in order to be eligible to manage a Team BC team at the Games.

Sports (2011 Western Canada Summer Games)

- Sports include: Artistic Gymnastics, Athletics, Badminton, Baseball, Basketball, Canoeing, Cycling, Field Hockey, Golf, Rowing, Rugby, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Tennis, Triathlon, Volleyball (Indoor and Beach) and Wrestling.
- Sport selection process prior to each Games

Volunteer = 3,000

Officials = 300

Days of Competition = 11 days