

BRIEFING NOTE

Meeting with Victor Montagliani

April 26, 2021

What:

B.C.'s potential involvement in the 2026 FIFA Men's World Cup.

Who:

Victor Montagliani, FIFA Vice President and CONCACAF President

Executive Summary:

- Mr. Montagliani will provide an update on the site selection process for the 2026 FIFA World Cup following the recent announcement that the Government of Quebec has withdrawn its support of Montreal's bid to host tournament matches.
- In 2018, Vancouver was in the running along with Edmonton, Toronto and Montreal to be included as a Canadian host city for FIFA 2026.
 - B.C. expressed interest in being included in the bid, subject to resolution of provincial concerns. Those concerns were not addressed, and B.C. was not included in the bid.
- As a B.C. resident and FIFA Executive Council member, Mr. Montagliani may query the Province's interest in supporting another bid if Vancouver were invited to re-enter the site selection process.
- Mr. Montagliani may also wish to discuss potential opportunities for Vancouver's participation in pre-World Cup matches and other activities including serving as a home base for one of the World Cup teams.
- MTACS' understanding is that FIFA has not changed its position on the requirement for host jurisdictions to make binding commitments on financial liability, including the provision of an operating deficit guarantee.

Background:

- The Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) is the international non-profit governing body of association football (soccer), based in Zurich, Switzerland.
- It is comprised of 211 member national associations organized into six regional confederations: North & Central America and the Caribbean (CONCACAF), Africa, Asia, Europe, Oceania, and South America.
- The FIFA Men's World Cup is one of the most prestigious and widely viewed sport events in the world and is staged in different countries every four years.

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- In 2018, the National Soccer Federations of Canada, Mexico and the U.S. formed a United Bid Committee (United 2026) that won the rights to host the 2026 FIFA Men's World Cup.
 - 23 candidate cities were included in the original United 2026 bid, including Edmonton, Toronto and Montreal.
 - Earlier this year, Quebec withdrew its support for Montreal's bid due to escalating cost projections (from \$50M to \$103M.)
- In 2018, British Columbia submitted a qualified agreement-in-principle letter that identified B.C.'s interest in being part of the bid, subject to resolution of provincial concerns, including:
 - Indemnities and other agreements that would commit the Province to deficit guarantees and tax waivers;
 - Ability for the agreements to be unilaterally amended in favour of FIFA;
 - Unknown safety and security costs that the Province would be responsible for; and
 - A detailed cost-benefit analysis - recognizing that most revenues associated with FIFA events flow directly to FIFA and not host jurisdictions.
- The key concerns identified above were not resolved and Vancouver was not included in the bid.
- FIFA and United 2026 are currently in the processes of selecting the final 16 cities to host FIFA 2026 World Cup matches. Decisions are expected by the end of 2021.
- There may be opportunity for Vancouver to participate in pre-World Cup events, such as hosting preliminary matches or serving as a home base for one of the World Cup teams.
 - More information would be needed to assess these opportunities, including a business case with clear financial obligations.

Recommendations:

- If the opportunity exists for Vancouver to be re-considered as a host city for FIFA 2026, a bona fide business plan is required to enable Government to undertake a fulsome financial and legal review and to make a fully informed decision as significant risks were associated with previous FIFA requirements.

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**Victor Montagliani, FIFA Vice President and
CONCACAF President**

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Montagliani was elected Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) President and FIFA Vice President on May 12, 2016. He also serves as Chairman of the FIFA Football Stakeholders Committee.

Montagliani continues strengthening the foundations of the Confederation, while focusing on developing a professional and solid structure for its 41 Member Associations. With football at its core, the ONE CONCACAF Vision consists of four pillars to further growth the game, including: Good governance, successful strategic planning for competitions and commercial partnership, investment in football development and infrastructure, and solid leadership.

Montagliani served as President of the Canadian Soccer Association (CSA) until May 6, 2017. He chaired the National Organising Committee for the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup Canada 2014™ and FIFA Women's World Cup Canada 2015™. Montagliani played a key role in Canada's bid for the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup, its execution and completion. As part of Canada Soccer's Strategic Plan – A Leading Soccer Nation, Montagliani was instrumental in establishing the framework for a Canadian Premier League, which adding to his experience within the game, he served as the CSA's Vice-President, leading him to become the Association's 33rd president.

In addition to his knowledge and experience within the sport, Montagliani has concluded studies in Political Science, Public Administration, French and Spanish.

Some of his major accolades within the game include:

- Chairman of the Board of Directors of FIFA Ticketing AG (2017)
- Chair of FIFA Football Stakeholders Committee (2017)
- FIFA Reform Committee (2016)
- CONCACAF Reform Committee (2015)
- Member of the CONCACAF Council (Former Executive Committee, starting April 2013)
- Former chair of the National Organising Committee for the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup Canada 2014™ and FIFA Women's World Cup Canada 2015™.
- Member of the Local Organizing Committee for the FIFA U-20 World Cup Canada 2007
- Member of the CONCACAF Gold Cup Organizing Committee

Re: FIFA

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Cc: Zacharuk, Christina PREM:EX <Christina.Zacharuk@gov.bc.ca>, Wood, Heather FIN:EX <Heather.Wood@gov.bc.ca>, Maartman, William PSSG:EX <William.Maartman@gov.bc.ca>, Peter Montopoli <pmontopoli@canadasoccer.com>
Sent: April 27, 2021 at 6:28:52 PM Pacific Daylight Time
Attachments: image001.png

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Thank you Eric,
Hi Neilane,
Pleasure to connect.

I have copied Peter Montopoli, our project lead here in Canada and also General Secretary of Canada Soccer. Look forward to our next meeting let me know what day(s) work so that we can start the process . Have a great evening, all.



Victor Montagliani
Concacaf President & FIFA Vice President
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Love for our game
Concacaf.com

From: Kristianson, Eric PREM:EX <Eric.Kristianson@gov.bc.ca>
Date: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 8:23 AM
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Cc: Zacharuk, Christina PREM:EX <Christina.Zacharuk@gov.bc.ca>, Wood, Heather FIN:EX <Heather.Wood@gov.bc.ca>, Maartman, William PSSG:EX <William.Maartman@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FIFA

Neilane,
Further to our discussion this morning, I'd like to connect you with Victor Montagliani for follow-up on FIFA's exploration of Vancouver's potential involvement in the 2026 World Cup. I'm copying Heather here as I expect that your team will want to link in Finance at the appropriate point.

Thanks

Eric Kristianson
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