

Report to Council



Date: February 8, 2021
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: 2026 BC Summer Games
Department: Sport & Event Services

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives for information the report from the Sport & Event Services Manager, dated February 8, 2021, regarding the BC Games;

AND THAT Council approves the City of Kelowna submitting a bid to host the 2026 BC Summer Games;

AND FURTHER THAT Council approves the commitment of \$110,000 from the Major Events Program as the City of Kelowna's financial contribution to the 2026 BC Summer Games, if the Games are awarded to Kelowna.

Purpose:

To seek Council's approval to bid to host the 2026 BC Summer Games and to direct \$110,000 from the Major Events Program to host the Games should the bid be successful.

Background:

The BC Summer and Winter Games are provincial multi-sport events that provide developing high-performance athletes, coaches, and officials with a stepping-stone to prepare for higher levels of competition. The Games are a galvanizing force for host communities, generating significant economic impact, community capacity building opportunities, and also contribute to long term legacies such as volunteer skill development.

The BC Games Society, in partnership with a local Host Society, works to successfully stage these major events. The bid process to determine the host communities for the 2024 and 2026 BC Summer and Winter Games is now open with bid submissions due on February 19, 2021, and host communities announced in the fall of 2021.

Based on the City's event procurement plans, and in consideration of the BC Games hosting options and bidding process, staff are looking to submit a bid for the 2026 BC Summer Games, scheduled for

July 23-26, 2026. Municipal support is critical to the success of the event and therefore, a resolution of Municipal Council is required indicating support for the bid application and committed financial contribution if successful.

Discussion:

Preliminary discussions have been held with the school district, local sport organizations and facility operators to determine the interest and feasibility of the opportunity. Additionally, staff have been working with Tourism Kelowna to ensure alignment with their Major Events Strategy and assist with bid development. Based on the initial review, the following overview outlines key findings and stakeholder support levels:

1. **School District #23** – An important element of the proposal is support from the local School District. Areas of requirement include the use of schools for accommodations and sport venues, as well as the use of school buses for participant transportation. At the School District Board meeting of January 27, 2021, the Board of Trustees approved the following resolution:

The Trustees of School District #23 endorse the City of Kelowna's bid to host the 2026 BC Summer Games, and have agreed to allow the use of school facilities to stage sport competitions and accommodate participants, at no cost to the Host Society or BC Games Society, and the use of school buses to transport BC Summer Games participants, at no cost to the Host Society or BC Games Society

2. **Local Organizations** - Gauging community interest was accomplished via communications sent to local sport organizations, hoteliers, service clubs and community partners. All organizations contacted expressed support for hosting the Games. Many provided letters of support to be included in the bid package should we move forward with the bid.
3. **Facilities** - A facility inventory was conducted to ensure that a bid application would meet the minimum requirements for all venues. Staff have identified venues and received appropriate support for all twenty one (21) sports featured in the Summer Games.
4. **Budget** – The BC Games Society provides financial resources in the amount of \$625,000 to the host municipality for the BC Summer Games. The minimum required financial contribution from a municipality is \$110,000, divided into Cash and Service contributions, and dispersed as follows:
 - Cash (\$55,000): grant to the “not-for profit” society to support games expenditures;
 - Service (\$55,000): internal City expenses for facility preparation and use, and all other City related services.

The \$110,000 funding requirement to host the BC Summer Games could be drawn from the Major Event Program funds.

5. **Economic Impact** – The economic impact of hosting the BC Games is significant, ranging from \$1.5 million to \$2 million, and comes from expenditures associated with the planning and staging of the Games along with spending by participants, spectators, and volunteers. In addition, the Games generate a legacy fund for a local project(s) after the Games are completed. This amount varies considerably, and has ranged from \$50,000 to \$200,000. In 2008, the BC Summer Games held in Kelowna generated a legacy fund of \$66,000.

Conclusion:

The benefits of hosting multi-sport games are vast and include significant economic impact, sport and organizational development, increased community pride, social interaction, intersectoral collaboration, and expanded sport networks. Kelowna has a strong reputation for hosting major events and bidding on the BC Games is consistent with our Community Sport Plan objectives to be a premier sport event destination focused on lasting legacies in the areas of sport development and community building.

Internal Circulation:

Active Living & Culture
Parks Services
Financial Services
Communications

Considerations applicable to this report:

Existing Policy: Council's 2019-2022 priorities identified measures supporting staff's recommendations in this report. Specifically, relevant to this report:

- Animated parks & public spaces; and,
- Key sites are proactively planned

Additionally, hosting the 2026 BC Summer Games aligns with key objectives of the Kelowna Community Sport Plan and contributes to our efforts to be a premier sport event destination in Western Canada.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Existing Policy:

Personnel Implications :

External Agency/Public Comments:

Communications Comments :

Alternate Recommendation:

Submitted by:

Doug Nicholas, Sport & Event Services Manager, Active Living & Culture

Attachments: Powerpoint Presentation – 2026 BC Summer Games Bid