



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

May 27, 2024

2028 host cities announced as BC Games return to roots for 50th anniversary

The BC Games Society will celebrate 50 years of competition in 2028 by returning to the roots of the Games, as original host communities Kamloops and Penticton have been announced as the hosts of the 2028 BC Winter and BC Summer Games.

The announcement was made today at a pair of events in Kamloops and Penticton. The communities were invited to apply to host through a sole bid process in recognition of their pivotal roles in shaping the history of the Games.

The BC Winter and BC Summer Games are British Columbia's biennial celebration of sport and community, bringing together B.C.'s top emerging high-performance athletes, trained coaches, and certified officials for four days of competition. The inaugural BC Summer Games were held in Penticton in 1978 with the first BC Winter Games taking place the following year in Kamloops.

The BC Winter Games will take place in February 2028 and held primarily on T'kemlúps te Secwépemc territory, situated within the unceded ancestral lands of the Secwépemc Nation. The Games will be the fourth Games in Kamloops after the community hosted the 1979 BC Winter Games, 2006 BC Summer Games, and 2018 BC Winter Games. The bid for the 2028 Games was supported by the City of Kamloops Kamloops-Thompson School District No. 73 with Sun Peaks Resort committing as the host venue for snow events. Known internationally as Canada's Tournament Capital, Kamloops has a strong reputation as a centre for sporting events. The community hosts well over 100 cultural and sporting events each year and offers world-class facilities, a strong athletic culture, expertly trained officials, and an enthusiastic volunteer base.

Since hosting the inaugural BC Summer Games in 1978, Penticton has played home to the 1990 BC Winter Games, 1995 BC Summer Games, and 2016 BC Winter Games. Hosted on the traditional and unceded territory of the Syilx People in the Okanagan Nation, the BC Summer Games will be held in July- 2028 and are supported by the City of Penticton and School District No. 67. With a strong and engaged base of over 5,000 active volunteers, Penticton is a destination for year-round events in sport and beyond. The community is home to major annual sporting events and festivals and is recognized as one of Canada's top wine regions and tourist destinations.

The BC Games Society is the organization responsible for setting the ongoing policy and direction of the BC Winter and BC Summer Games and supporting Team BC at the Canada Games. Originally established in 1977 by the Provincial Government under the Societies Act, the Society has become a key part of athlete and sport development in the province.

The B.C. government contributes more than \$2 million annually to the BC Games Society to support the BC Summer and Winter Games and Team BC. The Province recently provided an additional \$2 million in 23/24 to the BC Games Society to support operations and keep the cost of the Games affordable for Host Communities and participants. This is part of \$50 million invested annually by the Province into the B.C. sport sector.

Please visit www.bcgames.org for more information about the BC Games.

Quick Facts:

- To date, more than 40 communities have hosted BC Winter and/or BC Summer Games.
- These Games will mark the 35th BC Summer Games and 34th BC Winter Games.
- The estimated economic benefit for host communities is \$2 million for the summer games and \$1.6 million for the winter games.
- The official sport package for the Games is determined through the BC Games Society's Core Sport Policy and will be announced in the fall of 2026.
- Competitors at the Games represent eight geographic zones: Kootenays (Zone 1), Thompson-Okanagan (Zone 2), Fraser Valley (Zone 3), Fraser River (Zone 4), Vancouver-Coastal (Zone 5), Vancouver Island-Central Coast (Zone 6), North West (Zone 7) and Cariboo-North East (Zone 8).

Quotes:

Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sports, Lana Popham

"The BC Games are a celebration of sport and community, providing positive sport experiences for youth while generating social and economic benefits to B.C. communities. Bringing these games back to Kamloops and Penticton highlights a significant milestone and underscores the BC Games Society's contributions to building a strong and thriving sport sector."

President and CEO of the BC Games Society, Alison Noble

"We are excited to celebrate a half century of the BC Games in 2028 and there's no better way to do so than returning to our original hosts in Kamloops and Penticton. The 2028 BC Winter and Summer Games will be an opportunity to recognize the contributions and accomplishments of our volunteers and participants over our first 50 years, and to look ahead to the stories that are still to come beyond 2028."

Mayor of Penticton, Julius Bloomfield

"We are thrilled to welcome the BC Summer Games back to Penticton as the event marks 50 years of celebrating athletics and community. The ethos that was created back in 1978 of providing opportunities for athletes to develop, bringing communities together and sparking a life-long commitment to healthy living is alive and well in Penticton. We're known as being a community that embraces competition at all levels across a broad spectrum – and for a spirit that infuses all those events with energy and passion. We're looking forward to welcoming athletes, coaches, trainers and supporters in 2028."

Chief of the Penticton Indian Band Chief, Greg Gabriel

"As stewards of our heritage and advocates for celebrating all athletes, volunteers and organizers, we at PIB are honoured to welcome the BC Summer Games once again, marking five decades of athletic excellence and community building. This milestone not only celebrates the rich sporting legacy but also underscores our ongoing commitment to fostering a culture of inclusivity, resilience and healthy living."

Deputy Mayor of Kamloops, Kelly Hall

"We are extremely proud to be selected as the host for the 2028 BC Winter Games. Kamloops is synonymous with event hosting, and we look forward to welcoming athletes from across the province to Canada's Tournament Capital."

MEDIA CONTACT

David Conlin

Marketing and Communications Manager

BC Games Society

davidc@bcgames.org

O: 250.356.5254

Website FAQs

How can communities bid to host the BC Winter and Summer Games?

All communities will be invited to bid for the 2030 BC Winter and Summer Games when the process opens in early 2027. More than 40 communities from every region of B.C. have already played host to the Games since 1978. From 2010 to 2026 alone, hosts will represent seven of the eight BC Games geographical zones, demonstrating the far-reaching impact that the Games continue to have on communities across the province.

Why were Kamloops and Penticton chosen to host the BC Games in 2028?

The 2028 BC Winter and BC Summer Games will be a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the BC Games and we are excited to recognize the occasion by returning to our first host communities. Penticton hosted the inaugural BC Summer Games in 1978 and Kamloops the inaugural BC Winter Games in 1979.

What sports will be in the BC Games in 2028?

The official sport package for each BC Winter and Summer Games is determined through the BC Games Society's Core Sport Policy and will be announced in the fall of 2026. Each accredited Provincial and Disability Sport Organization (PSO and DSO) has the opportunity to demonstrate how the BC Games fit into their sport development plans and how they use the Games as an integral part of their athlete, coach, and officials' development models. Sports are granted inclusion into one Games and are evaluated against the Core Sport policy after the Games to determine their inclusion in the next Games.

Learn more about sports at the BC Games here: bcgames.org/sport/

Will there be an opportunity to invest in local sport infrastructure (venues etc.) ahead of the Games?

In 2017, the BC Games Society created the Powering Potential Fund as a vehicle to strategically invest in projects that further the development of athletes, teams, sport organizations and communities in B.C.

Learn more about the Powering Potential Fund here at bcgames.org/about-us/legacy/