



MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

WinSport Canada shocked and disappointed with council decision

CALGARY – WinSport Canada is both shocked and disappointed by City Council’s decision Monday to vote down a proposal for the city to purchase the East Lands at WinSport’s Canada Olympic Park.

Monday’s decision forces WinSport to start at square one with regards to surplus lands at Canada Olympic Park. WinSport has faced a three-year odyssey in dealing with the City of Calgary, a battle that has hit constant road blocks.

“We are extremely disappointed with Monday’s decision by City Council,” said WinSport Canada president and CEO Dan O’Neill. “We have spent three years working closely with the city through this process and have spent close to \$3 million completing all of the required reports and studies. We have gone down every road the City has asked of us, and still we are no further ahead. This decision seems to bring into question the reality of the City’s claim that it values WinSport’s contribution to the city.”

After WinSport’s application was tabled several times over the past year, the amended development proposal was denied in June. Negotiations then began with the city to purchase the land, with WinSport given the indication that this option may be the best option for the City, for WinSport and for all Calgarians, leaving the East Lands untouched, helping to preserve the Paskapoo Slopes.

“We received and followed the recommendations from the City, including the participation in a three-month joint task force to work through the process, but it proved to be futile,” said O’Neill. “The recommendation from the joint task force was turned down.”

WinSport will provide no further comment at this time and will focus to ensure that we continue to provide excellent service to more than one million annual visitors to the park, including our 100 training Olympic athletes.

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WinSport Canada

The Canadian Winter Sport Institute provides world-class sport facilities where Canadian athletes can discover, develop and excel. WinSport Canada owns and operates Canada Olympic Park in Calgary, Alta., the Bill Warren Training Centre located at the Canmore Nordic Centre and the Beckie Scott High Performance Training Centre on Haig Glacier, Alta. A not-for-profit organization, WinSport Canada supports national sport organizations, encourages educational opportunities and subsidizes the operation of unique training and recreational facilities used by the nation’s top athletes and the general public. For more information on WinSport Canada please visit www.winsportcanada.ca.

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