



# Brantford County of Brant 2022

Ontario 55+  
Winter Games

Jeux d'hiver de  
l'Ontario 55+

October 5, 2021

Members of Council

City of Brantford and County of Brant

We, the Co-Chairs of the 2022 Ontario 55+ Winter Games (the Games), submit this letter on behalf of the Games Organizing Committee (GOC). We request that the Chief Administrative Officer of The Corporation of the City of Brantford and the Chief Administrative Officer of The Corporation of the County of Brant sign a joint letter to the Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, which requests that due to the coronavirus pandemic and the constraints it presents to the planning and organizing of the event, as well as the health and safety impact on the participants and the residents of the two communities, the Games be postponed to the next available date.

This request follows a thorough review of the Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA), jointly signed by The Corporation of the City of Brantford and The Corporation of the County of Brant as co-host to the Games, and the Province of Ontario. The TPA and accompanying Ontario Games Bid Guidelines present a comprehensive standard of hosting; the GOC now faces significant challenges in meeting these standards based on the limitations outlined in the Province of Ontario's Roadmap to Reopen: Step 3.

While the approximate draw of the Games will be 1,000 participants, officials and supporters from across Ontario, a survey of Ontario Senior Games Association participants completed in September 2021 suggests that registration will be much lower. Many participants expressed great concern and uncertainty over the fourth wave and variants. The Games includes ten events at fifteen locations in addition to three planned social events. The age demographic of participants is 55+.

Under the terms of the TPA, the GOC is required to plan a multi-sport event to the standard indicated in the Bid Guidelines, unless otherwise instructed by Games Ontario. No changes to the Bid Guidelines have been communicated to date. Current recommendation from the Brant County Health Unit indicates that each team remain cohorted and at no time should there be interaction between teams, except during competitive play. This limitation drastically affects the social nature of this event, which

many participants look forward to. These social events, including the Opening Meal, Opening Ceremony and the Middle Night event, provide time to gather in celebration of collective athletic achievements.

The efficiency of public transportation provided by Brantford Transit is also seriously affected with BCHU recommending a limit of transporting one team per trip. There are substantial increases in costs to accommodations, food services, special events, sport logistics and volunteer services, totalling an additional \$240,535 to host in February 2022 under current Province of Ontario Step 3 guidelines.

On September 15, 2021 a motion was adopted by the Games Organizing Committee to postpone the Games. Following this vote, the GOC directed the Co-Chairs to submit a request to postpone the 2022 Ontario 55+ Winter Games to the respective Councils with a joint letter and a formal Council Report. The Games Organizing Committee, as represented by the Co-Chairs, stand behind this request for the safety of the participants, the municipalities and the overall success of this event and request that the Province be asked to respond to this request in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

**Ela Stypa-Jones**

Games Co-Chair  
Sport Tourism Coordinator  
Economic Development & Tourism Department  
Office of the Mayor & CAO  
Corporation of the City of Brantford

**Donna Clements**

Games Co-Chair  
Tourism Coordinator  
Economic Development and Tourism  
Strategic Initiatives Department  
Corporation of the County of Brant