



September 23, 2009

A message from Jagoda Pike, Toronto 2015 President and COO

I'd like to update you on the Toronto 2015 Bid for the Pan and Parapan American Games. We've had a busy summer, participating in activities and events across the region, and a great visit by the Pan American Sports Organization (PASO) Evaluation Commission at the end of August.

PASO Evaluation Commission visit, August 30, 31

During their two-day technical visit, PASO Evaluation Commission members were taken on a guided 18-stop tour of some of the sites included in Toronto's official plan to host the 2015 Games. The visit demonstrated the strength of Toronto's bid by touring dozens of sport venues and introducing PASO representatives to some of the people behind the Toronto 2015 Bid, including sport leaders and athletes, broadcast, transportation and tourism experts, and senior representatives from all three levels of government.



From L to R: PASO Evaluation Commission member Felipe Muñoz Kapamas, Toronto 2015 Chair Hon. David Peterson, Evaluation Commission Chair Dr. Julio César Maglione and Evaluation Commission member Ramon Zubizarreta

Throughout the visit our bid earned positive response from the Evaluation Commission and its Chair, Dr. Julio César Maglione, who pronounced Toronto's bid to be "excellent." Thanks again to the dozens of people and organizations from across the region and sports community who helped make the visit such a success.



Mayor David Miller and Jagoda Pike



Minister of Sport, the Hon. Gary Lunn and Evaluation Commission Chair Dr. Julio César Maglione

View an interview on City-TV of the Evaluation Visit here:

<http://www.citytv.com/toronto/citynews/news/local/article/56173--toronto-puts-its-best-face-forward-for-pan-am-committee>

Read an article about the Evaluation Visit in the Toronto Star:

<http://www.thestar.com/Article/689139>

And in the Hamilton Spectator: <http://www.thespec.com/article/627033>



From L to R: David Braley and Evaluation Commission members Danilo Carrera Drouet and Dr. Julio César Maglione

Bid Book Presentation to Finance Minister Jim Flaherty

Toronto 2015 was happy to present Jim Flaherty, Federal Minister of Finance, with an official Toronto 2015 Pan / Parapan American Games Bid Book on September 10 at BMO Field. Along with Canadian Pan Am and Olympic athletes Kris Burley and Molly Killingbeck, we presented the book to Minister Flaherty in recognition of the federal government's ongoing support and its recent efforts to simplify the accreditation process for Pan Am athletes and officials, deemed an essential factor in PASO's decision considerations. The federal government has been a fantastic partner and we're pleased to recognize its support!



From L to R: Pan Am athlete and Olympian Molly Killingbeck, the Hon. Jim Flaherty, Jagoda Pike, Pan Am athlete and Olympian Kris Burley

The Bid in the Community

Another critical focus for Toronto 2015 over the last several months has been to bring the Bid to communities.

- Hundreds of kids and teens took part in *I Am Pan Am* events that gave them an opportunity to be “coached” by top Canadian Olympic and Pan Am athletes. In the sessions, kids tried training drills and exercises, heard about what's involved in being an athlete, and learned about the Pan Am Games. Photos and a video of *I am Pan Am* and other activities are available at the Toronto 2015 website at <http://www.toronto2015.org/lang/en/gallery/photos>.



- Toronto 2015 also celebrated Toronto's world-famous Caribana Parade, the largest cultural festival of its kind in North America. The Hon. Margaret Best, Ontario Minister of Health Promotion, marshaled a float and troupe of more than 100 dancing volunteers to demonstrate support for this major international event.



Far left: Ontario Minister of Health Promotion, Hon. Margaret Best



Toronto 2015 also took the Bid to sports fans at a number of major sporting events:

- We were proud to be a partner in the inaugural Festival of Excellence Athletics meet – an exciting day of youth and elite international athlete competition at the University of Toronto's Varsity Stadium. The event clearly demonstrated strong community love of world-class Athletics, with cheers for Canada's top women hurdlers Priscilla Lopes-Schliep and Perdita Felicien, and world-record holder Usain Bolt. Congratulations to University of Toronto's Dr. Bruce Kidd and all the organizers for putting on a great event!



- A number of celebrated Canadian athletes came out in support of the Pan Am Bid at a Toronto Blue Jay's game on July 24, with future Pan Am diver Alex Chan throwing out the first pitch. Thanks to Paul Beeston and the Blue Jays for sharing the night with us.



From L to R: Pan Am athletes and Olympians Marnie McBean, Curt Harnett, Alexandra Orlando and future Pan Am athlete Alex Chan



The Canadian Tenors

- Also in July, the Toronto 2015 collected hundreds of signatures in support of the Bid from enthusiastic Toronto FC fans. Thanks to the Toronto FC for officially declaring the team's support for bringing the Games to Toronto, including soccer matches that would be held at TFC's home stadium, BMO Field.



What's next

- Toronto 2015 will be at the Canadian Club on October 16 with a panel of Bid and sports community representatives discussing “Why Pan Am in 2015,” followed by lively discussion and debate. To purchase tickets, visit www.canadianclub.org (coming soon).
- Our primary focus, and the culmination of all of our work to date, is the final presentation and vote for the 2015 host city taking place at the PASO Annual General Assembly in Mexico in the first week of November. We are well on our way to producing a presentation that conveys Toronto’s passion for sport, and our ability to deliver one of the best ever Pan/Parapan Am Games – for athletes, for the Pan Am movement and for our communities.

For more Bid news...

- Keep up to date on the many exciting activities and announcements taking place over the next two months. Visit our website at www.toronto2015.org for all the news and for links to join us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter (@panamgamesTO15).