



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Government of Canada funding supports WinSport Day Lodge renovation**

CALGARY, Alta. – WinSport is excited to announce the transformation of the day lodge at WinSport's Canada Olympic Park (COP), thanks to today's announced investment of more than \$17.4 million from the Government of Canada.

The support is provided through the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings (GICB) program. The day lodge, located at the bottom of the ski and snowboard hill at COP, was opened in 1987 and used as a media centre during the 1988 Winter Olympics.

"With this renovation and expansion, WinSport can continue to support the hundreds of thousands of community members, athletes and guests who visit the park each year, preserving the day lodge as a vital community gathering place for generations to come," says Barry Heck, WinSport President & CEO. "This project will renovate, revitalize and expand the 35-year-old day lodge, adding modern energy efficiency and important accessibility elements to the design."

WinSport is working to secure the remaining funds for the project, which is expected to cost \$39-\$43 million, depending on final design. Construction could start as early as next spring or summer following the ski and snowboard season and would take approximately 18 months to complete.

"We want to thank the Government of Canada for its contribution to this much-needed revitalization. As a not-for-profit organization, having the support of governments is critical to ensure that we can continue to meet the needs of Calgarians, Albertans and Canadians alike," says Heck.

"COP is an important part of our community, driving economic as well as social value. WinSport serves beginner to elite athletes, introducing Canadians from diverse backgrounds to the joy and health benefits of winter sport. Watching kids be inspired by seeing their sport heroes in person is an everyday occurrence at COP. Thousands of school children have participated in programs that teach winter sport skills, while teens take the bus to the hill after school to play in the terrain park."

Karen Dommett, Programs & Services Director, Calgary Adapted Hub powered by Jumpstart, added, "Improving the accessibility of the day lodge at WinSport is great news for Calgary children, youth and families living with disabilities. Physical activity is critical to everyone's health, regardless of ability level. There is amazing adaptive sport programming at WinSport, but the old day lodge has some structural barriers that can be hard to navigate. We can't wait to see the upgrades and explore opportunities to expand adaptive and disability-inclusive program offerings."

This project will significantly enhance the WinSport visitor and guest experience for the next 40-plus years, including improved access from the parking lot to the hill with the elimination of stairs; improved flow, accessibility and expansion of the rental shop and food court; the addition and renovation of washroom facilities to ensure accessibility and inclusivity; more deck space; and numerous upgrades to substantially improve the energy efficiency of the building.

The renovation and expansion concept has been prepared with four key design objectives that are intended to:

- Enhance accessibility, inclusion, and climate resilience, including barrier-free movement between the parking lot, day lodge and recreation facilities.
- Improve internal circulation, communication and signage, and accessible routes inside the building.
- Expand and reconfigure the day lodge layout to optimize the size and location of guest services facilities, public use space, and sport services facilities; and
- Reduce and optimize the building's long-term environmental impact by transitioning the building to meet any future net-zero emissions building code.

These improvements will help WinSport carry on a strong tradition of community engagement and physical activity in this Winter Olympic legacy facility, which is also a key driver of tourism in Calgary.

Pre-COVID, more than 1.2 million sport participants, athletes and guests visited WinSport's Canada Olympic Park campus each year, with the organization generating an annual contribution of more than \$120 million to the Calgary economy and 1200 full-time job equivalents.

The day lodge, which has not undergone a major renovation since it was opened in 1987, houses guest services, retail, rentals, patrol, food and beverage outlets, WinSport offices and a trampoline training room. It is also home to one of Canada's largest snow schools, along with several ski and snowboard clubs, including CADS Calgary, which is a member of the Canadian Adaptive Snowsports Association.

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### **About WinSport**

*WinSport inspires human potential through the spirit of sport. The Calgary Olympic Development Association, operating as WinSport, is a community-based, not-for-profit organization that owns and operates Canada Olympic Park and the Bill Warren Training Centre in Canmore. WinSport also administers legacy funds that support the Olympic Oval. WinSport's mission has three pillars: to help people discover the joy and health benefits of sport; to encourage talented athletes to develop their skills; and to enable Canada's high-performance athletes to excel on the world stage. Financial commitments from Canadian governments and business have allowed WinSport to expand its sport and community offering over time; significant investment will be required in the coming years to renew the legacy facilities that have welcomed the world to the Calgary region for more than a generation.*

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