

Date: November 30, 2024

To: **Mayor and Council.**

Name and title: Andy Beesley, Director Civic Facilities and Events

Subject: Letter of Intent to Bid for Special Olympics Canada Games

Attachment(s): None

Recommendation(s):

That Council APPROVE administration submitting a Letter of Intent as described in the report dated November 30, 2024, from the Director of Civic Facilities and Events, titled “Letter of Intent to Bid for Special Olympics Canada Games”.

Purpose:

To provide Council with information regarding the process to bid on the 2028 or 2030 Special Olympics Canada Games and obtain approval to submit a Letter of Intent.

Background:

In 2017, Council approved the Prince George 10-year Sport Tourism Strategy. One of the strategies was to create a Sport Hosting Calendar. Throughout the years, the plan has been to host the BC Special Olympics Games, which will be in July, 2025, to prepare us to host the Special Olympics Canada Games.

Discussion:

Last year, City staff and Tourism Prince George met with Special Olympics Canada at the Canadian Sport Events Congress who mentioned that the bid guidelines for the 2028 Winter Games and 2030 Summer Games would be released in 2024. We have now received both the bid guidelines and a Letter of Intent to bid is due by December 20th. The Letter of Intent will provide us with an opportunity to connect with Special Olympics Canada to determine if it is the right opportunity for our community and provide us with any necessary assistance in preparation for the bid.

City staff and Tourism Prince George are currently working together to write the Letter of Intent. Next steps will be coordinating an internal team from other departments to review and assess both bid opportunities, as well as meeting with Special Olympics Canada, to determine the feasibility of our City formally putting in a bid.

Strategic Priorities:

Social Health and Well-Being: Maximize the quality of life for all residents

Economic Diversity and Growth: Market Prince George as a place to invest, live, and visit.

City Government and Infrastructure: Focus on meaningful communication and relationship development to advance shared priorities.

Summary and conclusion:

Bidding for the 2028 or 2030 Special Olympics Canada Games presents a unique and significant opportunity for Prince George to enhance its reputation as a premier sport tourism destination while contributing to the social health and well-being of our community. By submitting the Letter of Intent, we are taking the first step in exploring this opportunity further. City staff, in collaboration with Tourism Prince George, will continue to assess the feasibility of the bids through internal coordination and consultation with Special Olympics Canada.

Respectfully submitted:

Andy Beesley, Director Civic Facilities and Events

Prepared by: Debbie Heywood, Manager, Event Services

Approved:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting date: [2024/12/16]