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## Airdrie a Possible Host for Western Canada Games

AIRDRIE, ALBERTA – Airdrie is preparing as the Western Canada Summer Games Bid Selection Committee descends on the city May 31 to scout facilities in Airdrie and Calgary to choose the host for the 2015 Western Canada Summer Games (WCSG).

“For Airdrie, these games will showcase the best young athletes in Western Canada and could be the pinnacle of our sporting event hosting thus far,” says Airdrie Mayor, Peter Brown. “We’re looking forward to the opportunity to host the athletes and their families”.

The WCSG are only two steps away from the Olympics for young athletes as they move from here to the Canada Games and then on to the Olympics. Hosting these games poses a great opportunity for Airdrie to showcase what an amazing community can do to make these games great.

The selection committee will be touring the area from 8:30 – 12:30. Media and the public are invited to show support to the selection committee at the following Airdrie locations:

**Chinook Winds Park: approx 10:30 – 11:00 am**

**Woodside Golf Course: approx 11:00 am – 11:15 am**

**\*Genesis Place/East Lake Park: 11:30am – 12:30 pm (\*best location for media photos/interviews)**

“We’re asking supporters to wear blue or green and bring signs expressing their support of Airdrie’s bid for the 2015 Western Canada Summer Games,” says Linda Bruce, Chair of the Western Canada Summer Games Bid Committee. “The community’s support is vital to Airdrie’s success in being chosen to host the games”. Residents can also pick up car placards at City Hall or Genesis Place this week to show their support.

“The Calgary Sport Tourism Authority (CSTA) is proud to support Airdrie’s bid to host the 2015 Western Canada Summer Games,” says Doug Mitchell, Chairman of the CSTA. “Working together with Airdrie provides an opportunity to create a dynamic event that will benefit both communities with economic impact, sport legacies and the ability to promote healthy, active lifestyles for Airdrie and Calgary youth.”

“There are enormous long-term benefits to our community in hosting these games. We have a chance to create opportunities for our local athletes through the legacy left from the games including equipment upgrades, facility upgrades and new facilities,” says Bruce. As well, there is potential for an economic spin-off in the range of \$8- 10M. It also helps local sporting organizations by giving them experience and building the capacity to host large events.

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## Background

Airdrie is one of five Alberta municipalities vying to host the games including Medicine Hat, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, Lakeland County and Lethbridge.

The Western Canada Summer Games is dedicated to the development of excellence in sport by the four western provinces and three territories. The provincial/territorial government representative have committed to supporting these games since 1975 when the first Western Canada Summer Games was held in Regina. To date, Alberta has hosted the games in 1983 in Calgary and in 2007 in Strathcona County.

The 2015 WCSG will showcase 18 sports.

1. Athletics
2. Baseball
3. Basketball
4. Beach Volleyball
5. Volleyball
6. Tennis
7. Triathlon
8. Wrestling
9. Badminton
10. Cycling
11. Golf
12. Gymnastics
13. Soccer
14. Softball
15. Judo
16. Rowing (Calgary's Glenmore Reservoir)
17. Swimming (Calgary's Talisman Centre)
18. Canoe/Kayak (Calgary's Glenmore Reservoir)