

STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

1100 Patricia Blvd. | Prince George, BC, Canada V2L 3V9 | www.princegeorge.ca

DATE: December 15, 2021

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Adam Davey, Director of Public Safety

SUBJECT: 2025 Special Olympics BC – Council Resolution

ATTACHMENT(S): None

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council **APPROVES** of the City of Prince George submitting a bid to host the 2025 Special Olympics British Columbia, with a direct financial commitment of up to \$35,000 and up to \$60,000 of in-kind commitments, to be funded from the Major Events Reserve.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's support for the City's next multi-sport bid opportunity.

BACKGROUND:

On January 16, 2017 Council approved the Prince George 10-year Sport Tourism Strategy. One of the strategies was to create a Sport Hosting Calendar to identify gaps and opportunities to host sporting events. Hosting the 2025 Special Olympics British Columbia (SOBC) Summer Games would fit within the SportPG 10-Year Hosting Calendar. Successfully hosting a SOBC 2025 Games could potentially position the City to bid/host a Winter Canadian Special Olympics Games in 2028.

Approximately 1,400 athletes and coaches, along with hundreds of friends and family, journey from all over the province and the Yukon to the host community for the SOBC Summer Games. There are eight sports offered in the Summer SOBC: basketball, bocce, golf, rhythmic gymnastics, powerlifting, soccer, softball, swimming, and track and field. More than 1,000 local volunteers will be part of this inspiring and unforgettable event, where athletes with intellectual disabilities will show that they are able to succeed and to inspire. Prince George has not hosted a Special Olympics since 2001.

With an estimated economic return of approximately \$1,300,000, SOBC operates very similar to the BC Games and relies heavily upon the relationship with the local School District to deliver the games. For example, the City of Kamloops provided information around their 2017 experience and noted that in addition to the important partnership with the City, their School District played a key role in keeping expenses minimal by providing transportation (including drivers), accommodations and sport venues at no charge to SOBC. Staff have had positive preliminary discussions with School District 57 and a formal request for support would follow should Council recommend staff to pursue this bid.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Building stronger neighborhoods, increasing civic pride, strengthening intergovernmental relations and strengthening and diversifying our economy.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Special Olympics BC (SOBC) Games works closely with the Games Organizing Committee to facilitate the event with an estimated \$375,000 budget. SOBC brings in some of their own Provincial partners and approximately \$15,000 in registration fees. SOBC is responsible for all financial liabilities and if there is a surplus, SOBC would leave a legacy with the local SOBC group. Typically, the Host Community contributes up to \$35,000 cash and \$60,000 Value-in-Kind (facility rentals etc.). In the event that the City's bid is successful, Administration recommends that the Major Events Reserve be used to fund the cash and value-in-kind commitment. Administration has confirmed that the Major Events Reserve's funds should be replenished by that time.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

Hosting the Special Olympics BC Games in 2025 is in line with the City's 10-year Sport Tourism Strategy and Administration recommends bidding on this opportunity.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Adam Davey, Director of Public Safety

PREPARED BY: Jen Rubadeau, Civic Events Coordinator

APPROVED:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting Date: 2022/01/10