



Media Release

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Celebrating Manitoba's Olympic Spirit

The Province of Manitoba and Sport Manitoba are proud to bring the spirit of the Games to communities across Manitoba.

Winnipeg, MB – Manitobans are being offered a variety of ways to celebrate their Olympic spirit. In addition to the Olympic Torch Relay, the Province of Manitoba and Sport Manitoba are proud to announce that Manitoba is hosting pre-Olympic events in both curling and hockey.

“We look forward to hosting Olympic athletes from Switzerland and Belarus as they practice and compete in preparation for the Games in Vancouver,” said Eric Robinson, Minister responsible for Sport. “This will give Manitobans a chance to watch international, Olympic-calibre hockey and curling without leaving the province.”

“The dream of every amateur athlete is to represent their country at an Olympic Games,” said President and CEO of Sport Manitoba Jeff Hnatiuk. “Hosting these pre-Olympic events are a way for us to inspire Manitobans to reach for their dreams. We hope Manitobans will seize the opportunity to watch and celebrate their Olympic spirit.”

Starting with the BDO Men's Curling Classic at the MTS Centre from January 20 – 24th, junior curlers are being offered the opportunity to meet and learn from the World's best curlers, just weeks before watching them compete in Vancouver.

With Manitobans Chris and Lorne Hamblin named Co-Coaches of the Swiss National Curling team, curling fans will be thrilled to hear that the Swiss Men's and Women's curling teams will be training in Morris from February 4 – 11, 2010.

Manitoba will also be hosting the Swiss Men's National Hockey Team in Winnipeg from February 7 – 12. Coached by Manitoban Ralph Krueger of Steinbach, Switzerland will play two exhibition games against Belarus at the MTS Centre on February 9th and 11th as both teams play their final preparation games before the Olympics.

The Swiss connection to Manitoba continues with Women's Hockey, as the Swiss Women's team will also be based in Winnipeg from February 1 – 9. The Swiss women will play exhibition games against Balmoral Hall on February 5th at the Dakota Community Centre and against the University of Manitoba Bisons on Feb 8th at the Max Bell Centre.

Tickets for the BDO Men's Curling Classic and the Men's hockey games will be available through Ticketmaster, while tickets for the women's hockey games can be purchased at the door.

Sport Manitoba is a not for profit organization and the lead planning, programming and funding agency for the development of amateur sport in Manitoba. Sport Manitoba partners with over 100 organizations to deliver sport in our province and is responsible for programs including the Power Smart Manitoba Games, Coaching Manitoba, Team Manitoba, Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame and Museum and KidSport.

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