

## NEWS RELEASE

Distributed November 8, 2022

### **Nanaimo named host city for the 2025 55+ BC Games**

*Successful bid will bring the 55+ BC Games to Nanaimo; first time since 2007*

#### **Summary**

The City of Nanaimo is pleased to announce that Nanaimo has been selected as the host city for the 55+ BC Games in 2025.

The announcement, made earlier today by the BC Senior Games Society, is the result of a successful bid compiled and submitted earlier this year by the City of Nanaimo and Tourism Nanaimo. The bid submission was supported by our partners Snuneymuxw First Nation, Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools and many local sports organizations.

The 55+ BC Games were last hosted in Nanaimo in 2007 and featured over 3500 athletes participating in 26 sporting events. The 2025 event will be hosted over a five day period, Sept. 9-13 and will include opening and closing ceremonies, a social dance and up to 30 different sport competitions throughout the city. Athletes from across BC will compete in activities ranging from swimming to slo-pitch, which showcase many of the outstanding sporting facilities Nanaimo is known for.

The 55+ BC Games also provide an excellent opportunity to promote sport tourism to our region. A 2022 Economic Impact Report estimated that the 55+ BC Games has a \$6.5 million impact on host communities.

*Strategic Link:* A Healthy Nanaimo, a Prosperous Nanaimo and a Green Nanaimo. The 55+ BC Games allow us to feature our top-tier recreation and sport facilities, while also providing a large economic impact to the region

#### **Key Points**

- The City of Nanaimo has been selected as the host city for the 55+ BC Games in 2025.
- The 55+ BC Games are an annual, multi-sport event that will feature up to 30 different sporting competitions across Nanaimo in 2025.
- The five day event will attract an estimated 3500 athletes from across British Columbia.
- A 2022 Economic Impact Report estimated that the 55+ BC Games has a \$6.5 million dollar impact on host communities.

#### **Quotes**

"We are thrilled to have been chosen as the host city for the 55+ BC Games in 2025. Nanaimo has a long history of successfully hosting high-profile, multi-sport games and we are well known for our hospitality, volunteerism and excellent sporting facilities. These games will continue to build on that success while showcasing the beautiful community we live in."

Leonard Krog  
Mayor  
City of Nanaimo

"Snuneymuxw First Nation is pleased to hear that the City of Nanaimo has been chosen as the host city for the 2025 55+ BC Games. As a community we strongly believe sports are an important part of our Nation's community wellness for all ages and stages of life. Snuneymuxw has a long history of developing several well-known athletes in various sports and is looking forward to welcoming thousands of athletes and officials from all around the province to our beautiful territory."

William Yoachim  
Acting Chief  
Snuneymuxw First Nation

"Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools will be honoured to partner with the City of Nanaimo for the 2025 55+ BC Games. Since hosting the 2014 summer games, Nanaimo has expanded and enhanced its sports corridor behind Nanaimo District Secondary School as well as other venues in the region, which can easily accommodate track and field, soccer, slo-pitch, hockey and swimming, among many other sports. We look forward to showcasing the facilities our students have the fortune of using each and every day."

Charlene McKay  
School Trustee  
Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools

"The 55+ BC Games provided the opportunity to put our "Team Nanaimo" approach to bids and major events into action. Tourism Nanaimo worked in collaboration with the City of Nanaimo to develop a comprehensive bid package, effectively positioning our community and facilities for the 55+ BC Games. We continue to work on new sport and event opportunities for Nanaimo."

Ian Simpson  
Chair  
Tourism Nanaimo

## Quick Facts

- The City last hosted the 55+ BC Games (then known as the BC Seniors Games) in 2007.

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### Contact:

For media enquiries, please contact:  
Communications  
City of Nanaimo  
Media.Requests@nanaimo.ca  
250-754-4251



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