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March 3, 2015

Mayors of Greater Victoria
BC Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
Canada Minister of State (Sport)
Victoria Commonwealth Games
University of Victoria, Camosun College, Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence
Sport Federations

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I believe Greater Victoria should consider rehosting the Commonwealth Games. If you agree please sign the attached letter to Commonwealth Games Canada. The letter is an expression of interest, not a commitment.

There are three principal reasons to host the Games. First is the hugely beneficial effect on Victoria's and BC's tourism industry. We live in an extraordinary place: beautiful, friendly and safe. When people visit they come back. We need to embrace opportunities to shine a spotlight on our land.

Second is the wonderful effect on morale. Remember the celebration, the spirit, the pride and the new friendships developed during and after the Victoria 1994 Games. Remember the same emotions generated during Vancouver's Expo and Olympics.

Third and most important is the effect on the next generation. The chance to participate in these world-wide Games and perhaps even win a medal will galvanize our young athletes. All sport in Canada benefits when we host major Games. Also the chance for all our youngsters to develop friendships with English speaking peoples across the globe is rare and to be cherished.

We have the facilities and venues in place to host the Games. We also have skilled and experienced sports and business people who can create new approaches to hosting in order to hold operating costs down to an affordable level. And we are blessed with active experienced folks who will volunteer to work on the Games for the enjoyment of the experience.

Commonwealth Games Canada wanted to submit a bid for the 2022 Games but no Canadian city stepped forward because of cost. The attached letter is intended to position us as Plan B to Durban. If by some quirk of fate Plan B is needed, our professionals will have a chance to rethink past approaches to hosting. Our new Games wouldn't be the same as the 1994 version but they would be just as satisfying.



David Black

March 3, 2015

Brian MacPherson, CEO
Commonwealth Games Canada

Dear Brian,

We understand that Durban SA is the only bidder for the 2022 Commonwealth Games. Victoria BC would like to be considered as an alternative host in the event Durban is unable or unwilling to proceed with its bid. Victoria was thrilled to host the 1994 games and is keen to repeat the experience.

We want to be clear that we are not proposing to host because of any worry that Durban would do a poor job. South Africa is a sporting powerhouse. It has hosted many international sports events over the years and done a marvelous job. Having the games in Africa for the first time would be broadening and appropriate for the Commonwealth.

We would agree to staging the core sports of Aquatics (Swimming & Diving), Badminton, Field Hockey, Netball (Women), Squash, Athletics, Boxing (Men), Lawn Bowls, Rugby 7s (Men), and Weightlifting. In addition we would consider host-selecting the sports of Rowing, Shooting, Table Tennis, Tennis, Gymnastics, Wrestling, Archery, Cycling (Road, Mountain), and Triathlon.

We believe that the cost of the Games has inflated to a level that imperils the chances of Commonwealth cities holding them and threatens their ongoing existence. We would propose an entirely new approach and new financial model. Based on experience with other multi-discipline Games in Canada we believe we can scale back the operating budget and still provide superlative experiences for athletes and spectators alike. Fortunately very little capital expense would be required as we already have the needed venues and facilities.

Signed by:

Mayors of Victoria

Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Minister of State (Sport) Canada

Victoria Commonwealth Games

University of Victoria, Camosun College, Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence

Sport Federations

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