

April 30, 2008

Supporting athletic excellence in Alberta

Podium Alberta

- Through the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation, a \$1.5-million annual program will supplement the funding to high performance athletes provided by the federal government.
- Under the program, eligible Alberta athletes (as determined by residency requirements) can apply for up to \$6,000 per year from the Alberta government to reimburse expenses. The funding supplements the \$18,000 per year provided by the federal government. In return, athletes are expected to help with the promotion of Alberta as a centre for sport development and excellence.
- Applications, with receipts must be submitted by October 1, 2008 to reimburse costs incurred between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008. Details and application forms will be posted on www.tpr.alberta.ca.
- Alberta has more than 200 high-performance athletes in summer and winter sports who qualify for this financial support.
- Many of Canada's Winter Olympic and Paralympic athletes are based in Alberta to take advantage of the training, sport science and competition opportunities in this province.
- Alberta joins Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia and the Northwest Territories as provinces/territories who provide supplementary funding to assist their high-performance athletes.

Olympic and Paralympic Secretariat

- The Olympic and Paralympic Secretariat will coordinate Alberta's approach and activities leading up to, during and after the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- The primary functions of the Secretariat include:
 - planning, coordination and support to Alberta-based international winter sport events and other programs and activities related to sport, tourism and the Cultural Olympiad
 - establishing a formal relationship with the B.C. Olympic and Paralympic Secretariat, and
 - capitalizing on opportunities under the Alberta-VANOC Accord signed in January 2008.
- Starting May 1, Calgarian **Russ Tynan** begins his role as Executive Director of the Olympic and Paralympic Secretariat. His career experience includes senior management roles with Calgary's 1988 Olympics, where he was responsible for assembling the successful volunteer team, and for the operations of all sporting and ceremonial venues. Throughout his career he has focused on project management in public, private and not-for-profit organizations in a variety of sectors including oil and gas, financial, tourism, marketing and events. He is a long-time volunteer and Director of the Calgary Stampede where he is involved in a number of strategic committee activities.

Calgary Olympic Development Association (CODA) Centre of Sport Excellence Project

- Budget 2008 includes \$20 million, the second installment of the Alberta government's three-year, \$69 million dollar commitment to renew the legacy of facilities from the 1988 Winter Olympic Games through the creation of CODA's Canadian Centre of Sport Excellence. In August 2007, the Government of Alberta invested an initial \$40 million in the renewal project. The Centre includes a world-leading Athletic and Ice Complex as its core new facility that will be constructed at Canada Olympic Park.
- The complex will provide athletes with access to the world-leading facilities and resources they need to win at international competitions, and will be the new permanent home of Hockey Canada and Skate Canada, who are partners in the facility.
- When complete, the Athletic and Ice Complex will contain ice surfaces, gymnasiums, physical training facilities, testing, nutritional experts, and advanced technology that provides every competitive and instructional advantage required to compete and consistently win internationally. It has been designed to be built in stages as funding becomes available.
- The Centre of Sport Excellence is the largest and most complex project of all the items under the CODA Legacies Project. Over the past 14 months, CODA has worked on completing the pre-design phase for the centre. Construction is expected to start this spring.
- A number of key items within the CODA project have been completed and are already providing significant benefits to athletes, coaches and volunteers including:
 - the refurbishment of ski jumping facilities to meet training standards
 - a new international standard snowboard half pipe facility
 - a major expansion to the Bill Warren Training Centre located in the Canmore Nordic Centre
 - a summer alpine training facility at Farnham Glacier (nearing completion)

- 30 -

Media inquiries may be directed to:

Dan Huang

Communications

Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation

Phone: 780-427-1828

Cell: 780-974-6269

To call toll-free within Alberta dial 310-0000.