



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
September 29, 2006

CODA LAUNCHES CONSTRUCTION ON FIVE NEW WORLD-LEADING FACILITIES AT CANADA OLYMPIC PARK

—Alpine and freestyle skiers, snowboarders receive training and competition venue in Calgary—

Calgary—Thousands of Canada's snow-sport athletes will benefit from five new and totally modernized facilities for alpine and freestyle skiing, snowboarding and ski jumping that will open at Canada Olympic Park this winter in an effort to support their pursuit of podium performances towards 2010 and beyond, CODA announced on Friday on the eve of the 25th anniversary of Calgary being awarded the 1988 Olympic Winter Games.

The world-calibre training and competition venues, including a towering snowboard half-pipe which will replicate the Olympic facility to be constructed for the 2010 Games in Vancouver, are expected to be ready for the opening of the winter season. The facilities come in part due to the booming development in Calgary as local builders have voluntarily trucked in more than 100,000 cubic metres (9,000 truckloads and \$1.5 million) of fill to raise and recontour the existing ski hill and nordic area.

"CODA is committed to giving Canadian athletes the facilities and resources required to foster excellence and be the world's best," said Bob Nicolay, president and chief executive officer, CODA, the legacy organization of the 1988 Olympic Winter Games, which were awarded to Calgary by the International Olympic Committee on September 30, 1981. "Access to cost-effective, leading training facilities at home is what Canadian athletes must have if Canada is to attain its goal of becoming a world-leading winter sports nation by 2010."

The \$3 million investment by CODA and its partners – including Own the Podium – allowed for creation of the following facilities at Canada Olympic Park this fall:

- the world's first 22-foot, 150-metre, snowboard half-pipe, the Olympic standard for 2010, complete with the latest environmentally progressive snowmaking and enhanced lighting;
- rejuvenation of the east side of Canada Olympic Park's ski jumping bowl as part of the Alberta-government funded modernization of the ski jumping training facility announced last fall. With the funding, the landing bowls were rebuilt, safety improvements implemented, and summer training facilities enhanced;
- the ski jump bowl will be the first facility in the world to combine ski jumping, freestyle aerials and moguls, and alpine slalom, all built to international specifications, and includes seating for 15,000 people. The facility will be equipped with improved snowmaking, lighting, a small access lift and the latest video technology for training.

"Canada's athletes require premier training facilities to succeed against the world's best, and today CODA is again delivering what athletes need, and have asked for," said Nicolay, who added that the cross-country ski trails will also be expanded up to two kilometers due to the construction. "Canadians deserve equal treatment to athletes from world-leading sport countries. Construction of this complex, and others in our vision, will not only help level the playing field for our athletes, but will also have a positive impact in getting more young Canadians introduced to the various sports and living more active lives."

.../2

The new facilities are core to CODA's plan to develop the nation's first Centre of Sport Excellence. The Park now provides a new home to the Canadian Snowboarding Team, early season training for national freestyle and alpine skiing athletes, a permanent training site for development athletes in the three disciplines, and allows Canada Olympic Park to host World Cup events in each of the sports.

"I want to live, train and go to school in Calgary. Construction of these facilities allows me to do that, while simplifying my lifestyle," said Megan Bilton, freestyle skier and Grade 10 student at the National Sport School, who will benefit from the new freestyle area. "Developing a competitive culture of excellence for all sports in one centralized location, which is underway in Calgary, is key to Canada's future success."

As a result of the new development, CODA also announced on Friday that Canada Olympic Park will stage the FIS World Cup Snowboard Tour on the new half-pipe, March 3-4, 2007. Hundreds of athletes from each of the disciplines in snowboarding and freestyle skiing will return to Calgary for their 2007 Canadian Championships, March 23-25, 2007.

CODA made the announcement surrounded by athletes, government officials, and administrative leaders from the 1988 Olympics, who gathered to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the IOC decision to give Canada its first Olympic Winter Games.

"We had a vision and a dream on that day in Baden-Baden 25 years ago, but never could we have imagined the legacy of those Games to be this successful," said Frank King, chairman and chief executive officer of the 1988 Olympic Winter Games. "Winning the bid to host the Olympics is a day I will never forget, but it is even more rewarding for me to see the use of these facilities 25 years later, and how they will continue to benefit thousands of Canadian athletes into the future."

Canada Olympic Park is currently home to the national ski jumping and nordic combined programs; and Canada's bobsleigh, luge and skeleton athletes, who benefit from the recently built Ice House, the world's only year-round indoor training facility for their sports. CODA also operates Camp Green on Farnham Glacier – the nation's only summer training facility for the snow-sports; the Beckie Scott High-Performance Training Centre on Haig Glacier for cross-country skiing and biathlon athletes; and the Bill Warren Training Centre in Canmore. It also funds the majority of the Olympic Oval at the University of Calgary.

CODA is a national leader in creating Canadian Olympic winter sport excellence from the grassroots level to the country's best athletes. A not-for-profit organization, CODA 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 CODA please visit us at www.coda.ca on the Internet.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Chris Dornan

Director of Communications, CODA

T: 403-247-5423

E-mail: cdornan@coda.ca