



**Calgary**

Jyoti Gondek, Mayor

August 21, 2024

Minister Joseph Schow  
Minister of Tourism and Sport  
Suite 500 – 1005 106 Street  
Edmonton AB, T5J 1G3

Dear Minister Schow,

**Re: Supporting Sport through Infrastructure: Olympic Oval Refurbishment & Multi-Sport Fieldhouse**

The 2024 Paris Olympics just wrapped up an incredibly successful games for Canada, with 27 medals. To achieve medals, athletes require training grounds to reach the podium.

The Government of Alberta plays a crucial role in nurturing high-performance athletes. As Alberta continues to grow, supporting elite sports training helps maintain our attractiveness to athletes, and the ability to host world-class events brings economic prosperity. It is in this critical role that The City of Calgary would like to continue its close working relationship with the Government of Alberta to enable sports facility upgrades, create new facilities, and develop an overarching sports infrastructure strategy.

***Olympic Oval Refurbishment:***

*The City of Calgary urges the province to support the University of Calgary's \$59.2 million funding request for the Olympic Oval Redevelopment project. The City of Calgary supports this project and will work closely with the university through pre-application meetings and by establishing an experienced City team to support the project's unique needs and streamline permitting and infrastructure coordination.*

The Olympic Oval in Calgary is the training home of 26 Winter Olympic Medalists (21 long and five short track speedskaters) and a combined take-home of 36 Olympic medals since the 1988 Winter Games. No other facility in Canada has this Olympic reputation for high-performance excellence.

More than 30,000 people enjoy major events at the Oval annually, including World Cups, speed skating competitions, national sporting events, and trade expos. The Oval is also a unique destination for recreational and amateur skaters and runners to train alongside elite athletes.

Events hosted at the Olympic Oval foster athletic excellence and bring significant economic stimulus to Alberta. Visitors drawn by these events stay, on average, 2.2 nights and contribute an average of \$368 per day, resulting in a total economic impact exceeding \$21.8 million annually.

### **Calgary's Multisport Fieldhouse:**

*The City of Calgary requests that the Government of Alberta provide financial support for the groundbreaking of the Foothills Multisport Fieldhouse, which will provide year-round space for training, competition, and play while hosting national and international major sporting events (\$127 million provincial contribution).*

The Multisport Fieldhouse will be Calgary's only competition-capable indoor track and field facility, comprising multi-activity courts and a FIFA-regulation indoor soccer field. The facility will fill a void of elite athletic training and competition spaces in southern Alberta while providing a wide range of recreational and amateur sports uses for the community.

The Multisport Fieldhouse will provide social infrastructure and boost the economy through job creation and tourism opportunities. Once completed, the Multisport Fieldhouse is projected to boost Calgary's GDP annually between \$20 to \$63 million.

The estimated total cost is \$380 million and requires investment partnerships with the Governments of Alberta and Canada to bring Calgary in alignment with its counterparts, as it is the only major city in Canada without a fieldhouse.

### **Creation of a Sports Infrastructure Strategy:**

*The City of Calgary is requesting \$1 million to develop a Sports Infrastructure Strategy for the City of Calgary, University of Calgary, Winsport, and McMahon Stadium to support the Government of Alberta in making decisions about future sports investments.*

In 2023, a City Council-approved Multisport Fieldhouse Amenity Refinement Study confirmed that the planned mix of amenities and usage is the right way to service the community. These types of strategies support inform decisions about the future development and growth of sporting infrastructure in our city and the province has shared the need for such a strategy. The City of Calgary and our partners in sport are well positioned to conduct this work for the province.

The City of Calgary appreciates the collaborative relationships between our orders of government, and we look forward to our continued partnership in achieving sport and economic success in the province.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jyoti Gondek', written in a cursive style.

Jyoti Gondek  
Mayor, The City of Calgary

CC: Councillor Jasmine Mian, The City of Calgary  
David Duckworth, Chief Administrative Officer, The City of Calgary  
Stuart Dalglish, Chief Operating Officer, The City of Calgary  
Dr. Edward McCauley, President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Calgary