

PRESS RELEASE



For immediate release

November 27, 2018

First-Ever National MNP Canada Games Torch Relay Visits Abbotsford, BC

Roly McLenahan Torch on Journey to Red Deer

(ABBOTSFORD, BC) - Today, the first-ever national MNP Canada Games Torch Relay visited Abbotsford for a community celebration stop. Over the coming months, torch relays and community celebration stops are being held across Canada before arriving in Red Deer, Alberta for the Opening Ceremony of the 2019 Canada Winter Games on February 15, 2019.

“The MNP Canada Games Torch Relay is an exciting opportunity to share the spirit of the Canada Games across the nation,” said Lyn Radford, Board Chair of the 2019 Canada Winter Games Host Society. “We are proud to partner with MNP to deliver the first-ever national MNP Canada Games Torch Relay and celebrate sport and culture in communities across the nation from now until the Opening Ceremony of the 2019 Canada Winter Games in Red Deer.”

“For MNP, the opportunity to participate in the coast-to-coast Torch Relay is a real honour and a wonderful way for us, as a ‘Made in Canada’ firm, to celebrate our 60th anniversary,” said Jason Tuffs, Chief Executive Officer of MNP. “We wish all the athletes, their families, Games organizers, leadership and volunteers a fun and successful 2019 Canada Winter Games.”

“On behalf of the City of Abbotsford I would like to welcome the MNP Canada Games Torch Relay to the hub of the Fraser Valley,” said Mayor Henry Braun. “Our community is passionate about sport and teamwork as Abbotsford is home to world-class athletic and performance venues as well as an active and vibrant sports community. We look forward to feeling the spirit of the Canada Games in Abbotsford!”

As part of Canada Games tradition, the Roly McLenahan Torch was lit from the Centennial Flame on Parliament Hill with the Honourable Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science and Sport, on October 4, 2018. From Ottawa, the torch journeys across Canada, visiting almost 50 communities along the way, for the first time in the 51 year history of the Canada Games.

Information on the torchbearers participating in the MNP Canada Games Torch Relay is available at canadagames.ca/2019/torchbearers.

For the complete MNP Canada Games Torch Relay schedule, please visit www.canadagames.ca/2019/mnptorchrelay.

About the 2019 Canada Winter Games: From February 15 until March 3, 2019, the eyes of the nation are on Red Deer, Alberta as we host the 2019 Canada Winter Games - the largest multi-sport and cultural event for youth in Canada and the largest event to be hosted in Red Deer's history. Featuring over 150 events in 19 sports and a major arts and cultural festival, the 2019 Canada Winter Games welcomes up to 3,600 athletes, managers and coaches and more than 100,000 spectators, with a significant forecasted economic impact. The 27th edition of the Canada Games, the 2019 Games is set to provide a stage for Canada's next generation of national, international and Olympic champions to compete and leaves a legacy for athletic and leadership greatness in Red Deer and central Alberta. This is our moment.

For more information on the 2019 Games, please visit: canadagames.ca/2019
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About MNP LLP: MNP is one of the largest national accounting and consulting firms in Canada, providing client-focused accounting, taxation and consulting advice. National in scope and local in focus, MNP has proudly served individuals and public and private companies for 60 years. Through the development of strong relationships, MNP provides personalized strategies and a local perspective to help them succeed.

For more information on MNP, visit www.mnp.ca.

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Q & A BACKGROUNDER



MNP Canada Games Torch Relay

Q: What is the MNP Canada Games Torch Relay?

A: For the first time in the history of the Canada Games, the MNP Canada Games Torch Relay travels from coast-to-coast across the nation. The MNP Canada Games Torch Relay visits almost 50 communities across Canada through a series of celebrations and torch relay stops, with 10 to 15 torchbearers in each torch relay community carrying the torch. Torchbearers across the 26 torch relay stops are selected following a nomination process that opened on May 15, 2018.

Q: What is the Canada Games Torch?

A: The [Roly McLenahan Canada Games Torch](#) is used to commence each Canada Games Torch Relay and must be used to ignite the official Games flame during the Opening Ceremony of each Canada Games.

Q: When does the MNP Canada Games Torch Relay start?

A: The relay officially starts in Ottawa from the Centennial Flame on Parliament Hill on October 4, 2018, and visits almost 50 communities across Canada before arriving in Red Deer for the Opening Ceremony of the 2019 Games on February 15, 2019.

Q: What communities is the MNP Canada Games Torch Relay visiting?

A: In total, 48 communities are visited through the MNP Canada Games Torch Relay, with 26 torch relay stops and 22 celebration stops being hosted across Canada. The list of communities is available below:

Torch Relay Stops

- Ottawa, ON - October 4, 2018
- Halifax, NS* - October 9, 2018
- Montreal, QC - October 11, 2018
- Niagara Region, ON - October 20, 2018
- London, ON* - October 22, 2018
- Thunder Bay, ON* - October 25, 2018
- Winnipeg, MB* - November 1, 2018
- Regina, SK* - November 6, 2018
- Saskatoon, SK* - November 10, 2018
- Victoria, BC - November 21, 2018
- Kelowna, BC - November 30, 2018
- Prince George, BC* - December 8, 2018
- Grande Prairie, AB* - January 5, 2019

Celebration Stops

- Markham, ON - October 12, 2018
- Toronto, ON - October 12, 2018
- Kenora, ON - October 30, 2018
- Portage la Prairie, MB - November 2, 2018
- Brandon, MB* - November 2, 2018
- Humboldt, SK - November 7, 2018
- Prince Albert, SK - November 8, 2018
- Surrey, BC - November 23, 2018
- Abbotsford, BC - November 27, 2018
- Chilliwack, BC - November 27, 2018
- Vernon, BC - December 4, 2018
- Kamloops, BC* - December 5, 2018
- Drumheller, AB - January 11, 2019
- Taber, AB - January 15, 2019

- Edmonton, AB - January 8, 2019
- Lloydminster, AB - January 9, 2019
- Medicine Hat, AB - January 12, 2019
- Lethbridge, AB - January 16, 2019
- Calgary, AB - January 18, 2019
- Rimbey, AB - January 23, 2019
- Leduc, AB - January 25, 2019
- Blackfalds, AB - January 29, 2019
- Olds, AB - January 31, 2019
- Lacombe, AB - February 2, 2019
- Sylvan Lake, AB - February 5, 2019
- Ponoka, AB - February 7, 2019
- Red Deer, AB - February 15, 2019
- Vegreville, AB - January 9, 2019
- Stettler, AB - January 10, 2019
- Kananaskis, AB - January 21, 2019
- Airdrie, AB - January 22, 2019
- Rocky Mountain House, AB - January 24, 2019
- Wetaskiwin, AB - January 26, 2019
- Maskwacis, AB - January 26, 2019
- Innisfail, AB - January 30, 2019

*Past Canada Games locations

Q: What is the difference between a torch relay stop and a celebration stop?

A: Torch relay stops are large scale event, in which the formal torch relay occurs, followed by a community celebration. Each torch relay should be between two to five kilometers and should take between 30 to 45 minutes to complete. Celebration stops are smaller scale celebrations with the torch.

Q: How were torch relay stops and celebration stops selected?

A: The locations selected for the stops were chosen due to their past or future involvement with the Canada Games and their community’s alignment with the vision, spirit and values of the 2019 Canada Winter Games.

Q: What does a torchbearer do?

A: Each torchbearer walks a leg of the relay, which should be between 160 to 500 meters long depending on the route, carrying the Roly McLenahan Canada Games Torch. The torchbearer carries the torch for their leg of a community’s torch relay and take part in events, photo-ops and community recognition opportunities.

Q: How many torchbearers are there?

A: Communities have 10 to 15 torchbearers from their community or surrounding communities and they can be current or past residents.

Q: How were the torchbearers selected?

A: Torchbearers were selected following a nomination process that opened on May 15, 2018.



Q: Who are the torchbearers?

A: Information on the torchbearers of each community are available at canadagames.ca/2019/torchbearers. The 2019 Games announce Red Deer torchbearers starting in January 2019.

Q: Where can I learn more about the MNP Canada Games Torch Relay?

A: For the most current information regarding the MNP Canada Games Torch Relay, please visit canadagames.ca/2019/mnptorchrelay.

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