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Sport development receives a gold medal investment from the province



Alberta's Olympic legacy will continue to benefit the next generation of athletes

Calgary... The Alberta government has committed \$69 million towards athletic facilities that will strengthen Alberta's role as a centre of winter sport excellence.

The funding represents 25 per cent of the total \$276 million cost of the Calgary Olympic Development Association's (CODA) proposed project. It also supports the *Own the Podium* program, which is designed to place Canada at the top of the medal standings for the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver-Whistler.

"If we want our athletes to be the best, we need to give them the best facilities to train and compete at," said Denis Ducharme, Minister of Community Development. "This government made a commitment to continue Alberta's Olympic legacy so our next generation of athletes could reap the benefits. With our strong fiscal outlook, the province is now able to follow through on this commitment and be the first partner to contribute to CODA's vision of Alberta as a world leader in winter sport development."

CODA's project includes upgrades to existing facilities as well as a new athletic and ice complex, which will house Hockey Canada. The project will address natural building lifecycle pressures and major changes to sport training technology and international event hosting requirements. The project will also provide recreational opportunities to Albertans through the CODA venues.

"The \$69 million provided by the Alberta government towards the planned \$276 million rejuvenation of our unique Winter Olympic legacy allows CODA to begin developing the first Centre of Sport Excellence in Canada," said Bob Nicolay, president and chief executive officer, CODA. "The Alberta government just delivered more Olympic medals to Canada, and CODA is fully committed to raising the additional money required to give athletes the facilities and services required to be the best in the world."

The Alberta government has already shown its support to renew the 1988 Winter Olympic legacies by providing \$25.6 million to renew the Canmore Nordic Centre and \$600,000 to upgrade the ski jump facility at Canada Olympic Park. It also provided more than \$91,000 to purchase new safety fencing at Nakiska Ski Resort to address the safety needs of high performance athletes training there.

The funding commitment also supports the Alberta-British Columbia Memorandum of Understanding on the Sharing of Olympic Training and Competition Facilities. The agreement strengthens access to training and competition facilities and programs for athletes, coaches and officials in targeted summer and winter sports, as well as promoting sport tourism in each province.

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