



For immediate release

MARKHAM TO CONDUCT FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR CANADIAN SPORT INSTITUTE, ONTARIO

Markham, June 30, 2006 ~ Town of Markham Council voted unanimously earlier this week to conduct a feasibility study on the creation of a 16.5 acre multi-use elite Canadian Sport Institute, Ontario in the heart of Markham. The proposed complex, at Highway 407 and Kennedy Road, will include world-class training facilities, international competition venues, accommodation services for visiting athletes and office facilities for Ontario sport organizations. The Centre will offer the highest level of expertise in coaching, sport science and sport medicine.

A presentation made to Council by Debbie Low, President & CEO, Canadian Sport Institute, Ontario was enthusiastically received and endorsed. "There is a clear need in Ontario for a sport centre and training facility of this calibre," said Markham Mayor Don Cousens. "Markham is the ideal location. Not only is the Town easily accessible for the population of over seven million Ontario residents who will be served by this outstanding facility, it has long been home to leading athletes. Four of the 2006 Winter Olympians are from Markham. Several former Olympians and international competitors in both winter and summer sports also have roots in Markham."

Regional Councillor Jim Jones, Chair of the Canadian Sport Institute Steering Committee, sees the Centre as a superb opportunity for Markham and Ontario youth to benefit from the pursuit of excellence in sport. "While the Centre will be a major focal point for training world-class athletes, it will also provide opportunities for our young aspiring athletes to be exposed to the positive values of sports participation and learn from the example set by the highest achievers. Access to this world class Centre and proximity to a new sports high school mean our athletes will no longer have to move to other parts of the country to seriously pursue their dreams."

The Canadian Sport Institute, Ontario will include four ice rinks, basketball, volleyball and badminton courts, combative sports and gymnastics arenas and a major aquatic centre with both competition and training pools.

Five Markham Councillors and staff representing various areas of Town operations have been appointed to the Feasibility Study Committee, which is expected to present its recommendations to Council later this year.

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Illustrations available on request.