



Committee of the Whole Report

For the Meeting of February 28, 2019

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** February 20, 2019
From: Thomas Soulliere, Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities
Subject: Support for Bid to Host the 2022 Invictus Games

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve a letter of support and financial contribution of \$20,000 towards a bid to host the 2022 Invictus Games, for the Victoria Invictus Games Society, to be funded from the 2019 Financial Plan allocation for Economic Development initiatives.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Invictus Games were created in 2014 by HRH Duke of Sussex, Patron of the Invictus Games Foundation, as an opportunity to harness the power of sport to inspire recovery, support rehabilitation and generate a wider understanding and respect for those who serve their country. Previous Games have been held in London (2014), Orlando (2016), Toronto (2017), Sydney (2018), and The Hague will host the upcoming events in 2020. The governing body, Invictus Games Foundation, has put out a request for proposals to host the 2022 Invictus Games.

The Invictus Victoria Sports Society has been formed to prepare a bid for the 2022 Invictus Games. The bid group leading this effort consists of representatives from the local community, including business, military and sport leaders from Greater Victoria.

Hosting the Invictus Games aligns with multiple priorities of Council, relating to community health and wellness, as well as economic development. Based on the recent experiences of other host regions, it is expected that the Games will provide a range of positive outcomes for those directly involved and the wider community.

Firstly, the Games will help to foster understanding of the service and sacrifices of military personnel, as well as recognition of veterans for their abilities to contribute post-service. The Games will also highlight sport as an important element of recovery with increased para sport opportunities for both athletes and family members. Another benefit of the Invictus Games is the positive impact it can have on communities by encouraging dialogue and education about mental health. The economic benefits relating to hosting this event are anticipated to be significant; the 2017 Invictus Games in Toronto reported an overall impact of approximately \$42 million.

In addition, the Victoria Invictus Games Sports Society intends to establish a legacy fund that will support sport and recreational opportunities for veterans and their families. Funding will also be designated for accessibility upgrades to hosting facilities in preparation for the Games.

Hosting the Games requires a maximum of nine core sports. The sports represent team, individual and mixed gender events. The sports include, athletics, archery, cycling, powerlifting, indoor rowing, sitting volleyball, swimming, wheelchair basketball, and wheelchair rugby. Fortunately, all of the necessary venues are in place throughout the local region. The City's Royal Athletic Park, Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre and other public spaces are likely host facilities.

The bid materials are being prepared and the formal application must be submitted by March 29, 2019. The hosting rights for 2022 will be announced this summer. The total cost for the application is \$70,000, which will be funded through a combination of investments from local stakeholders.

A high-level summary of anticipated investment needs is provided below. A detailed budget is being developed as part of the bid submission.

FUNDING	Bid Investment	Projected Hosting Investment
Federal Government		\$14M
Provincial Government		\$13.3M
Local Government (Victoria, Langford, Saanich, Oak Bay, Esquimalt)	\$60K	\$700K
Corporate		\$9M
Private Fundraising	\$10K	\$2M
TOTAL:	\$70K	\$39M

As noted above, Victoria is one of five local governments identified as partners for the purposes of the bid. If the application is successful, the list of partners will expand to include other public and private organizations. Hosting the Games requires investment from all levels of government, including an estimated \$200,000 from the City of Victoria, through a combination of cash and in-kind contributions. The most recent example of this level of investment is the value approved by Council in 2018 for a bid to host the North America Indigenous Games.

A local organizing committee will lead the planning and delivery of the Games. The activities are envisioned to occur over a 10-day period in the spring of 2022, during which time our residents will welcome 500 competitors, 300 coaches and staff, and 1,000 family and friends, from 19 participating nations.


As noted above, the bid group is working to complete the necessary materials and confirm support from local partners in advance of the March deadline. The potential benefits of hosting the Invictus Games represents a significant opportunity for Greater Victoria. Staff recommend Council support the application for 2022. A future report to Council will seek approval for the necessary investment to host the Games.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Soulliere
Director
Parks, Recreation and Facilities

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:


Date: Feb 21, 2019

Attachment

Attachment A – Summary Overview: 2017 Invictus Games (Toronto)