



For Immediate Release
Wednesday, May 9, 2018

CITY RECEIVES PROVINCIAL GRANT FOR CANOE POLO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The International Canoe Federation Canoe Polo World Championships will be a grand event this competition season at the Welland International Flatwater Centre (WIFC), due to financial assistance from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport Event Hosting Program. The city is receiving \$125,000 from the provincial government to help with administration, logistics, and execution of the most significant international flat-water competition taking place on the recreational waterway in 2018.

This year's ICF Canoe Polo World Championships will bring 26 countries to Welland. There are 59 teams registered to compete, which will ultimately attract 550 athletes, coaches, and team support members to the city July 31 to August 5, 2018. Significant international events hosted at the WIFC help stimulate economic growth, attract new visitors, and shape the legacy of Welland. The Canoe Polo World Championships is the fifth major international flat-water sports event to be hosted in Welland since 2012.

“Hosting elite competitions such as these definitely puts Welland in the spotlight, and also assists with gaining attention from other organizations,” said Richard Dalton, Manager of Recreation and Culture. “It’s our commitment to securing international events such as the Canoe Polo World Championships that provide the competitive advantage over other venues. This strong reputation has been a key factor in being selected as partner host of the 2021 Canada Summer Games.”

The Welland International Flatwater Centre is a state-of-the-art facility that brings numerous events to the north and south course every competition season. The WIFC is a legacy built from the Toronto 2015 Pan American Games and created to grow a culture of sport that engages regional, provincial, national, and international competition. The WIFC offers athletes a well-equipped venue to compete and train at, while also building a dedicated community of volunteers to enhance spirit and involvement in flat-water sports.

-30-

Contact:

Richard Dalton
Manager, Recreation & Culture
905 735-1700 Ext. 4007
richard.dalton@welland.ca