

BRIEFING NOTE

DECISION

2026 SPECIAL OLYMPICS CANADA SUMMER GAMES

JULY 21, 2021

ISSUE:

Medicine Hat was the selected host city for the 2022 Special Olympics Summer Games. Due to the pandemic the event was cancelled. Preparations are now underway for the next Special Olympic Canada Summer Games to be held in the year 2026.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended through the Administrative Committee and the Public Services Committee that City Council:

- a) Approves the submission of a formal bid to act as the host community for the 2026 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games.
- b) Approve future reserve commitments of:
 - i. The provision of a municipal grant issued to the bid committee prior to the Games in the amount of \$300,000, with \$100,000 being issued annually in 2024, 2025 and 2026, funded from Operating Reserves; and
 - ii. To act as guarantor for the event for the amount of \$2,500,000 which, if called upon, would be funded by Operating Reserves.

COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

Economic Vitality

It was estimated that the Special Olympics Canada Summer Games held in Antigonish, Nova Scotia in 2018 had an economic impact of \$8.7 million.

KEY RISKS:

Health, Safety and Environmental Impact:

N/A

Financial Impact:

Funding Request:	Yes	\$300,000
Budgeted Item:	No	Funding Source: Operating Reserves
Funding Explanation:	The funding source for the grant would be from Operating Reserves	
Budget Amendment Form?	No	

Funding Request:	Yes	\$2,500,000
Budgeted Item:	No	Funding Source: Operating Reserves
Funding Explanation:	Any amounts required would be funded by Operating Reserves	
Budget Amendment Form?	No	

The submission of a final bid for the Games requires Council Resolution providing an operating grant of \$300,000 to the bid committee. The \$2,500,000 guarantee would only be relied upon if the event revenues do not offset the expenses to host the event. It is important to note that all past Games have resulted in a surplus of funds.

When 2023-2026 budget cycle begins, the grant will need to be included as a request for a Major Operating Expense (MOE).

In addition, the City of Medicine Hat would provide facilities at no cost to the Games.

Legal / Policy Impact:

N/A

Public Implications:

The Special Olympics Summer Games would provide the community a spectator opportunity to observe athletes from across Canada compete in a variety of sports. It would draw athletes, coaches, families, and spectators to the City providing a positive economic impact for the community. In addition, the event would further demonstrate Medicine Hat's capacity to host large national events.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Medicine Hat was successful in its bid to host the 2022 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic rendered proceeding with the 2022 Games an impossibility. However, Special Olympics Canada has given the City of Medicine Hat first right of refusal to host the 2026 SOC Summer Games. Requirements to proceed include submission of an updated Bid Document (inclusive of Council Resolution) as well as applicable letters of support. The organizing committee will also seek assistance through provincial grants, sponsorships, and fundraising efforts.

Medicine Hat is well aligned with the objectives of Special Olympics Canada for the national games:

- Provide the country's athletes with an intellectual disability a competitive opportunity and a venue to pursue excellence and qualify for World Games
- Provide athletes with a venue to participate in a healthy, active lifestyle through friendly competition
- Provide an athlete centered environment that promotes competition and fair play
- Host competitive opportunities that allow citizens to see our country's athletes perform
- Establish a community legacy for volunteer capacity for future event hosting
- Establish a community legacy for sport development for people with intellectual disabilities
- Provide an opportunity for communities across Canada to showcase Special Olympics athletes as well as their community's infrastructure and hosting abilities.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED & POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not support proceeding with an updated bid to host the Games – not recommended. In 2017, the City successfully hosted the Alberta Special Olympics. Since that time, the Sport & Event Council was established reflecting City Council's desire for increased efforts towards attracting events to the community. The Medicine Hat Games Society has demonstrated capacity and capability to successfully deliver large events with high levels of community support.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN:

Upon City Council approval, the Games Society will submit a formal bid to host the 2026 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games.

PREPARED BY & DATE:	James Will Director, Parks and Recreation	July 19, 2021
REVIEWED BY & DATE:	Kristen Young Supervisor – Accounting, Finance	
APPROVED BY & DATE:	Brian Mastel Managing Director, Public Services	
ATTACHMENTS:	#1: Medicine Hat Alberta Games Society Special Request Letter #2: Mayor of Medicine Hat Letter of Support #3: Council Resolution	

SPECIAL REQUEST
MEDICINE HAT ALBERTA GAMES SOCIETY
TO HOST FOR THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS CANADA IN 2026

2026 SPECIAL OLYMPICS CANADA SUMMER GAMES

The Special Olympics Canada have not been held in Alberta for over 34 years yet Special Olympics Alberta has a group of local Groups who foster a level of competition to demonstrate that people with intellectual disabilities can perform at the local, provincial, national and international competitions. To ensure that our community can be proud of its many inclusive initiatives we consider an honour to have prepared a Bid. Special Olympics Canada has told us that Medicine Hat has The First Right of Refusal to host the 2026 Special Olympic Summer Games in 2026.

The objectives of the National Games (as found in the Special Olympics Canada Bid Guidelines) are as follows:

- Provide the country's athletes with an intellectual disability, a competitive opportunity, and a venue to pursue excellence and quality for World Games**
- Provide athletes with a venue to participate in a healthy, active lifestyle through friendly competition**
- Provide an athlete-centered environment that promotes competition and fair play**
- Host competitive opportunities that allow citizens to see our country's athletes perform**
- Establish a community legacy for volunteer capacity for future event hosting**
- Establish a community legacy for sport development for people with intellectual disabilities**
- Provide an opportunity for communities across Canada to showcase Special Olympics athletes as well as their community's infrastructure and hosting abilities.**

There are ten sports involved and our Medicine Hat Alberta Games Society is proud that we have the required venues in which the competitions will be held. Competition takes place in Athletics, Basketball, BOCCE, 10-pin Bowling, Golf, Power Lifting, Rhythmic Gymnastics, Soccer, Softball and Swimming.

The last Special Olympics Summer Games were held in Nova Scotia, with Medicine originally awarded the 2022 Summer Games, however, COVID-19 made it impossible to go ahead. It is apparently customary for a Province and municipality to prepare to host the next set of Games. In 2017 the Medicine

Hat community hosted a very successful Special Olympics Alberta event where the community whole-heartedly supported the Games and the athletes and coaches.

PROJECTED BUDGET

Special Olympics Canada prepares a Budget Template that can be amended or used as a guideline for estimating costs that may be part of the operation of the event. The updated Bid Plan calls for the Games to be held in the community from August 9th to August 16th 2026. The extra days allow for participants from a distance to arrive in the host community, have a chance to acclimatize themselves, perhaps get in a practice, and then compete, ending up with extra time for their return journey.

It is our intent to place athletes in Hotels/Motels and the local Medicine Hat College dormitories. There is an estimated number of participants including about 1200 athletes, about 300 plus caregivers, and about 150 officials. In addition, we expect many parents and relatives to come to the city for support.

In preparing a Budget there is always the expectation that the organizing committee can raise the required revenue to run the basic event. As can be seen in the estimated Budget below there is an expectation that the business and corporate sector, local Service Clubs, and the professional associations in the community will assist as it reflects their support. We are honest enough, however, to recognize that the Alberta economy is still somewhat fragile and that support from the Alberta Government, now agreed in principle, in the approval of provincial and national, would be very much appreciated. Food and accommodation will be the highest figure and especially so with the extra three days needed, as noted above. In addition to the Budget Summary below, we are prepared to forward the complete estimated budget categories. *Note: We will include, as part of the Contingency Fun, a 10% inflation that will be part of estimated budget items.* At the same time, the Games Society has demonstrated an efficiency where the Directors managed to save costs, and are assisted by Gifts-in-Kind or Services-in-Kind.

ESTIMATED REVENUE	
Special Olympics Canada`	\$650,000
Provincial Commitment	\$500,000
City of Medicine Hat	\$300,000
Casinos	\$350,000
Sponsorships	\$300,000
Merchandise Sales	\$ 50,000
Fund Raising	\$325,000
Athlete Registration	\$ 75,000
Gifts/Services -in - Kind	\$100,000
Total Revenue	\$2,500,000

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES

Accommodation	\$520,000
Administration	\$300,000
Culture	\$ 50,000
Facilities	\$ 50,000
Finance	\$ 40,000
Food Services	\$470,000
Friends of the Games	\$ 17,500
Green Games	\$ 25,000
Promotion and Marketing	\$130,000
Protocol	\$200,000
Registration and Results	\$ 70,000
Safety and Communication	\$ 50,000
Sports	\$170,000
Transportation (External/Internal)	\$207,000
Volunteers	\$100,000
Capital Projects	\$ 70,000
Contingency	\$ 30,000
Total Expenditures	\$2,500,000

The Games Society has an established a Friends of the Games portfolio, whose responsibility it will be to solicit revenue and Gifts/Services-in-Kind to help cover costs of the event.

The intent is to have potential sponsors make a three-year commitment allowing them to pay their obligations via installments or in one total sum. Spreading the commitment over a few years appears to be an acceptable response to a request for sponsorship. It is our hope that all potential sponsors will be ready and anxious to support the Special Olympics as local athletes have been World winners and it also reflects their support of inclusivity.

A Sponsorship Brochure will be developed outlining the need for funds and the benefits that will go to the sponsor at various levels.

A special request is made to the City of Medicine Hat to help us in this important endeavor by approving a grant of \$300,000, plus a Reserve of \$200,000. To say we could host these Games without Special Olympics Canada, provincial support, and the support of the City is an understatement, as we realize that Special Olympics need to be given the same opportunities as all others.

SPECIAL FORMAL REQUEST

THE MEDICINE HAT ALBERTA GAMES SOCIETY RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THE CITY OF MEDICINE HAT PROVIDE A GRANT OF \$300,000 AS HOST AND PARTNER FOR THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS CANADA SUMMER GAMES, THE ALLOCATION BEING AS FOLLOWS:

2022 - \$100,000 (Reserve)*

2023- \$100,000 (Reserve) *

2024 - \$100,000 (Installment #1 of Municipal Grant – 31 March)

2025 - \$100,000 (Installment #2 of Municipal Grant – 31 March)

2026 - \$100,000 (Installment #3 of Municipal Grant – 31 March)

- **These funds would be set aside, should a deficit occur, and having to find the money in 2026, however, experience indicates the Medicine Hat Alberta Games Society, and frugal management of its expenses, always results in a surplus.**

We thank you for your positive consideration of this Special Formal Request. We are prepared to meet with you for further discussion if you feel this can be accommodated.

_____Ken Sauer_____
(Dr. Ken Sauer, Vice Chair)
Medicine Hat Alberta Games Society)

Dated: 27 April 2021

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May 20, 2021

Blair McIntosh
VP Sport, Special Olympics Canada
21 St. Clair Ave. East, Suite 600
Toronto, ON M4T 1L9

**RE: LETTER OF MUNICIPAL SUPPORT – MEDICINE HAT UPDATED BID TO
HOST THE 2026 SPECIAL OLYMPICS CANADA SUMMER GAMES**

Medicine Hat understands it was with utmost prudence and regret Special Olympics Canada (SOC) cancelled the 2022 Summer Games. Our community was eagerly looking forward to hosting the event. It is therefore my pleasure, on behalf of the City, to provide a letter of municipal support for Medicine Hat's updated bid to host the 2026 SOC Summer Games.

Medicine Hat has a strong history of hosting a variety of very successful events, having hosted the following:

- 2017 Alberta Special Olympics
- 2016 Alberta Winter Games
- 2014 CCAA Women's Soccer National Championships
- 2008 Alberta Summer Games
- 2005/2006 Baseball Canada Cup Championships
- 2002 Alberta Winter Games

Medicine Hat has a strong community of volunteers willing to contribute to these types of events. The corporate sector has demonstrated tremendous support for events hosted in Medicine Hat through sponsorships, staff support and direct involvement. The service clubs of Medicine Hat have also demonstrated a high degree of involvement and support towards the success of previous events. We anticipate a continued high degree of commitment for the 2026 Special Olympics Summer Games from all sectors of the community including business, corporate, service clubs, sports groups and organizations, and individual volunteers.

In addition, Medicine Hat is proud to offer a broad range of first class indoor and outdoor sports and recreation facilities, accommodations, tourist attractions, cultural and leisure activities.

We look forward to hosting the 2026 Special Olympics Summer Games.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ted Clugston".

Ted Clugston
Mayor

cc: Medicine Hat City Council
Robert Nicolay, City Manager
Brian Mastel, Managing Director of Public Services
James Will, Director of Parks and Recreation
Ken Sauer, Medicine Hat Alberta Games Society



RESOLUTION

2026 SPECIAL OLYMPICS CANADA SUMMER GAMES

WHEREAS

The City of Medicine Hat was successful in its bid to host the 2022 SOC Summer Olympic Games. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic rendered proceeding with the 2022 Games an impossibility. However, Special Olympics Canada has given the City of Medicine Hat first right of refusal to host the 2026 SOC Summer Games. Requirements to proceed include submission of an updated Bid Document (inclusive of Council Resolution) as well as applicable letters of support.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT CITY COUNCIL:

1. Approves the submission of a formal bid to act as the host community for the 2026 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games.
2. Approve future reserve commitments of:
 - The provision of a municipal grant issued to the bid committee prior to the Games in the amount of \$300,000, with \$100,000 being issued annually in 2024, 2025 and 2026, funded from Operating Reserves; and
 - To act as guarantor for the event for the amount of \$2,500,000 which, if called upon, would be funded by Operating Reserves.