

Athletes' Village Reaching for the Top

Province On Track to Deliver Legacy Community in Toronto's West Don Lands

NEWS

December 6, 2013

Ontario is marking a significant milestone in both the construction of the CIBC Pan Am / Parapan Am Games Athletes' Village and the province's long-term investment in the revitalization of the West Don Lands with a topping off ceremony today.

Creating and supporting 5,200 jobs, construction of the Village is on time, on budget and more than 70 per cent complete. A ceremonial beam is being signed by dignitaries and hoisted to the highest point of the Village's structures, signalling the completion of the frames. The cranes will now be removed from the site with the last 30 per cent of construction consisting of finishing the interior and landscaping. The new community will leave a legacy in Ontario long after the 2015 Pan Am and Parapan Am Games have ended by:

- Delivering affordable housing units for more than 300 Ontario families, who will begin moving into the community in spring 2016.
- Providing recreational facilities and programs for 8,000 people at an 82,000 square foot YMCA.
- Offering housing for 500 students at George Brown College's first-ever student residence.

Investing in the Athletes' Village is part of Ontario's plan to build modern infrastructure, one of the three pillars of the government's economic plan to invest in people and support a dynamic and innovative business climate.

QUOTES

"The Athletes' Village will be a cornerstone of a thriving new community in downtown Toronto that will provide a lasting legacy for the people of the province. Achieving this important milestone within two years of officially breaking ground is a clear indication that this new community will be ready to welcome the Games family for the summer of 2015 and then hundreds of Ontario families for generations to come."

— Michael Chan, Minister Responsible for the Pan/Parapan American Games

"Well after the Pan Am and Parapan Am Games have wrapped up, the Athletes' Village will remain a profound legacy of safe and affordable housing for more than 300 families. Access to affordable housing opens the door to a better future for our most vulnerable residents, and that leads to better health and improved education."

— Linda Jeffrey, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

“The Games will bring a legacy of infrastructure benefits for Ontario. Modern, iconic and reliable infrastructure drives our economy, creates jobs and enhances our quality of life. The investments in infrastructure our government has made at the Village will benefit Ontario long after the Games.”

— Glen Murray, Minister of Infrastructure

QUICK FACTS

- The Athletes’ Village is the cornerstone of the planned West Don Lands project, which will revitalize a long unused part of downtown Toronto. Hosting the Games accelerated the project by up to 15 years.
- The Village will include one-, two-, three- and four-bedroom units, addressing the need for mixed-use affordable housing within the City of Toronto.
- As host jurisdiction, Ontario invested an additional \$709 million to build the Village. Both the 2009 Bid Book and the 2013 Ontario Budget indicated the Village was a separate investment by the province. Games-time use of the Village will only be a short time and then Ontarians will call it home for generations.
- The new community will be fully accessible and is being built to LEED Gold environmental standards. The project has been recognized with awards, including the [Canadian Urban Institute’s Brownie Award for Best Overall Project](#).
- The Games will showcase Ontario as a premier sporting destination, attracting 10,000 athletes and officials, 250,000 visitors, create 26,000 jobs and generate \$3.7 billion for Ontario’s GDP.

LEARN MORE

[Learn about Affordable Housing in the Village](#)

Read what people are saying about the Athletes’ Village [\[insert link to Quotes Backgrounder\]](#)

[Read about the 2015 Pan Am and Parapan Am Games](#)

What People Are Saying About the Athletes' Village

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“The CIBC Pan Am/Parapan Am Athletes' Village is an amazing project for the City of Toronto and the revitalization of its waterfront. Our athletes will be just the first tenants in this new 14-hectare development, which is coming together at an amazing speed thanks to the leadership of the Province of Ontario, Infrastructure Ontario and Waterfront Toronto. Long after the Games are over, the city's newest neighbourhood will pulse with life.”

— David Peterson, Chair, TORONTO 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games Organizing Committee (TO2015)

“As we get closer to the Games, it is great to see the progress and all the work put into this important infrastructure that thousands of athletes, coaches and team officials will call home when we host the games in Canada. Our government is proud to support the TORONTO 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games and is pleased that the CIBC Pan Am/Parapan Am Athletes' Village will also leave a lasting housing and recreation legacy for Torontonians.”

— Bal Gosal, Minister of State (Sport)

“As the Host City of the 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games, the City of Toronto is proud to be an active partner in the realization of the Pan Am / Parapan Am Athletes' Village. This important project embodies the principles and community-building values that make Toronto such an inclusive, vibrant and dynamic city. The Pan Am Athlete's Village will leave a lasting legacy for our city and will be a community that we can proudly showcase to the tens of thousands of athletes, coaches, officials and visitors who will come to our city in 2015 and beyond.”

— Mark Grimes, Councillor, City of Toronto

“The reclaiming and repurposing of the West Don Lands is a crucial step forward for Toronto, necessary for the city's social and environmental sustainability. George Brown College is proud to play our part as a contributor to the large scale redevelopment of the neighbourhood, the future home of our first student residence. Not only will the area become a dynamic community during the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games in 2015, but the vibrancy will remain as our students make the Athletes' Village their home the following year.”

— Anne Sado, President, George Brown College

“What a privilege it is for our Y to be part of this growing, diverse community. As part of our Strong Start, Great Future campaign, the YMCA of Greater Toronto is committed to bringing a true Centre of Community to the Canary District — one where all residents have access to the programs and services they need to achieve physical, social and mental health. For 160 years, our charity has been creating safe and welcoming places where everyone has equal access in order to reach their full potential and help build healthier communities.”

— Tim Penner, Chair, YMCA of Greater Toronto

“The affordable housing components of this project will contribute significantly to Wigwamen’s goal of fostering dignity and independence among Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal families, singles and seniors. Living in a great community brings hope, empowerment and a sense of well-being and belonging that can inspire an individual or a family to thrive and contribute to the community.”

— Bill Kinoshameg, President, Wigwamen Incorporated

“I am so pleased that Fred Victor will have the opportunity to house 300 families on the Pan Am site in an affordable building with the supportive services needed to make a fresh start. The new West Don Lands community will further support our tenants with access to recreation, employment opportunities and public transportation. Our Fresh Start Capital Campaign to convert and furnish the units and program space offers an excellent opportunity to involve Fred Victor’s donors and friends in the excitement of the Pan Am Affordable Housing as well.”

— Mark Aston, Executive Director, Fred Victor

“Today’s topping off of the final buildings in the Athletes’ Village is an important milestone that demonstrates what can be achieved with strong and effective partnerships. When the athletes and officials arrive here in 2015, they will have a stunning new neighbourhood to call home for the Games, but what’s more important is the very positive legacy of this project for the city, the province and the community whose years of work have been integral to making this happen. In 2015, the Village area and the broader West Don Lands will be a vibrant, inclusive new riverside community full of activity that adds to the fabric of the city.”

— John Campbell, President, Waterfront Toronto

“The Dundee Kilmer team and its partners, Infrastructure Ontario and Waterfront Toronto, are proud to celebrate the topping off of the final building in this important new urban village. This innovation and award-winning mixed-use community, Canary District, sets a new standard for design, livability and sustainability in city living.”

— Jason Lester, President, Dundee Kilmer Developments L.P.

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