



## Information Note Advice to Minister

Date: August 22, 2017

Cliff #: 30710

Issue: 2026 World Cup (Men's Soccer)

### Background / Facts:

- The National Soccer Federations of Canada, Mexico and the United States have formed a United Bid Committee (UBC) to bring the 2026 FIFA Men's World Cup to North America.
- The regional approach was adopted to accommodate the recent expansion of the tournament which now includes 48 teams (previously 32) and an 80 match schedule.
- It is anticipated that Canada will host 10 matches in two major centres (assume one of MTL/TOR and one of VAN/EDM) with the majority of competitions staged and costs incurred in the USA.
- Morocco is the only other country bidding on the 2026 event so the chances for success of a CAN/MEX/USA bid are extremely good.
- The formal bid is to be submitted to FIFA by March 16, 2018 with a final decision expected at the FIFA Congress next June.
- The three nations have hosted 13 FIFA World Cups combined (men, women and youth), which is more than any other trio of geographically-connected nations.
- Canada hosted the FIFA Women's World Cup Canada 2015, which attracted over 1.35 million spectators and more than 20 million Canadian television viewers.
- Canadian cities must submit a formal expression of interest by September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

### Analysis:

- The funding formula for the tournament has not been released; however we anticipate FIFA will provide the preliminary breakdown of hosting costs by November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- In past World Cups, FIFA assumed the operational costs while host cities and governments were responsible for venue-related costs including sponsor brand protection, security and infrastructure (e.g. cost of natural grass installation, additional seating).
- It is premature to estimate the provincial government's share of the event costs,<sup>s.13</sup>  
s.13
- Sport Branch and colleagues from PAVCO will continue to work with Soccer Canada, FIFA and the City of Vancouver to identify projected event costs.

### Contact:

Sandra Carroll  
Deputy Minister  
250 952-0103

Tessa Graham  
Executive Lead  
778 698-3309

## Meadows, Jennifer L TAC:EX

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**From:** Newhook, Kelly TAC:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2018 9:52 AM  
**To:** Carroll, Sandra TAC:EX  
**Subject:** Fwd: Please have Ministry review ASAP  
**Attachments:** 2018.03.14 QP Note FIFA Bid - UPDATED.docx; ATT00001.htm

Please review.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX" <[Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Date:** March 14, 2018 at 9:43:01 AM PDT  
**To:** "Newhook, Kelly TAC:EX" <[Kelly.Newhook@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kelly.Newhook@gov.bc.ca)>, "Infante, James TAC:EX" <[James.Infante@gov.bc.ca](mailto:James.Infante@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Please have Ministry review ASAP

Can you take a look over this and run it by DM for accuracy?

Aileen Machell  
Issues Manager  
778.584.0257

# FIFA Bid

## Highlights:

- Richmond-Queensborough MLA Jas Johal asked Minister Beare about the status of the PavCo submission to the FIFA World Cup 2026 United Bid Committee.
- The initial draft submission to the United Bid Committee on March 8 which included a letter with conditions, was rejected by the Bid Committee.
- A second unsigned submission was provided to the United Bid Committee on March 13, but was rejected by the bid committee.

## Main Message:

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

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## Background:

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- January 30, 2018, Vancouver City Council unanimously supported the motion to move forward as a potential host in the United Bid, which features a coordinated bid submission for the 2026 FIFA World Cup by cities from Canada, the USA and Mexico.
- The United Bid timeline is considered an “expedited process” meaning that timelines are very tight and give very little time for due diligence on behalf of the federal and provincial governments. The “expedited process” was initiated at the request of the United Bid proponent (i.e. Soccer Canada.)
- Key dates in the expedited process include:
  - March 16, 2018 – United Bid Committee to submit bid to host FIFA;
  - June 13, 2018 FIFA to announce host of the 2026 World Cup, or defer the announcement and enter into a full bid process (not an expedited process.);
  - June 30, 2020 – FIFA recommends 12-16 Host Cities for the successful bid; and
  - 2021 – Confirmation of Official Host Cities by FIFA.
- Ministry staff and PAVCO are working with Soccer Canada, FIFA and the City of Vancouver to identify projected event costs, but support from the federal government and funding for the tournament have not been confirmed.

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## **Event Background**

- The National Soccer Federations of Canada, Mexico and the United States have formed a United Bid Committee (UBC) to bring the 2026 FIFA Men's World Cup to North America.
- The regional approach was adopted to accommodate the recent expansion of the tournament which now includes 48 teams (previously 32) and an 80 match schedule.
- It is anticipated that Canada will host 10 matches in two major centres (assume one of MTL/TOR and one of VAN/EDM) with the majority of competitions staged and costs incurred in the USA.
- Morocco is the only other country bidding on the 2026 event.
- The formal bid deadline to be submitted to FIFA is March 16, 2018 with a final decision on acceptance of the United Bid Committee's proposal expected at the FIFA Congress in June.
- The final selection of host cities and stadia will take place in 2020-2021.
- The three nations have hosted 13 FIFA World Cups combined (men, women and youth), which is more than any other trio of geographically-connected nations. Canada hosted the FIFA Women's World Cup Canada 2015, which attracted over 1.35 million spectators and more than 20 million Canadian television viewers.