

FIFA World Cup 26™ Toronto Community Activation Toolkit

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FIFA World Cup 26™ Toronto

Community Activation Toolkit

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1. A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When the FIFA World Cup 26™ comes to Toronto, our city will come alive like never before. Streets, parks, and public spaces will buzz with energy as fans from around the globe come together to celebrate the world's biggest sporting event – and the beautiful game that unites us all. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for Toronto to step into the global spotlight and showcase the vibrancy, diversity and cultural richness that defines us.

Local businesses and community groups have an important role to play in making the celebrations unforgettable. I invite you to harness your creativity and community pride to be part of this historic moment for Toronto. Whether you host a neighbourhood watch party, create a soccer-themed art installation or plan a cultural event, your ideas can bring the tournament's spirit into every corner of the city.

To help you get started, we've created this toolkit with tips, resources and brand guidelines so you can plan your event with confidence. It will be updated as new information becomes available.

So gather your teams, rally your community and dream big. Let's turn Toronto into a city-wide celebration that reflects our pride, passion and global spirit. This is more than a game – it's our chance to welcome the world and create a legacy that will last long after the final whistle.

Let's show why Toronto is truly "The World in a City."

Sincerely,

Sharon Bollenbach Executive Director

FIFA World Cup 26™ Toronto Secretariat

City of Toronto







2. INTRODUCTION TO THIS GUIDE

This is the first edition of the Toronto FIFA World Cup 26[™] Community Activation Toolkit. It has been developed to support businesses, organizations and residents in understanding how to safely and creatively engage with the tournament, while respecting FIFA's brand protection guidelines.

As planning continues and more details about FIFA World Cup 26™ become available, **updated editions of this toolkit will be released** to reflect new information, expanded opportunities and additional guidance.

We encourage you to check back regularly and stay connected. Visit the **City of Toronto's FIFA World Cup 26**™ for the latest tools, resources and updates.

What You'll Find in this Toolkit

SECTION	CONTENTS	
Why & How to Get involved	The importance of community participation and how to get started.	
About the FIFA World Cup 26™	Key match dates, Toronto's hosting role, and FIFA Fan Festival™ highlights	
FIFA Brand Usage & Engagement Guidelines	What you can and can't do when referencing FIFA or the tournament	
Hosting Public Viewing Events	Hosting and how to get a public viewing license	
Ideas to Inspire Your Local Celebration	Creative examples for events, programming, and engagement	
Grant Programs	Available funding and how to apply	
Key Terminology & Definitions	Key terms and definitions to help you navigate this guide	
Resources	Key links, contacts, and support information	





3. WHY & HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Businesses, organizations and communities are invited to celebrate the excitement of FIFA World Cup 26™. This is more than a tournament – it's an opportunity to showcase Toronto's unique cultural identity, creativity and community pride on the global stage.

This Community Activation Toolkit offers practical ideas and resources to help you plan how you can participate.

Who This Toolkit Supports:

- · Community leaders and organizations
- BIAs and local businesses
- Arts and culture groups
- Youth and sport organizations
- General Public/Non-Commercial Entities

Why Get Involved:

- Strengthen local pride
- Boost economic and cultural activity
- Community connection
- Employee & team engagement

How to Start:

- Familiarize yourself with the FIFA World Cup 26™ tournament (key dates, format, match schedule, etc.) and the City of Toronto's role as a Host City by carefully reading this document and bookmarking and visiting www.torontofwc26.ca, Toronto's home for all the latest FIFA World Cup™ news.
- Review FIFA's Brand Usage Guidelines and Public Viewing license information found within this guide. Learn more about FIFA's Intellectual Property Usage Guidelines here.
- Connect with your local community leaders, Councillors, and/or BIAs to find out what's happening or being planned in your area.



4. ABOUT THE FIFA WORLD CUP 26™

The world's premier international soccer competition returns in 2026, with its biggest and most inclusive edition ever as it is co-hosted across three countries and features 48 teams.

Tournament dates: June 11- July 19, 2026

Host Cities: 16 (Canada: 2; Mexico: 3; USA: 11)

Teams: 48 (Expanded from previous 32)

Competition Format

The FIFA World Cup 26™ features an expanded format with 48 teams, creating the largest FIFA World Cup™ in history. In the Group Stage, teams will be divided into 12 groups of four teams each, with each team playing three matches, one each against the other teams in their group. The top two teams from each group will automatically advance to the knockout stage, along with the eight best third-place teams, creating a Round of 32.

From there, the tournament follows a single-elimination format through the Round of 16, Quarter-finals, Semi-finals, and ultimately the Final. Teams that reach the Final will play a total of eight matches (one more than in previous tournaments).

As host nations, Canada, Mexico and the United States automatically qualify for the tournament.

This new format significantly increases the number of matches (from 64 to 104) and provides more nations with the opportunity to participate in the world's most prestigious soccer tournament.

Toronto Venues

Venue	Location	
Toronto Stadium	Located at Exhibition Place, will host six matches.	
FIFA Fan Festival™ Toronto	Fort York National Historic Site and The Bentway are the official venues for Toronto's FIFA Fan Festival™, a family-friendly destination for live match viewings, music, food, art, and more.	





Toronto's Match Schedule

Toronto will host six FIFA World Cup 26™ matches:



Additional details, including final matchups and kickoff times will be confirmed after the Final Draw in December 2025. For the full FIFA World Cup 26™ match schedule, please visit FIFA's website.





5. THE FIFA WORLD CUP 26™ TORONTO BRAND

The FIFA World Cup 26™ brand is bold, energetic, and designed to unite Host Cities under a shared global identity while celebrating what makes each city unique. In Toronto, our Host City brand is rooted in inclusivity, vibrancy, and unity.

Toronto's official slogan "The World in a City" brings that identity to life. What does that mean? Toronto is one of the most diverse cities in the world – we don't just embrace our diversity, we celebrate it. From passionate soccer fans representing nations across the globe to the rich mosaic of neighbourhoods and communities that make up our city, Toronto is truly ready to welcome the world.

We invite you to use Toronto's theme, "The World in a City" as inspiration when planning your community events and activations.

In the lead-up to and throughout the tournament, the FIFA World Cup 26™ Toronto brand will come to life across Toronto. From street banners and wayfinding signage to the FIFA Fan Festival™ and local fan experiences, you'll see bold visuals, dynamic patterns and vibrant storytelling that connect our city to the global stage – while reflecting the unique spirit of Toronto.

Whether you're exploring neighbourhoods across the city, catching a match, or soaking in the energy at the FIFA Fan Festival™, the brand will shape the atmosphere and spotlight what makes Toronto truly "The World in a City".





6. FIFA BRAND USAGE & ENGAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Toronto is proud to be a Host City for the FIFA World Cup 26™. With six matches at Toronto Stadium, on the grounds of Exhibition Place, and programming across the city, the tournament will bring unprecedented global attention and economic benefits to Toronto, including an influx of international visitors, major global media exposure, and opportunities for local engagement. These benefits are made possible in part through the support of FIFA's official Commercial Partners. The up-to-date list of Commercial Partners and licensees is available at the bottom of FIFA's website.

To protect the integrity of the tournament and the rights of FIFA's Commercial Partners, special brand usage and intellectual property (IP) guidelines will be enforced. These measures are designed to prevent unauthorized commercial activity and ensure a safe, celebratory, and coordinated visitor experience across the city.

What is FIFA Intellectual Property?

FIFA's intellectual property (IP) includes its logos, official marks (including phrases "FIFA World Cup™" or "FWC26™"), mascot, slogans, emblems, and branded designs. These assets are legally protected around the world and are critical to maintaining the integrity, value, and global identity of the FIFA World Cup™.

Who Can Use It?

FIFA's IP is reserved exclusively for FIFA rights holders and Commercial Partners. This includes:

- FIFA Partners, Affiliates, FIFA World Cup Sponsors and FIFA World Cup™ Tournament Supporters
- FIFA World Cup 26[™] Host City Supporters and Promotional Affiliates
- FIFA World Cup 26™ Host City Government Stakeholders

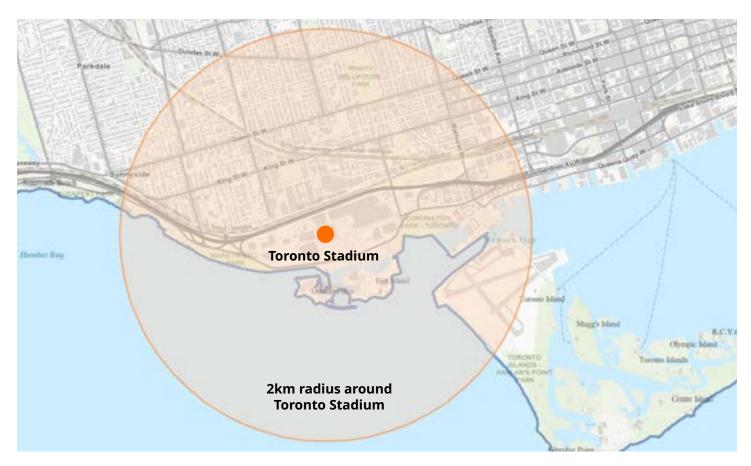
Operating Near Toronto Stadium or FIFA Fan Festival™ during FIFA World Cup 26™

During the tournament period, Toronto will transform into a hub of celebration, as fans from around the world gather in and around Toronto Stadium and the FIFA Fan Festival[™]. To ensure safe, accessible, and enjoyable experience for everyone, the City will establish a designated "Controlled Area" throughout the tournament period. As part of Toronto's Host City Agreement with FIFA, the City is committed to supporting public safety mobility and protecting the rights of FIFA World Cup[™] Commercial Partners within this area throughout the tournament period.



The "Controlled Area" includes:

- Toronto Stadium at Exhibition Place: A 2-kilometre radius on each Match Day and the day before.
- FIFA Fan Festival™ at Fort York National Historic Site and The Bentway: A 100-metre radius around the official activation site.



ACTIVITY	RESTRICTED DATES: MAY 13 – JULY 19, 2026
Unauthorized sale or promotion of FIFA goods	X Not permitted
Unauthorized use of FIFA branding, logos, mascot, slogans	X Not permitted
Signage/advertising that implies affiliation with FIFA	X Not permitted

Note: Existing business operations are allowed (e.g. existing signage, branding or storefront displays), so long as they do not imply FIFA affiliation. Simply adding terms like "unofficial" or "not affiliated" does not override these restrictions.



Use of FIFA IP: What's Protected and What's Off Limits

Only official FIFA licensees and rights holders may use protected marks for commercial purposes. Businesses and organizations must not use, display or distribute materials with tournament logos, wordmarks, mascots or other protected IP on merchandise, signage, ads, or promotions unless they are legally permitted to do so.

The below chart includes protected marks that should **never be used without authorization from FIFA**. When in doubt, speak with your legal counsel or visit the **FIFA Brand Protection Guidelines website**.

IP CATEGORY	EXAMPLES OF PROTEC	TED IP
Logos / Emblems	Official tournament logo, Toronto Host City logo, trophy symbol	TORONTO FIFA TORONTO TORONTO
Visuals	Official Host City poster, trophy, mascot, match ball, official designs	
Wordmarks / Phrases	"FIFA," "World Cup," "FIFA World Cup 26™", "FIFA World Cup 26™ Toronto"	FIFA WORLD CUP 26 € FIFA WORLD CUP™
Slogans / Mottos	"We Are 26™," "We Are Toronto™"	WE ARE 26: WE ARE TORONTO:



Activation Tips: Celebrate Responsibly!

You're encouraged to celebrate this once-in-a-generation opportunity of the FIFA World Cup 26™ being in our city! There are many exciting and creative ways to engage with and celebrate the tournament while respecting intellectual property rights.

Here are examples of compliant activities and messaging to help you plan successful and responsible activations:

ALLOWED	X AVOID
Host soccer-themed or culturally inclusive events	Calling your event "official," "sponsored by FIFA," "Fan Festival"
Decorate with generic (unbranded) soccer themes (e.g. balls, nets, fans, etc.)	Implying a formal connection to FIFA or the tournament without authorization
Use local/neighbourhood or non-FIFA city branding	Accepting money/sponsorships to promote or advertise using FIFA IP or unauthorized branding
Position your initiatives as community-driven celebrations	Using FIFA logos, the official Host City poster, mascot, trophy imagery or slogans without authorization
Offer welcome services to fans (e.g., multilingual menus, special hours)	Creating "lookalike" branding or marketing materials that mimic FIFA style or suggest affiliation
Celebrate participating nations and their cultures respectfully	Market "exclusive", "official" or "FIFA-endorsed" packages or experiences.
Share the excitement on social media using approved hashtags (e.g. #FWC26, #WeAreToronto)	Retweeting, reposting, or sharing official FIFA content for commercial use. Only FIFA and Toronto's official partners are allowed to share or repost FIFA's content for business and commercial purposes.



Examples of Approved Messaging:

"Celebrate soccer's biggest event in vibrant Toronto!"

"Experience global football excitement this summer in Toronto"

"Planning to visit Toronto for the tournament? Extend your stay and explore the city!"

Use generic soccer visuals (e.g., balls, fields, cheering fans)

Share Toronto's match schedule for information purposes only

"Visit our restaurant near Toronto Stadium during the tournament"

"Toronto's soccer community welcomes the world!"

Examples to Avoid Without Authorization

Y "Proud official sponsor of FIFA World Cup 26™"

"Watch the FIFA matches here with special FIFA offers"

"Join our FIFA Fan Fest viewing party" or "Join our FIFA viewing party"

"World Cup 26™ accommodation package"

"The closest restaurant to the FIFA World Cup 26™ stadium"

Pro Tip: When in doubt, celebrate the event in spirit - not by using protected FIFA imagery or language – and not as a commercial benefit for your business or organization.

How are these Restrictions Enforced?

City of Toronto By-Law Officers will be enforcing the City's by-laws, including illegal vending and operating without a required business license. While our approach will prioritize education and cooperation, where non-compliance with City by-laws, licences or permits is observed, the City may take enforcement measures including issuing fines, laying charges or initiating other legal proceedings. City staff may also notify affected third parties if counterfeit sales or other improper use activity is suspected.

We encourage you to be part of the celebration - cheer on the teams, welcome the world to our city, and take pride in Toronto's global moment - while keeping these important guidelines in mind.



7. HOSTING PUBLIC VIEWING EVENTS

What is a Public Viewing event?

A Public Viewing event (or watch party) is a public gathering—indoors or outdoors— centered around watching a FIFA World Cup™ match that is open to the public and not hosted at a venue where televisions are part of the normal operational function of the location.

These events may include:

- Live match viewing on large screens
- Cultural programming
- Food, games, and music
- Community activations

If your community activation is, or can be interpreted as, a "public viewing" party of FIFA World Cup 26™ matches, you must seek approval from FIFA for a public viewing licence through the **FIFA Public Viewing Platform**. There are a number of obligations to be aware of, which are managed by FIFA and their official Media Rights Licensee in Canada (which is Bell Media) and not the City of Toronto.

The FIFA Public Viewing Platform is expected to be available in Q4 2025. This platform will outline the process for requesting public viewing licenses for the FIFA World Cup 26™.





In the meantime, if you have any questions or need assistance with your public viewing license requests, contact publicviewing@fifa.org.

Public Viewing License Categories

FIFA has established three categories of public viewing with different requirements.

This table provides a simplified explanation of the FIFA Public Viewing License categories to help distinguish between non-commercial and commercial events.

CATEGORY	WHAT IT COVERS	LICENSE REQUIRED?
Non-Commercial	 Regular business operations (e.g. bars, restaurants, hotels) showing matches as part of usual service Small community events (under 1,000 people), free to attend, no sponsors 	No
Special Non-Commercial	 Larger free community events (over 1,000 people) Hosted by public institutions (e.g., universities, churches, municipalities) No sponsors, no ticket sales 	Yes (License & fee apply)
Commercial	 Events involving ticket sales, sponsorships, or commercial intent Includes paid entry, branded activations, or anything driving business revenue 	Yes (License & higher restrictions)

Key Takeaways:

- If your event is free, under 1,000 attendees, and part of regular operations, no license is needed. If you're adding sponsors, selling tickets, or expect more than 1,000 people, you need a public viewing license.
- · Regular businesses like restaurants and hotels can show matches without special licensing if



it's part of normal operations, using existing equipment, with no specific entry fees, and under 1,000 people at any one time during the course of normal business hours.

- Larger events require advance application (at least 60 days recommended) through FIFA's online portal.
- Commercial restrictions apply to all categories—no unauthorized sponsors can be associated with your public viewing event.
- Apply early at <u>publicviewing.fifa.org</u> processing times increase as the tournament approaches.
- Check local/municipal/provincial permit requirements beyond FIFA's license should your event require it.

Public Viewing Event Planning Checklist

- License: Apply at publicviewing.fifa.com
- Venue: Secure a safe, accessible space (e.g. community centre, park)
- Permits: Apply for permits (noise, park/facility/spaces, alcohol if served)
- Accessibility & Safety: Ensure event is accessible (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities
 Act or "AODA"), create plans for safety and inclement weather

Note: Street closure-based events are discouraged. Prioritize accessible parks and facilities with existing infrastructure. Depending on the nature of the event, a permit may be required. **Guidance for Planning Events in Toronto – City of Toronto.**





8. IDEAS TO INSPIRE YOUR LOCAL CELEBRATION

This section provides inspiration for developing events and programming that connect with FIFA World Cup 26™ while respecting the Brand Usage Guidelines in Section 6 and creating memorable experiences.

Programming

ТҮРЕ	DETAILS	EXAMPLES
Themed Celebrations	Activities that capture soccer excitement while respecting FIFA Brand Guidelines	 Soccer skills demonstrations International cultural showcases Community gatherings (with proper Public Viewing licenses if showing matches)
Special Promotions	Limited-time offerings aligned with the tournament period	 International menu features Soccer-themed packages Tournament-length special offerings (not marketed as exclusive or official in relation to FIFA – as noted above)
Educational Programming	Activities that build knowledge and appreciation	Soccer history or skill workshopsCultural exchange programsInternational cooking demonstrations
Wellness and Recreation	Active programming with athletic themes	Soccer-inspired fitness activitiesFamily-friendly outdoor gamesTeam-building experiences
Arts and Culture	Creative expressions inspired by global themes	Sport-themed art installationsInternational music performancesCommunity creative projects



Activate With Purpose: Building Toronto's FWC26 Host City Legacy

Consider aligning with Toronto's legacy priorities:

- **Sport, Physical Activity, Health & Wellness:** Build access to soccer and leadership for equity-deserving youth.
- Tourism & Economic Development: Showcase businesses and neighbourhood vitality.
- Arts & Culture: Reflect Toronto's creative and cultural diversity.
- Human Rights, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: Support inclusive, community-centered events.
- Community Benefits & Social Procurement: Uplift local talent and suppliers.
- Environmental Sustainability: Promote low-waste, transit-friendly, and green practices.

More Activation Examples

Events & Gatherings

- Set up a storytelling pavilion with elders and youth sharing soccer memories from different cultures
- Create a series of match-day picnics in Toronto parks, complete with flag face painting, food trucks, and live DJs. Note: City of Toronto permit required.
- Collaborate with libraries to run soccer-themed trivia tournaments and language exchanges inspired by the nations participating
- Book your local recreation centre for an indoor match-day experience with themed games and music
- Organize an event at your neighbourhood library event with cultural storytelling and crafts tied to participating countries

Arts & Culture

- Commission a community mural showcasing youth artists' interpretation of soccer and unity
- Host a pop-up dance or music performance reflecting different fan cultures
- Create a travelling street art installation with miniature "goal posts" themed to global nations





Youth & Sport

- Coordinate a "Many Nations Cup" tournament across local schools or community centres
- Offer free referee or coaching clinics in underrepresented neighbourhoods
- Set up soccer-themed wellness workshops, from stretching to healthy meals for youth

Business Engagement

- Partner with local businesses for window-decor challenges and team-colour displays
- Host a trivia night or soccer-themed sidewalk sale weekend at your BIA's main strip





9. GRANT PROGRAMS

There are currently two grant programs available and described below:

GRANTS	APPLICATION PERIOD OPENS	APPLICATION PERIOD CLOSES
(1) Community Celebration Support Fund (CCSF)	Wednesday, July 16, 2025	Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.
(2) Local Leadership Grant	Monday, September 15, 2025	Monday, November 24, 2025

Community Celebration Support Fund

The City of Toronto will support eligible local community organizations by covering costs associated with planning, promoting, and delivering community celebrations during the tournament.

We are seeking vibrant, main street and community-driven cultural projects and events that celebrate the FIFA World Cup 26™ coming to our city and that reflect Toronto's "World in a City" theme. These community activations will play a key role in showcasing the unique character of Toronto's diverse neighbourhoods, transforming them into lively hubs of celebration and activity throughout the tournament period.

Eligible local community organizations are encouraged to think creatively and bring bold, inclusive, and original ideas to life. Visit the City of Toronto's website to find out if you are eligible.

Before applying, we strongly recommend you read the **Program Guidelines**.

Applications to the Community Celebration Support Fund opened on July 17, 2025. If you have questions about this application including accessibility accommodations, and/or a different format, please **contact ccsf@toronto.ca** using your organization's email account.

Applications to the Community Celebration Fund will be accepted until 5 p.m. on September 17, 2025.

Local Leadership Grant

As a part of the Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy (TSNS), the Local Leadership Grant supports resident-led projects that support local activation and focus on the five domains of TSNS – economic opportunities, healthy lives, participation in civic-decision making, physical surroundings, and social development - across all neighbourhoods. The Local Leadership Grant prioritizes the leadership and participation of Indigenous, Black and equity-deserving groups within Neighbourhood Improvement Areas, Emerging Neighbourhoods, and other communities of focus.



Applicants must be a resident-led group consisting of at least 3 members who do not live in the same household. Groups with 3 or more members are eligible to apply. Group members must be residents of Toronto. Group Leads must determine which TSNS Community Network they live in - visit the interactive map for TSNS Community Networks Ambassadors.

What activities can be funded through the Local Leadership Grant?

The Local Leadership Grant (LLG) supports place-based, resident-led projects that focuses on the five domains of the Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy. Up to \$5000 of funding is available per group. Projects must offer community-based activities related to at least one of the five domains of TSNS:

- Economic Opportunities (e.g. job skills workshop)
- Healthy Lives (e.g. wellness day)
- Participation in Civic Decision-Making (e.g. community speak out event)
- Physical Surroundings (e.g. community beautification event)
- Social Development (e.g. neighbourhood festival)

New Changes to Local Leadership Grant

- Sports related projects are eligible for the 2026 grant cycle in celebration of the FIFA World Cup 26™
- Applicants must register for a Toronto Rebates, Incentives and Grants Portal (TGRIP) Account to apply for the Local Leadership Grant. Submissions will only be accepted through TGRIP.

Applications for the Local Leadership Grant opens Monday, September 15, 2025, and closes Monday, November 24, 2025.





10. KEY TERMS & DEFINITIONS

Tournament Terminology

- Group Stage: Initial phase where teams compete in groups to qualify for knockout rounds
- Knockout Stage: Elimination phase leading to the final match
- Golden Boot: Awarded to the tournament's top goal-scorer
- Match Schedule: Official timeline and venue allocation for all matches

Key Organizations

- FIFA: Fédération Internationale de Football Association) Global governing body for football/soccer
- FIFA World Cup 26 Inc: Entity responsible for tournament delivery across all host countries
- FIFA Canada: Oversees tournament operations in Vancouver and Toronto
- CONCACAF: Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football
- City of Toronto: Official Host City responsible for local delivery and promotion
- **Government of Ontario:** Providing funding and provincial services through the Government Recognition Program.
- Federal Government of Canada: Supporting through the Government Recognition Program
- **Destination Toronto:** Host City Promotional Partner for the tournament.

Official Roles:

- **Host Cities:** Responsible for local delivery including venue preparation, FIFA Fan Festivals, and city services
- **FIFA Commercial Partners:** Official sponsors with exclusive rights to FIFA marks and promotional opportunities





11. RESOURCES

Stay informed and connected!

FIFA World Cup 26™ Official Website:

fifa.com/tournaments/mens/worldcup/canadamexicousa2026

Toronto Host City Website:

torontofwc26.ca

Toronto Host City Instagram:

@fwc26toronto

City of Toronto Official Website:

toronto.ca

For specific questions about FIFA World Cup 26™ in Toronto, please direct inquiries to the FWC26 Toronto Secretariat: fwc2026toronto@toronto.ca





12. LEGAL DISCLAIMER

The City of Toronto provides this Toolkit for general information purposes only. It does not constitute legal advice or limit or affect the legal rights and remedies available to FIFA, the City of Toronto, or any other rights holder. If you are unsure whether your planned activity complies with this Toolkit or the law, the City recommends seeking independent legal advice.

LET'S MAKE HISTORY, TOGETHER. Bring the energy. Build the legacy.

From unforgettable match moments to lasting community impact—we're here to cheer!





