



INTERNATIONAL
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COMMITTEE

Historical Archives
Olympic Studies Centre

XV Olympic Winter Games, Calgary, 1988

Fonds list

Overview of the content of the Archives concerning the preparation, organisation and running of the Games.



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Calgary 1988 – XV Olympic Winter Games

Reference: CH CIO-AH C-J02-1988

Dates: 1981-2002

Level of description: Fonds

Extent and medium: 5 lm. Text documents

Name of creator

International Olympic Committee (IOC)

Administrative / Biographical history

Candidate cities

On 30 September 1981, at the 82nd IOC Session in Baden-Baden (Germany), the city of Calgary (Canada) was selected to host the XV Olympic Winter Games, beating Cortina d'Ampezzo (Italy) and Falun (Sweden). Calgary was elected in the second round, with 48 votes to Falun's 31, Cortina d'Ampezzo having been eliminated in the first round¹.

Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (OCOG)²

The Organising Committee for the XV Olympic Winter Games was created in April 1982. The OCOG's acronym was a deliberate mix of French and English, to highlight Canada's bilingualism: "Olympiques Calgary Olympics '88" (OCO'88).

The first OCOG President was David Leighton, who remained in the post until January 1983. He was replaced in May 1983 by Bill Pratt.

Dates and number of athletes

The XV Olympic Winter Games were held from 13 to 28 February 1988. Because of the growing number of events, for the first time the Games were held over 16 days rather than the 12 days originally planned.

In all, 1,423 athletes, 1,122 of them men and 301 women, from 57 different countries (NOCs), competed in six sports and 46 events at the Winter Games in Calgary³.

For more information on the history of the 1988 Winter Games in Calgary, go to the page devoted to these Games on the IOC web site.

Immediate source of acquisition or transfer

The fonds was received by the IOC Historical Archives in 1993, following the construction of the new Olympic Museum in Ouchy.

Scope and content

Generally speaking, the fonds covers the IOC activities linked to the preparation, organisation and running of the 1988 Games in Calgary, and in particular its relations with the OCOG. The topics covered are varied, and the correspondence provides information about the accreditation system, the official film, the media, the ceremonies and the Olympic Village. More specifically, the fonds addresses the subjects below in more detail.

The relations between the IOC and the OCOG form an important part of the fonds. The correspondence mainly concerns all the subjects requiring IOC approval, such as the ceremony programmes, the sports at the Games, the mascots, etc. In addition to correspondence, the fonds contains the OCOG's founding document and its statutes, the speeches given at IOC Sessions, the reports given at IOC meetings and the minutes of the coordination meetings between the OCOG and the IOC. The fonds also contains an inventory of the OCOG archives kept in Calgary.

¹ Source: IOC Historical Archives / Sessions – 82nd Session in Baden-Baden – Minutes - 1981

² Source: *Official Report on the XV Olympic Winter Games*, pp. 53-75

³ Source: www.olympic.org



Marketing is the subject on which there is the most material in the fonds on the 1988 Winter Games in Calgary. This subject is divided into several sections by partner categories. The first category is represented by the members of the IOC's worldwide marketing programme (the TOP programme). This was created in 1985 with the aim of achieving a more diversified revenue base for the Olympic Games. The TOP companies enjoy exclusive global marketing rights within their product category, and sign up for a minimum of four years. The Olympic Games in 1988 (Calgary and Seoul) were the first to have this programme in place, with nine partners: 3M, Brother, Coca-Cola, Federal Express, Kodak, Matsushita, Philips, Time and Visa.

In addition to the TOP programme, the OCOG had its own national partner programmes, ranked according to the size of the contribution: official sponsors, official suppliers and official licensees. The fonds contains information on these three partner categories, with a considerable amount of information on "Team Petroleum '88", a programme created jointly by the Canadian Olympic Association and OCO'88 to involve the petroleum industry companies with offices in Calgary. This programme raised 4.8 million dollars for OCO'88⁴.

The fonds contains similar types of documents for all the marketing-related subjects: contracts (originals or copies), fact sheets and press releases, and correspondence, mainly on the subject of contracts.

The competition venues and sports facilities are covered in the Calgary 1988 Games fonds mainly in the form of correspondence. But there are also contracts, route maps, general venue presentations and building progress reports. Environmental issues are well covered, including the numerous protests which followed the decision to modify the Alpine skiing venue originally planned. The idea had been to use Mount Sparrowhawk and Mount Shark, 152km west of Calgary in the Spray Lakes valley. The decision to create Nakiska at Mount Allan was taken 14 months after Calgary was chosen to host the XV Olympic Winter Games. The main advantage of this decision was that Mount Allan, being closer to Calgary, and the existing roads and facilities, offered better recreational skiing opportunities after the Games. In addition, for the first time in the history of the Olympic Winter Games, all the Alpine skiing events could be held in the same place. Protests and various petitions highlighted the environmental impact, given that Nakiska was in Banff National Park, home to one of the biggest groups of North American bighorn sheep, an endangered species⁵.

The Calgary 1988 fonds also holds information on medical issues and doping, including the biomechanical studies led by the IOC Medical Commission with the aim of protecting the athletes' health, improving training techniques and creating an archive film database for general consultation. The fonds contains correspondence on this subject, as well as the final reports of the study for the various sports filmed.

The subject of doping is covered through correspondence, lists of prohibited and authorised substances and the final report by the accredited testing laboratory.

With a total of 46,993 meals served⁶ in the various Olympic villages during the Games, catering services planning occupied a sizeable part of the general organisation. The Calgary 1988 fonds reflects this, with estimates of the daily quantities of food necessary for the proper functioning of the restaurants for the athletes, media and general public.

With regard to the sports programme, the correspondence addresses the demonstration sports (curling, freestyle skiing and short-track speed skating), and in particular the demonstration events for disabled athletes organised during the Games (5km cross-country skiing and giant slalom). These were organised in Calgary thanks to cooperation between the IOC and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC).

The fonds also covers the Olympic Arts Festival, which presented all the facets of art in Canada. The rich programme ranged from classical to contemporary music, plus dance, theatre, cinema and the literary arts. The Olympic Arts Festival was the longest and most exhaustive cultural programme in the history of the Olympic Winter Games⁷. The fonds records this diversity through correspondence, press

⁴ Source: *Official Report on the XV Olympic Winter Games*, pp. 325-332

⁵ Source: *Ibid.*, pp. 128-143

⁶ Source: *Ibid.*, p. 379

⁷ Source: *Ibid.*, pp. 272-289



releases, brochures and invitations. It also contains contracts between the OCOG and the various sponsors supporting the Festival.

In addition to the subjects listed above, the fonds includes other types of documents, including press articles, press releases, contracts (original Host City Contract), children's drawings, speeches (ceremonies), forms, invitations (official invitations to NOCs), financial plans, information files, publications and official journals.

Accruals

No

Conditions governing access

The documents are freely accessible subject to the IOC's access rules.

Language/scripts of material

The documents are mainly in English and French.

Bibliography

XV Olympic Winter Games: official report, Organising Committee for the XV Olympic Winter Games

IOC web site, page on the Calgary 1988 Olympic Winter Games.

Additional sources

Internal sources

- Candidate cities: C-J05-1988

External sources

- Library and Archives Canada
- The City of Calgary Archives
- McGill University. McLennan Library Canadian Olympic Collection
- University of Calgary Libraries Archives and Special Collections

Notes

The content of this fonds, including the Olympic identifications, is the property of the IOC.

Rules or conventions

Description complies with ISAD(G).

Date(s) of descriptions

February 2011