

DATE OF MEETING JANUARY 20, 2021

AUTHORED BY MICHELE DUERKSEN, SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR

TRACY STUART, RECREATION COORDINATOR

**SUBJECT PROPOSED BID FOR THE 2026 BC SUMMER GAMES**

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report**

To request support from Council regarding the proposed bid for the 2026 BC Summer Games.

### **Recommendation**

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council passes a resolution that the City of Nanaimo provide a bid to host 2026 BC Summer Games and that an expenditure of \$55,000 cash and \$55,000 of in-kind be included in the 2026 budget if successful.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Government of BC and the BC Games Society are inviting communities to host the 2026 BC Summer or Winter Games. The Games are 4-day community, cultural and sporting celebrations. They provide an opportunity for athletes (generally under 18 years) to compete in an organized multi-sport event that promotes personal excellence, physical fitness and community pride. They also provide athletes a stepping-stone to prepare for higher levels of competition. Nanaimo hosted the BC Summer Games in 1985, 2002 and again in 2014.

## **DISCUSSION**

Nanaimo has a proven history of successfully hosting BC Games. After the tremendous success of the 2014 BC Summer Games it is timely to take the skills and apply them to hosting another Summer Games in our City. The BC Summer Games involve 3,400 participants and officials and will require that same number of volunteers. The Games have an estimated direct economic impact of \$2 million dollars in the host community. The Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, through the BC Games Society will provide \$625,000 for the administration and operation of the Games.

If approved by Council, a resolution will also be requested from School District #68 School Board will be included in the bid package as part of the commitment of facilities and amenities.

## **OPTIONS**

1. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council passes a resolution that the City of Nanaimo bid to host 2026 BC Summer Games and that an expenditure of \$55,000 cash and \$55,000 of in-kind be committed if the Games are awarded.
  - The advantages of this option:
    - i. Provides a 4-day community sporting and cultural event for youth under 18.
    - ii. Provides a platform to prepare for higher levels of competition, promotes athletic excellence and personal pride.
    - iii. Substantial economic benefit of an estimated of \$2 million dollars in the host community.
    - iv. Highlights excellent city resources and facilities to residents and visitors.
    - v. Establishes a community legacy by providing equipment and enhanced capacity for future growth of sport tourism.
    - vi. Creates community pride while showcasing Nanaimo's' natural beauty.
    - vii. Unites a community of volunteers while promoting and strengthening organizational relationships.
  - The disadvantages of this option:
    - i. Commitment of staff time to assist Games Board.
    - ii. Public facility use may be limited during the Games.
    - iii. Participation may be low, post-pandemic. There could be a hesitancy to gather or volunteer in large groups.
    - iv. Unexpected costs may occur.
  - Financial Implications: A commitment of \$55,000 will be added to property taxation in 2026 and a minimum commitment of \$55,000 in-kind services and facilities. These changes will be incorporated into the 2022-2026 Financial Plan.
2. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council decline to bid to host the 2026 BC Summer Games. |

## **SUMMARY POINTS**

- The BC Summer Games is a 4 day community sporting and cultural event for youth under 18.
- There is a substantial economic benefit of an estimated of \$2 million dollars in the host community.
- Establishes a community legacy by providing equipment and enhanced capacity for future growth of sport tourism.
- The City of Nanaimo have hosted the BC Summer Games in 1985, 2002, and 2014.
- Hosting BC Summer Games will allow the City to showcase Nanaimo and allow an economic return for future years.

**Submitted by:**

Michele Duerksen  
Special Events Coordinator

**And:**

Tracy Stuart  
Recreation Coordinator

**Concurrence by:**

Lynn Wark  
Director, Recreation and Culture

**And:**

Richard Harding  
General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture