

REPORT FOR ACTION

Update on Hosting FIFA World Cup 2026

Date: May 30, 2025
To: The Board of Governors of Exhibition Place
From: Don Boyle, Chief Executive Officer
Wards: All Wards

SUMMARY

In 2018, Canada, the United States, and Mexico were awarded the 2026 World Cup. The World Cup is the largest single sports event held in the world, rivalling the Summer Olympics as the largest overall. It is held every four years over a period of six weeks. In 2026, the World Cup will be expanded to 48 countries and 104 matches from the current 36 countries, playing 64 games. There will be six matches held at BMO Field.

The event is the world's most watched sporting occasion, attracting a global viewership of four billion people throughout the competition and over 200 million for each match. Overseen by the International Federation of Football Association (FIFA), the World Cup provides significant economic and cultural benefits to host cities. On June 16, 2022, it was announced that the City of Toronto would serve as an official Host City.

As directed by the City Council in 2022, the FIFA World Cup Toronto 2026 Staff Secretariat was established to support the planning, preparation, and execution of the event.

The Executive Director and Project Manager from the City Secretariat Office, along with a representative from Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment (MLSE), will attend the Board meeting on June 13, 2025, to provide an update on the planning to Board members.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Chief Executive Officer recommends that:

1. The Board receive this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

DECISION HISTORY

The Exhibition Place 2022-2026 Strategic Plan aims to solidify our position as a leading Convention and Event Space. Specifically, we will engage with city partners to identify new ideas and opportunities to enhance the event experience.

At its meeting of July 19, 2022, City Council adopted Hosting FIFA World Cup 2026, which directed staff to enter into negotiations on funding agreements and stadium construction and to collaborate with other City Divisions on implementing the World Cup strategy and report back on community benefit opportunities, budget impacts, intergovernmental negotiations, financial strategy, community engagement and activation of the Secretariat and working groups, community benefits opportunities, and intergovernmental negotiations.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.EX34.8>

At its meeting of April 25, 2024, the Board of Governors of Exhibition Place received an information report from the Chief Executive Officer of Exhibition Place and an update planning presentation on the FIFA World Cup 2026 preparations by the Executive Director and Project Manager of the FIFA World Cup Toronto 2026 Staff Secretariat.

[Agenda Item History - 2024.EP9.11](#)

COMMENTS

The development and delivery of the 2026 World Cup requirements depend on the cooperation, coordination, and communication among various partners and stakeholders, including Exhibition Place, our tenants (particularly MLSE), clients, and the surrounding community. Advancing critical planning and infrastructure deliverables will require the involvement and contribution of both the City and Exhibition Place.

The Executive Director and Project Manager from the Secretariat, along with representatives from MLSE, will attend the Board meeting on June 13, 2025, to update the Board Members on the planning.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Don Boyle
Chief Executive Officer

ATTACHMENTS

Presentation - Hosting FIFA World Cup 2026