

NEWS RELEASE

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Ontario ParaSport Games
Jeux ParaSport de l'Ontario

Ready, Set, Go! Kingston to Host 2010 Ontario ParaSport Winter Games

Kingston, ON -- The City of Kingston, in partnership with the Sport Tourism Branch of the Kingston Economic Development Corporation (KEDCO) and Canadian Forces Base Kingston, has been selected by the Sport Alliance of Ontario (SAO) and the Province of Ontario to host the 2010 Ontario ParaSport Winter Games (2010 OPWG)

The Parasport Games are delivered by the Sport Alliance of Ontario in partnership with ParaSport Ontario on behalf of the Government of Ontario. The Province is the primary funder of the Games.

“It is extremely exciting to host the 2010 Ontario ParaSport Winter Games in Kingston, particularly in a Winter Olympics and Winter Paralympics year!”, said John Munro, Chairman of the Kingston 2010 Ontario ParaSport Winter Games Bid/Host Organizing Committee. “This will be a fabulous opportunity to showcase the amazing abilities of athletes in all of these disciplines. It will be fun bringing the entire city together to cheer these athletes on and ensure they have the best Games ever!”

This will be the first time the Limestone City has hosted the Ontario ParaSport Winter Games, scheduled to take place from January 22nd to 24th, 2010. Approximately 450 participants from across Ontario are expected, including 300 athletes with a physical disability, support staff, coaches and officials. The seven competitive sports include ParaAlpine Skiing, ParaNordic Skiing, Sledge Hockey, Wheelchair Curling, Wheelchair Basketball, Wheelchair Rugby and Swimming.

“The ParaSport Winter Games are important because Ontario’s athletes are role models who inspire all Ontarians to live healthy, active lives,” said Ontario Minister of Health Promotion, Margaret Best. “The McGuinty government is committed to athletes and to supporting opportunities to help them compete and succeed.”

“I am pleased our government is supporting the City of Kingston to host this important event,” said John Gerretsen, MPP Kingston and The Islands. “I know our community will do a great job showcasing the city and making this a great

experience for all who come to participate or to watch Ontario's Parasport athletes in action."

The intended venues for the ParaSport Winter Games include the Kingston Military Sports Centre, the Invista Centre, the Royal Kingston Curling Club, the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area, the Alpine venue has yet to be confirmed.

"The City of Kingston submitted a very thorough and comprehensive bid," said Cathy Vincelli, Executive Director for ParaSport Ontario. "The bid was selected based on a great demonstration of community support and the choice of impressive and accessible sporting and accommodation venues."

Other members of the Bid Committee are Vicki Keith, Major Chris Catry of CFB Kingston, Don Curtis, Greg Curtis, Jeff Hanley, Gail Atwill, Jason Mullin, Jason Polen, Paul Turner and Linda Breen of the City of Kingston, Jocelyn Halladay, Mark Halladay, Deanna Davies and KEDCO's Sport Tourism Manager, Gary Kelly.

Letters of support for the Kingston bid for the 2010 OPWG were received from Mayor Harvey Rosen, Peter Milliken, MP for Kingston and The Thousand Islands, the Greater Kingston Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Kingston! B.I.A., and Kingston Accommodation Partners.

The 2010 Ontario ParaSport Winter Games are provided with grant funding from the Ministry of Health Promotion. The 2010 OPWG are delivered by The Sport Alliance of Ontario in partnership with ParaSport Ontario. For more information about the Ontario ParaSport Games or ParaSport Ontario please, please visit www.parasportontario.ca

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2010 Ontario ParaSport Winter Games
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