



Fort St John, BC. to Host World Masters Allround Games March 10-12, 2017

Fort St John, BC. --- October 5, 2016. The Fort St. John (Elks) Recreational & Speed Skating Club is pleased to announce that the 2017 World Masters Allround Speed Skating Games will be held at the 400m Indoor Oval of the Pomeroy Sport Centre from March 10-12, 2017.

Following the successful 2012 Canadian Masters Championships in the City, the Club with support from the City of Fort St John bid three times on the Games before it was awarded the 2017 Games.

The maximum number of entries has been set at 200. At the 2016 May AGM of the International Masters Speed Skating Committee (IMSSC) in Amsterdam Canada was allotted 40 spots. While the IMSSC has set time standards to qualify for the Games, "all Canadian skaters who wish to participate are exempted; this to encourage participation," according to Brett Arnason, Canadian representative on the IMSSC.

By setting the dates for the event one week before the Calgary Oval Finale, athletes have an opportunity to participate in two high level competitions in 10 days. "We hope that this will entice more overseas athletes to attend," added Dee-Ann Stickel, who chairs the 2017 Games Organizing Committee.

Over the years the Club has hosted many high profile competitions such as National Championships, Canada Cups, and most recently when long track speed skating in 2015 Canada Winter Games was moved to the Pomeroy Sport Centre in Fort St John.

"Hosting the World Masters Games will not only be the largest, it will also be the first ever international skating event we have organized. We have always enjoyed tremendous support from the City of Fort St. John, individuals and businesses in the community as well as the provincial and national speed skating organizations," commented Stickel. "We are looking forward

to this opportunity to showcase the Community, the Pomeroy Sport Centre, the Club and the sport of speed skating.”

Information about the upcoming Games can be accessed on the IMSSC website: www.imssc.org and the Fort St. John Speed Skating Club website: <http://fsjspeedskating.com/>, which provide information about and links to the electronic registration process. Registration officially opened October 1, 2016.

For further information, please contact the 2017 MAG organizing committee at 2017mag@gmail.com

Dee-Ann Stickel., Chair Organizing Committee

Darren Guliov, Vice -Chair Organizing Committee

E.W. (Wim) Kok, Competition Manager