

Date: June 10, 2025

To: **Mayor and Council.**

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

Subject: 2030 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games Site Visit

Attachment(s): None

Recommendation(s):

That Council APPROVES up to \$30,000 from the Major Events Reserve Fund in cash and in-kind support for the site visit activities scheduled in October 2025 to promote the City of Prince George to be selected as the host City for the 2030 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games.

Purpose:

That Council receives for information the proposed dates of the site visit for the 2030 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games and approves funding to support the site visit and promote Prince George as the host City.

Discussion:

On February 24, Council approved administration submitting a bid for the 2030 Special Olympics Canada Summer Games, as well as committing to up to \$400,000 from the Major Events Reserve Fund in cash and in-kind support should we be successful in being selected to host the games. Administration worked with an internal bid committee and Tourism Prince George to submit a robust bid in a short period of time. Special Olympics Canada has confirmed that Prince George has been short-listed and representatives will be coming for a site visit and evaluation in early October.

The Special Olympics Summer Games is the country's largest multi-sport event for people with intellectual disabilities. Approximately 1,700 inspiring Summer Games participants along with their friends and family from across Canada would come to Prince George in early July 2030 to compete in 10 sports over 5 days, with a total stay of 7 days. We are very proud to already have high-quality venues that are required for all 10 sports: Athletics, Basketball, Bocce, 10-Pin Bowling, Golf, Powerlifting, Rhythmic Gymnastics, Soccer, Softball, and Swimming. Venues such as CN Centre, Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park, PG Conference and Civic Centre, and Canada Games Plaza are ideal places to host ceremonies and special events that shows the vibrancy of our City.

As we learned from the bidding and evaluation process for the 2015 Canada Winter Games, it is critically important that we put our very best foot forward to "wow" the bid evaluation committee when they visit Prince George, and to demonstrate that we are the best choice in the country to host these games.

Financial Considerations:

Administration is still waiting on specific requests from Special Olympics Canada regarding the site visit, but staff have already started planning. Administration is asking for Council to approve up to \$30,000 in the form of cash and in-kind expenses from the Major Events Reserve Fund to support the upcoming site visit. For clarity, this ask is in addition to the already approved request for up to \$400,000 from the Major Events Reserve Fund should the City be successful in being selected to host the games.

The economic impact of the 2030 Summer Games will be over \$8 million directly to the City and would be a huge boost to our local hotels, restaurants, and other businesses.

Strategic Priorities:

Social Health and Well-Being:

Create a complete community that welcomes people of all backgrounds and abilities.

Promote the use of public spaces as places for outdoor community connection.

Economic Diversity and Growth:

Promote Prince George as a place for business to thrive.

Build a strong, diverse and resilient economy.

City Government and Infrastructure:

Engage the community in exploring expectations, needs and priorities.

Advance reconciliation through collaborative action on shared priorities.

Summary and conclusion:

The upcoming site visit is an opportunity to showcase our City's amazing venues, community spirit, and commitment to our local Special Olympics athletes. By securing this event, Prince George can further establish itself to our entire country as a welcoming, inclusive and vibrant sport tourism destination. This event would also be in alignment with our City's strategic goals of social well-being, economic growth, and infrastructure development.

Respectfully submitted:

Andy Beesley, Director Civic Facilities and Events

Prepared by Debbie Heywood, Manager Event Services

Approved:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting date: 2025/06/23