

**From:** "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>  
**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL" <CCDTMACDL@vancouver.ca>  
**Date:** 8/14/2017 2:42:21 PM  
**Subject:** FIFA 2026 - Host City Candidate Announcement

Dear Mayor and Council

Please see the below information from Michelle Collens, Senior Manager, Sport Hosting Vancouver, regarding the 2026 FIFA World Cup Host City candidate announcement:

The FIFA World Cup is the biggest single-event sporting competition in the world. It takes place every four years and is the most widely viewed and followed sporting event in the world, exceeding even the Olympic Games.

On **Tuesday August 15**, the United Bid Committee to host the 2026 FIFA World Cup will be issuing a media advisory related to the Host City Candidate process which is currently underway.

The advisory will include a summary of all cities throughout Canada, Mexico and the US which have been invited to participate in the Request for Information (RFI) process.

The City of Vancouver, along with eight other Canadian cities including: Calgary, Edmonton, Hamilton, Montreal, Ottawa, Regina, Toronto and Winnipeg; have been invited to submit a response that will help the United Bid Committee to gain a detailed understanding of each candidate city.

The Request for Information issued by the United Bid Committee includes details on potential host stadiums, training sites, accommodation options and current local sustainable event management practices. No financials or budgets are being provided at this time.

Led by our Sport Hosting team, the City of Vancouver will submit its response in early September meeting the deadline set by the United Bid Committee. Canada Soccer has led conversations with the Federal Government and Sport Canada throughout the process and we are and will continue to engage our partners at the Provincial Government.

#### Next Steps Overview:

- Respond to RFI (early September 2017)
- Host Cities Candidates will be shortlisted (end of September 2017)
- Planned Host City Candidate Workshop (October 2017)
- Signed Host City Agreements returned (January 9, 2018)
- United Bid Committee to formally submit bid to host 2026 FIFA World Cup (March 16, 2018)
- FIFA announces decision at FIFA Congress (June 13, 2018)

#### BACKGROUND

##### **ABOUT THE FIFA World Cup™**

- The FIFA World Cup is the biggest single- event sporting competition in the world and it takes place every four years – it is the most widely viewed and followed sporting event in the world, exceeding even the Olympic Games
- Overall attendance at the Brazil 2014 edition was over 3.4 million (avg match attendance – 53,592)
- 2026 will be the first edition of the World Cup with the expanded 48-team format (currently a 32 team tournament)
- Morocco has confirmed their intention to compete against the North American UNITED bid for the right to host in 2026
- Decision to determine 2026 host will take place on 13 June 2018 at the FIFA Congress

##### **ABOUT UNITED 2026 BID**

- The National Federations of Canada, Mexico and the United States have officially formed a United Bid Committee to kick off the bidding process to bring the 2026 FIFA World Cup to North America
- Uniquely suited to handle the expanded format of a 48-team tournament, this unprecedented joint bid will be best positioned to unite the world in celebrating the biggest sporting event on the planet
- If successful, it would be the first time a World Cup was co-hosted by multiple countries since the 2002 tournament in South Korea and Japan
- Infrastructure makes joint bid by USA, Mexico and Canada the favorite

If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Collens, Senior Manager, Sport Hosting Vancouver at [michelle.collens@vancouver.ca](mailto:michelle.collens@vancouver.ca) or 604.871.6491

Best,  
Sadhu

**Sadhu Aufochs Johnston** | City Manager  
City of Vancouver | 453 W 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver | BC V5Y 1V4  
604.873.7627 | [Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca)  
Twitter: sadhuajohnston

