



SPORTS GROUPS COMBINE EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY, RECRUIT AND TRAIN BILINGUAL SPORTS OFFICIALS AND VOLUNTEERS IN MANITOBA

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Winnipeg, Manitoba – Eight Manitoban sports groups have combined their efforts to help identify, recruit and train bilingual sports officials and volunteers in Manitoba, the Francophone Sports Directorate of Manitoba, a Conseil jeunesse provincial (CJP) initiative, announced on Wednesday.

In an effort to enhance Manitoba and Winnipeg's standing as a premier host for major national and international events, eight sports groups in Manitoba have combined their efforts to develop sports officials and volunteers over the course of the coming months.

The groups involved in this project, spearheaded by the CJP's Francophone Sports Directorate of Manitoba, are:

- Sport Manitoba
- 2005 Canadian Francophone Games
- 2005 Canadian Senior Track and Field Championship
- Francophone Sports Directorate of Manitoba
- Athletics Manitoba
- Volleyball Manitoba
- Basketball Manitoba
- Badminton Manitoba

"We are very lucky in Manitoba to have such a vibrant and active francophone community, a community which has assisted Winnipeg and Manitoba in hosting events such as the Pan-Am Games and numerous national and regional events," said Jeff Hnatiuk, Sport Manitoba CEO. "In combining our efforts to further identify, recruit and train bilingual sports officials and volunteers, we can only add to Winnipeg and Manitoba's standing as premier locations for major sporting events."

"With the 2005 Canadian Francophone Games and the 2005 Canadian Senior Track and Field Championships coming up this summer in Manitoba, this is a great opportunity to work together in preparation for these events," said Richard Turenne, the CJP's coordinator of the Francophone Sports Directorate of Manitoba. "It's also an excellent opportunity to start developing resources that will assist in attracting other major events in the coming years."

For the past few months and over the months leading up these two National events in July, the Canadian Senior Track and Field Championship (July 15-17, 2005) and the Canadian Francophone Games (July 20-24, 2005), the sports groups will continue to identify bilingual officials and volunteers, as well as to recruit and begin training the next generation of officials.

"Volunteers and officials are an essential part of hosting a major event such as the Canadian Senior Track and Field Championship," added Blair Dugray, chairman of the Host Committee. "We are excited to be working with all these groups in recruiting bilingual volunteers and officials that will help make our event that will make Manitoba proud."

"The Canadian Francophone Games are particularly pleased with the assistance that we've received from various sports groups in Manitoba," said Andre Brin, Executive Director of the 2005 Canadian Francophone Games. "As a group, we will be delivering a long-lasting legacy and ensuring that Winnipeg and Manitoba continue to be among the best sports events hosts in Canada."

For further information on upcoming clinics, on registering as a bilingual volunteer or official for the 2005 Canadian Francophone Games or the 2005 Canadian Senior Track and Field Championship, please contact Richard Turenne of the Francophone Sports Directorate of Manitoba at the CJP, at 204-237-8947 or at sports@franco-manitobain.org

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