



WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS TORONTO 2020 CHAMPIONSHIPS ANNOUNCES FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO AND CITY OF TORONTO

Funding agreements with WMATO2020 will go towards supporting the Championship event and cultural programming that promotes the beauty and diversity of Canadian culture both locally and provincially.

Toronto, ON – March 5, 2020 — Toronto Athletics Event Management Inc. (TAEM), the not-for-profit corporation managing the World Masters Athletics Toronto 2020 (WMATO2020), today announced a funding agreement with the Government of Ontario through the Celebrate Ontario Blockbuster program. TAEM Inc. also announces a significant event investment from the City of Toronto in support of this summer’s Championships. This \$250,000 provincial investment, and equally matched City of Toronto investment, will go towards supporting 13 days of interactive sport and cultural programming taking place prior and throughout the WMATO2020 Championships which will run from July 20 – August 1, 2020.

In celebration of sport, culture and Ontario’s incredible diversity, the Government of Ontario and City of Toronto will provide financial support to executing the WMATO2020 Championships event and showcasing Ontario’s rich culture during the Opening and Closing Ceremony. In addition to this, Government of Ontario funding will support the WMATO2020 Canada Welcomes Program which will display the beauty and diversity of the City’s many vibrant cultural groups and organizations including Ontario’s rich Indigenous community, to the athletes and visitors of WMATO2020.

The Canada Welcomes Program will also include a three-day Festival featuring cultural and sport engagement for WMA athletes, their families and residents of the greater Toronto area. The Festival will take place at the University of Toronto from July 24 – 26, 2020, and funding provided by the Government of Ontario will go towards various initiatives including support for the Canada Welcomes Pavilion, cultural programming, performers and entertainment.

“Ontario is open for business and open for athletes. I am proud to welcome fans, coaches and athletes from around the world to Toronto for the World Masters Athletics Toronto 2020 Championships,” said Minister MacLeod. “Ontario offers the world in one province, and with support from our government, this incredible, world-class event – created right here in our province – is coming home to Toronto. This will be a great opportunity to watch athletes from over 70 countries compete, while showcasing the heritage and culture that make Ontario special.”

The support of the Government of Ontario and the City of Toronto will help to continue and to build upon the welcoming and inclusive sports legacy of the City and Province.

“We would like to thank the provincial government and the municipal government for their significant support of WMATO2020,” said John Craig, President and CEO of TAEM and WMATO2020. This

funding is integral to ensuring this year's Championships will effectively showcase Ontario's vibrant ethnic communities to the athletes and patrons of WMATO2020 from across the province and around the globe. I am pleased our government continues to work toward enhancing Toronto and Ontario's exceptional reputation as a welcoming and world-class, culturally diverse host."

WMATO2020 is expected to be one of the largest masters events for the sport of athletics in history, drawing more than 8,000 athletes from over 70 countries. WMATO2020's 13-day program will feature both competition and special events designed to inspire and engage the local and global athletics community with the courageous message that regardless of age or ability, there are NO LIMITS to reaching higher and achieving more.

WMATO2020 Quick facts:

- The WMA Championships have been held by 18 different nations and 23 cities world-wide since its inception in Toronto in 1975.
- The WMA Toronto 2020 will celebrate the 45th anniversary of the Games.
- The Championships are held every two years and the success of the event has motivated an expansion of the program to now include seven Indoor Championships (in alternating years).
- The WMA Championships are recognized by World Athletics (Formerly called the International Association of Athletics Federations or IAAF), as the pinnacle event for masters aged competitors.
- Competition venues will be located at: York University, Terry Fox Stadium in Brampton, and University of Toronto St. George campus.

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