

## **Consideration of a Non-Statutory Public Hearing on the 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games**

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report identifies considerations for the Committee: best date and timing, objectives for the non-statutory public hearing and public engagement required prior to recommending to Council the holding of a non-statutory public hearing in relation to the 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (OPWG).

#### **ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Assessment Committee recommends to Council:

1. The Committee does not recommend the holding of a non-statutory public hearing; OR

#### **ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

2. Establish \_\_\_\_\_ 2018 for holding a non-statutory public hearing to hear from Calgarians; and
3. Establish the purpose for the non-statutory public hearing as \_\_\_\_\_.

### **PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY**

At its 2018 April 23 Regular Meeting, Council, with respect to Report C2018-0505 titled "Updated Olympic Bid Proposed Public Engagement Approach", directed that the 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Assessment Committee consider holding a non-statutory public hearing of Council on a topic related to the OPWG.

### **BACKGROUND**

Non-statutory public hearings provide citizens with an opportunity to share their opinions on matters about which Council is making decisions and contribute to the discussion on decisions to be made by Council. Council is not required to make decisions solely on the views presented at non-statutory public hearings but holding such hearings provides Council with an additional opportunity to obtain citizens' perspectives.

The non-statutory public hearing would be one of several opportunities for public input, including formalized public engagement and the Vote of the Electors (plebiscite).

#### Advertising and Participation in a non-statutory public hearing:

A non-statutory public hearing is not required under legislation to be advertised, but Administration would follow similar rules as required for statutory public hearings to ensure that citizens are aware of this opportunity to provide input. Advertising would occur in two consecutive weeks starting three weeks prior to the non-statutory public hearing. The deadline for written public submissions would be one week prior to the non-statutory public hearing. All submissions received by the due date would be included in the public Council agenda. Participation would be open to all members of the public who wish to speak or provide a written

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submission. The public would be encouraged to pre-register to speak at the non-statutory public hearing to enable Administration to prepare for the number of participants.

### **INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS**

If the Committee wishes to proceed with a non-statutory public hearing, direction must be given based on the following considerations:

1. Date and Timing:

Choosing a date for the non-statutory public hearing should include the following considerations:

- The point in time at which Council feels both sides of an issue have enough information to ensure that a discussion is meaningful;
- Council's availability given its currently approved calendar;
- The timing in relation to the Vote of the Electors (plebiscite); and
- The timing of other City public engagement activities (e.g. One Calgary).

2. Objective for the non-statutory public hearing discussion:

It is important to identify an objective for the non-statutory public hearing discussion. This will provide citizens with a clear reason to participate. Some questions that the Committee should consider to help form an objective include:

- What topic will be discussed? For example:
  - Should Calgary bid on the OPWG?
  - Would investing in hosting the OPWG result in meaningful legacies for Calgarians?
  - Should Calgary's future include the Olympics?
  - Another topic Committee wishes to develop.
- Will discussions around the topic help Council understand Calgarians' views or is the topic too broad?
- What will be done with the information received at the non-statutory public hearing?

### **Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication**

Holding a non-statutory public hearing provides the public with an opportunity to speak to Council on a matter of public interest.

### **Strategic Alignment**

This report aligns with Council's priority of a well-run city: "Calgary's government is open, responsive, accountable and transparent, delivering excellent services at a fair price. We work with our government partners to ensure we have the tools we need" (Action Plan, 2015-2018).

**Law and Legislative Services Report to  
2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Assessment  
Committee  
2018 May 29**

**ISC: UNRESTRICTED**

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### **Social, Environmental, Economic (External)**

No social, environmental or economic impacts were identified.

### **Risk Assessment**

If the Committee does not recommend a non-statutory public hearing, it should ensure that public engagement will provide Calgarians with other opportunities to engage with Council.

Holding a non-statutory public hearing without sufficient information being available prior to the hearing or without a clearly defined intended outcome would cause confusion for the public on the rationale for holding the hearing.

The feedback received through engagement, a non-statutory public hearing, or a Vote of the Electors is limited to perspectives at a certain point in time. Bidding and/or hosting the OPWG is a complex process and public opinion can be subject to change throughout.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The non-statutory public hearing will provide an opportunity for the public to share their views with Council. In order to maximize the benefit of holding a non-statutory public hearing, the public must have sufficient information in sufficient time prior to the hearing and understand the topic and possible outcomes of the discussion.