



225 rue Metcalfe Street, Suite 310
Ottawa, ON, K2P 1P9
Phone | Téléphone : 613-569-4333
Fax | Télécopieur : 613-569-2777
paralympic.ca | paralympique.ca

To: Members of Toronto City Council, City of Toronto
RE: Back Campus Playing Fields at the University of Toronto

TE24.83.22
Submitted by
Councillor Mark Grimes
June 7, 2013

Dear City Councillors,

We wish to extend a warm greeting on behalf of the Canadian Paralympic Committee (CPC).

The CPC is responsible for creating an optimal environment for high-performance Canadian Paralympic athletes to compete and win in the Paralympic and Parapan American Games, and by promoting their success, to inspire all Canadians with a disability to get involved in sport.

We are looking forward with great anticipation to the Toronto 2015 Parapan American Games to be held from August 7 to 14, 2015.

It has been brought to our attention that Councillors are to vote on designating the Back Campus Playing Fields at the University of Toronto as a cultural heritage landscape – a move which would prohibit its improvement with synthetic turf and **disqualify it from being a venue for the TO2015 Games.**

We respectfully urge all Councillors to vote **against** this motion. Why? The reasons include:

- **Opportunity:** World-class venues are important for Canadian athletes as well as the host community. Hosting international events sparks athletic participation and inspires a generation! The U of T has this opportunity at its doorstep.
- **Accessibility:** The upgrading of the fields will enable people with a disability to take part in sport and physical activities in a safe and welcoming environment. Soccer players with cerebral palsy (7-a-side) or a visual impairment (5-a-side) cannot play on fields in the current state of disrepair.
- **Legacy:** Long after the Games are over, the new fields will significantly enhance sport and physical activity at the U of T and within the downtown area. The site will serve as a training, development and competition venue for years to come, for athletes at all levels.

Please feel free to contact us for additional background on this issue. Thank you for your support of Canada's athletes – from playground to podium.

Yours in sport,

Karen O'Neill
CEO, Canadian Paralympic Committee

Dr. Gaétan Tardif
President, Canadian Paralympic Committee
Professor of Medicine and Director, Division of Physiatry, University of Toronto
Resident of Ward 26 – Don Valley West



Canadian
Heritage
Sport Canada

Patrimoine
canadien

