

City Secretariat Report to  
2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Assessment  
Committee  
2018 October 02

ISC: UNRESTRICTED  
OPC2018-1137

## **2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games City Secretariat Update**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

As directed by Council on 2018 September 11, the City Secretariat is continuing its due diligence review of Calgary 2026's Draft Hosting Plan Concept ("draft plan").

Council wishes to engage Calgarians on their views around hosting the 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (OPWG) and has appointed four distinguished Calgarians to serve as members of an Engagement Advisory Sub-Committee to Council's 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Assessment Committee. This report includes information about the public engagement program that will commence next week.

This report also includes responses to some of the questions asked by Council members on 2018 September 11 when considering Report C2018-1005 titled "2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (OPWG) City Secretariat Update". Responses to additional questions are being developed and further information will be provided during the City Secretariat's 2018 October 9 report to this Committee.

On 2018 September 24, Council directed Administration to prepare a financial due diligence report capable of public release. Attachment 4 to this report includes the financial due diligence information contained in Attachment 8 to Report C2018-1005 that no longer needs to remain confidential.

Negotiations with the Government of Canada and Government of Alberta on a cost-sharing arrangement should a bid to host the OPWG proceed are continuing. The City Secretariat will provide Committee members with a report on the status of these negotiations during the closed session portion of the Committee's meeting.

### **CITY SECRETARIAT RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Assessment Committee:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Keep the closed session presentation and discussions confidential pursuant to Sections 23, 24, 25, and 27 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

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

Previous Council Direction is outlined in Attachment 1.

### **BACKGROUND**

On 2018 September 11, the City Secretariat presented report C2018-1005 to Council. That report included the City Secretariat's comprehensive analysis of Calgary's 2026's draft plan. This report shares the result of the City Secretariat's subsequent due diligence, provides responses to some questions asked by Council members on 2018 September 11 and outlines public engagement activities that are underway and upcoming.

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

On 2018 September 11, the City Secretariat was asked several questions related to bidding for and hosting the Games. Responses to some of these questions are provided in this report. Other questions will be addressed in the City Secretariat's report to the Committee on October 9. Responses to the following questions are included in this report:

1. What is The City's engagement plan?
2. Is there a chance Calgary 2026's draft plan can change? For example, if a drug testing facility were to be built for the Games, could it be converted into an addictions treatment centre or facility offering mental health supports after the Games?
3. What impacts on the 2026 OPWG could come from geo-political and global relations challenges?
4. Can Attachment 8 to report C2018-1005 (Financial Due Diligence Summary) be made public?
5. How is accessibility represented in Calgary's 2026's draft plan?
6. To what extent could hosting the 2026 OPWG accelerate access to venues and facilities for all Calgarians?

#### **1. What is The City's engagement plan?**

Council has approved holding a vote of the electors on 2018 November 13 on the question "Are you for or are you against Calgary hosting the 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games?"

To ensure that there is public engagement prior to the vote, Council appointed four distinguished Calgarians to serve as an Engagement Advisory Sub-Committee to the 2026 OPWG Assessment Committee. The Sub-Committee has retained a consultant to assist in developing and implementing a thorough and robust public engagement program intended to:

- inform and educate the public about the bid process;
- seek public input into whether or not Calgary should submit a bid; and
- identify issues, concerns and opportunities of a potential bid and respond to questions.

The Sub-Committee has developed an engagement program based on Council-approved guiding principles. It is important to note that this engagement is independent of and separate from Calgary 2026's communications and engagement program and any communications released by the Returning Officer in regard to the vote of the electors.

The Sub-Committee's engagement program is summarized in Attachment 2. It will be delivered at the Listen and Learn level of The City's Engage Policy:

- Listen and Learn Strategy: Stakeholders and The City listen to and learn about each other's views, plans, concerns, and expectations; and
- Listen and Learn Promise: We will listen to stakeholders and learn about their plans, views, issues, concerns and expectations and ideas.

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Engagement has been designed to achieve the following objectives:

1. Proactively inform and educate the public and stakeholders about all publicly available information relevant and accessible by The City regarding the Calgary 2026 draft plan;
2. Identify issues, concerns and opportunities, now and in the future, from a broad range of stakeholders of hosting or not hosting the OPWG; and,
3. Seek public input on why citizens feel that a bid should be submitted or not, and whether submitting a bid would be a positive or negative development for The City.

Calgarians are being provided with multiple channels to provide feedback on the opportunities, benefits, issues, and challenges they see related to a potential bid to host the Games. Citizens are being asked about their views on key theme areas related to Calgary 2026's draft plan (community, venues and facilities, environment, economy, and cost). Targeted communication and engagement will complement broad public initiatives to meet people where they live, work and play, ensuring that the engagement program helps inform, as well as provide a forum to hear from, all Calgarians. The information gathered through this process can be used to advance City priorities whether or not The City chooses to move forward with submitting a bid.

Throughout the engagement process Calgarians will be provided with a summary of what Calgarians are saying. A comprehensive "What we heard" report will also be developed.

### **2. Is there a chance Calgary 2026's draft plan can change? For example, if a drug testing facility were to be built for the Games, could it be converted into an addictions treatment centre or facility offering mental health supports after the Games?**

Calgary 2026's draft plan contains a proposal for the venues, accommodations and operational requirements to host the Games. The Government of Canada, Government of Alberta, Town of Canmore, and the City Secretariat all continue to review the draft plan. While not contemplated at this time, it is possible that changes to enhance the plan could be made.

On 2018 September 11, Councillor Gondek asked if an alternative legacy could be explored for the Games that would see turning a drug testing facility for the Games into an addictions treatment centre and/or facility to provide mental health supports after the Games.

The City Secretariat has been advised that Calgary 2026 considered the cost of building a new drug testing facility in Calgary for the Games but determined that such a facility would be very expensive. Given that a world-class drug testing facility already exists in Montreal, Calgary 2026 decided that it would be more cost-effective to utilize the services of that facility rather than construct a new facility in Calgary.

At this point, the draft plan presented by Calgary 2026 will form the basis for the bid book submission to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) should Council decide to proceed with bidding. However, if Calgary bids for and is awarded the 2026 OPWG, Calgary 2026 will transition to a HostCo within a short time frame and all of the venue plans and costs associated

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with the draft plan will be validated and built out in further detail by HostCo within the first two years after the Games are awarded.

### **3. What impacts on the 2026 OPWG could come from geo-political and global relations challenges?**

On 2018 September 11, the City Secretariat was asked to explore the possibility of conducting a global relations assessment with a view to understanding the geo-political environment and potential impacts on the 2026 OPWG. Attachment 3 provides a summary of information the Secretariat has obtained to date.

### **4. Can Attachment 8 to report C2018-1005 (Financial Due Diligence Summary) be made public?**

On 2018 September 24, Council directed the City Secretariat to prepare a financial due diligence report capable of public release. Attachment 4 includes the information from Attachment 8 to report C2018-0015 that no longer needs to remain confidential.

It should be noted that Attachment 4 refers to the possibility of relocating the bus barns in Victoria Park to accommodate the construction of an athletes village. There are many factors to consider when determining where to locate an athletes village including Games' operations, land use designations, density, proximity to transit, other services and competitive venues, safety, security, and the like. The athletes village is not required to be located in Victoria Park and further analysis is underway to determine whether it is financially feasible to locate it there or whether other locations need to be considered. Calgary 2026 has advised that it will continue to explore all opportunities for the delivery of an athletes village for the Games.

### **5. How is accessibility represented in Calgary's 2026's draft plan?**

Inclusion and accessibility are shared objectives of the Governments of Canada and Alberta, the Town of Canmore, The City, and Calgary 2026. Inclusion and accessibility aligns with the Games Value of "Better Together (Diversity and inclusivity are strengths and we are Better Together)" outlined in the draft plan. Part of Calgary 2026's proposed return on investment in regard to this value is "Ensure Albertans have barrier free access to community facilities regardless of disability, gender, and culture".

Paralympic planning and integration is included in the design, construction and overlay of Games' venues, villages and sites to ensure a high standard of accessibility. The draft plan outlines that the venues used during the Games must meet all national and international accessibility standards. Facilities where there are significant upgrades proposed will see improved accessibility standards and the two proposed new facilities (multi-sport facility/fieldhouse and mid-size/community arena) will be built to meet accessibility standards.

### **6. To what extent could hosting the 2026 OPWG accelerate access to venues and facilities for all Calgarians?**

The City Secretariat reached out to an access and disability subject matter expert in Calgary Neighbourhoods to explore the feasibility of conducting an accessibility environmental scan of City facilities to determine where accessibility standards need to be improved. The Secretariat

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proposed that a corporate-wide report be developed to consolidate accessibility-related information so that planning and prioritization strategies can be developed. Further details about this review will be brought to the Assessment Committee at a future date.

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

Citizens will be engaged throughout the month of October as part of The City's public engagement program. A summary of this engagement will be provided to Council.

The City Secretariat continues to engage staff in several business units at The City of Calgary, along with external consultants, on the various streams of work associated with this project.

### **Strategic Alignment**

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

The City Secretariat has continued to ensure alignment between the activities and objectives of the draft plan and Council Directives, policies, plans, and strategies.

### **Financial Capacity**

#### ***Current and Future Operating Budget:***

Finance staff and external advisors have and will continue to assess financial implications on current and future City operating and capital budgets associated with hosting the Games. This includes an assessment of the potential implications of hosting the Games on The City's debt capacity, particularly in light of other major City initiatives. Return on investment is being assessed and a cost benefit analysis is underway.

#### ***Current and Future Capital Budget:***

See above.

### **Risk Assessment**

Hosting an Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games is a complex and unique undertaking. In an opportunity of this magnitude there is inherent and significant legal, operational, financial, reputational, and other risk that must be identified and accepted, managed, mitigated, monitored, transferred, or avoided.

Negotiations with other orders of government for a cost-sharing arrangement should the bid proceed are ongoing. As a result, information about some risks and potential risk mitigation strategies needs to remain confidential at this time. These risks will be discussed during the closed session portion of the meeting.

Attachment 5 contains risks and mitigation strategies that can be publicly shared.

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### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The City Secretariat's mandate is to conduct due diligence regarding the 2026 OPWG project on behalf of The City of Calgary, the 2026 OPWG Assessment Committee and Council. A key objective of the Secretariat is to ensure that the Committee and Council are provided with frequent and comprehensive reports on the status of the Secretariat's work to ensure a clear understanding of the opportunities, benefits, issues, and risks associated with bidding for and hosting the Games.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Attachment 1 – Previous Council Direction
2. Attachment 2 – Public Engagement
3. Attachment 3 – Global Relations Assessment
4. Attachment 4 – Financial Due Diligence Summary
5. Attachment 5 – Risk Register