

# City Staff Report

**Report Date:** June 8, 2022  
**Meeting Date:** June 14, 2022

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Original signed by: City Manager Johnson

**To:** City Manager  
**From:** Manager of Economic Development & Tourism  
**Subject:** BC 55+ Games Co-Host Bid Application

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## Purpose

The purpose of this report is to request North Cariboo Joint Advisory Committee recommend to the Cariboo Regional District to approve up to \$18,150 of in kind support for a joint application from the City of Quesnel to co-host the 2026 BC 55+ Games with the City of Prince George.

## Summary

The BC 55+ Games is held in a different community each year, bringing athletes for 20+ sports for five days of hotel stays, restaurant meals, and support for the local economy.

The hotel room and RV space requirements are too big for the City of Quesnel/North Cariboo to host alone, but a partnered application is possible. Staff have been discussing the opportunity to co-host with Tourism PG since receiving the bid package earlier this year. Tourism PG and City of Prince George are interested in co-hosting with the City of Quesnel in 2026.

Proposed sports to be held in Quesnel include: Curling, archery, mountain biking, triathlon, swimming, karate, and either cribbage or whist. These sports may change, but it is likely that the arenas and soccer facility will be utilized. The Arts and Recreation Centre may also be used for activities or registration.

The proposed co-hosted Games would include bussing participants to an Opening Ceremonies in Prince George, and holding all other events for Quesnel participants in Quesnel (evening entertainment, accreditation centre, Games village, etc.)

As with the BC Winter Games there is a cash and in-kind contribution required to host the Games. Legacy funds remaining in the community after the Games have ranged from \$14,434 in North Vancouver in 2015 to \$54,557 in Vernon in 2017. Legacy funds for Quesnel and Prince George would be split by the same ratio as the contribution amount for hosting the Games.

As with the BC Winter Games, a host society will be established to organize the Games. Members would come from both Prince George and Quesnel. Approximately 1500 volunteers are required to organize the Games.

The bid package is due on June 30, 2022.

A similar report will go to Quesnel City Council at the next Council meeting.



### **Recommendation**

THAT the North Cariboo Joint Advisory Committee recommends that the Cariboo Regional District provide in kind support of services and facilities with a deemed value of up to \$18,150.00 in 2026 should the bid be successful.

### **Financial Implications**

The host community/communities must commit to \$60,000 cash contribution and \$55,000 in kind contribution to host the Games. This amount has been divided based on the number of sports held in each community with 2/3 of sports to be held in Prince George and 1/3 to be held in Quesnel. Legacy funds would be divided using the same formula.

### **Background**

The BC 55+ Games average 3,500 – 4,000 participants in a minimum of 20 sports each year. In addition to the legacy funds left in the community, the Games have a large economic impact. The Vernon Games showed \$3.3 million direct spending in the community. Tourism PG has access to software to estimate economic impacts of these Games. Using rough inputs, this software predicts that the direct, indirect, and induced impact would be just over \$2,000,000.00.

The Games also leave a lasting impact on sport organizations, equipment purchased for the Games remains in the community, facility upgrades, leadership development, and community collaboration.