

February 20, 2015

What People Are Saying About The Games Legacy Community

“The Games village is an iconic symbol of what the Games represent — different people and cultures coming together to celebrate sport and build understanding. Getting the CIBC Pan Am/Parapan Am Athletes’ Village ready is a powerful reminder that this historic event is just around the corner. And when the Games are over, we’ll have a vibrant, new waterfront neighbourhood, one with an already proud history and positive energy.”

—Saād Rafi, chief executive officer of the TORONTO 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games Organizing Committee

“The handover of the CIBC Pan Am/Parapan Am Athletes’ Village, which thousands of athletes, coaches and team officials will call home this summer, is another indication that the Games are close at hand. During the Year of Sport in Canada, our Government is proud to support the TORONTO 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games, and we are pleased to see the completion of this important infrastructure that will also leave a lasting housing and recreation legacy for Torontonians.”

—Bal Gosal, Minister of State (Sport)

“The CIBC Pan Am/Parapan Am Athletes’ Village will be home to thousands of talented athletes this summer, ready to compete in the TORONTO 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games. A significant city-building legacy of the Games, this new mixed income, transit friendly neighbourhood is a strong example of public-private partnership at its best. Post Games, the Village will add a mix of new housing, including 253 new affordable rental units, to the City’s housing stock.”

—John Tory, Mayor of Toronto

“Thank you to the Ontario Government for their generosity and deliverance of the world-class CIBC Pan Am/Parapan Am Athletes’ Village,” said, two-time Pan Am Games medallist and three-time Olympic medallist. “The village’s facilities, including the award-winning Corktown Commons Park, are outstanding and I have full confidence that the space will be a true home away from home for all the athletes competing in Canada this summer.”

—Curt Harnett, Chef de Mission for the Pan Am Team

“The character and feel of the Athletes’ Village is at the heart of an athlete’s Games experience, so the handover today is an incredibly exciting moment. I am confident that the Canadian Parapan Team will be proud to welcome their fellow athletes in to this beautiful, accessible, unique, world-class Village and am equally pleased with the impressive legacy plans for the area post-Games. Thank you to all partners who worked to get us to this milestone.”

—Elisabeth Walker-Young, Chef de Mission, 2015 Canadian Parapan Am Team

“We're excited to see the Games bring our communities together around sport, and we're proud to be leaving a new YMCA Centre of Community as a legacy building that will support people in this diverse neighbourhood to live healthy lives. The Cooper Koo Family YMCA will help create a safe, vibrant district where people from all walks of life will have access to essential programs and services, regardless of their social or economic status.”
—Medhat Mahdy, President and CEO, YMCA of Greater Toronto

“Contributing to the success of our city is fundamental to George Brown College. We do this not only by preparing graduates to contribute to our economy, but also by helping our neighbourhoods thrive and grow. We are thrilled to help revitalize the West Don Lands with the creation of our first student residence at the site of the Athletes' Village following the Pan Am Games.”
—Anne Sado, President, George Brown College

“As Ontario's oldest and largest urban aboriginal housing provider, the opportunity to become a key partner in one of the City's and Province's largest redevelopment projects was something we could have only hoped and wished for. Today, our hopes have become real and following the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games, we will fulfill our dream of being able to provide affordable rental housing centrally located in a dynamic and transformative neighbourhood.”
—Angus Palmer, General Manager, Wigwamen

“Our mandate at Fred Victor is helping people find place and purpose. After the TO2015 Games, we are excited to be able to offer safe, affordable housing for more than 300 people in need - individuals and families. Through training programs and on-site support, we look forward to helping our clients integrate into this new West Don Lands community.”
—Mark Aston, Executive Director, Fred Victor

“A team of public and private-sector partners with vision and purpose saw the raw potential of the West Don Lands area that is now home to this beautiful new community. All those involved in completing this impressive community should feel extremely proud of how they contributed to a true project that has forever changed Toronto.”
—John Campbell, President and Chief Executive Officer, Waterfront Toronto

“Everyone at Dream is proud to have played a role in creating a Village that will provide Pan Am and Parapan athletes and officials with the best our city has to offer. Following the Games, when the Canary District comes to life this vibrant new community will offer a true work-live-play experience.”
— Jason Lester – Dream (formerly Dundee Realty)

“Kilmer has been building Ontario infrastructure for three generations, and we were privileged to work on this project with our development partner DREAM, with Canada's leading lights in architecture and with the Ellis Don Ledcor construction team. The CIBC Athletes' Village will be a home away from home for 10,000 athletes and officials from 41 countries during the Games, and, soon after, the Canary District is sure to become Toronto's next great neighbourhood. From the carpenters to the bankers, we take our hats off to all involved in managing this project to its successful outcome and acknowledge the vision and leadership of Waterfront Toronto and Infrastructure Ontario.”
— Ken Tanenbaum – Kilmer Group

“The best teams have an objective to perform and the highest level they can. Our team, along with our partners, formed a strong bond during the procurement phase that allowed us to develop this project from a solid foundation. The goal for the entire team involved – both public and private sector – was to help each other achieve excellence; and the success of this goal is evident in the completed Athletes’ Village project, a sustainable new neighbourhood targeting LEED® Gold certification. Everyone involved should be thanked for thinking big and being real team players.”

— Tim Smith, EllisDon Ledcor PAAV Inc.

“We are honoured to have our name associated with the CIBC Pan Am/Parapan Am Athletes’ Village, a welcoming home-away-from-home as athletes focus on preparing to compete at their best. “In order to offer athletes, coaches and officials convenience during their stay, we are building a temporary CIBC branch/café in the Village to take care of any banking needs, while offering a destination to relax, celebrate and view the Games.”

—Stephen Forbes, Executive Vice-President, CIBC

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