



CHASING HORIZONS. BUILDING FUTURES. 

Kelowna 2026 BC Summer Games

Torchlighting Ceremony

Media Kit

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Jim Stuart Park
1430 Water Street
Kelowna, British Columbia

Kelowna officially lights the torch for the 2026 BC Summer Games, marking the start of the community countdown to welcoming athletes from across the province.

Media Contact

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Together We Learn



We respectfully acknowledge the unceded territory of the sqilx^w/syilx (Okanagan) peoples, on whose land we live, work, and play.

MEDIA RELEASE

Torchlighting Ceremony at Jim Stuart Park Marks the Road to the Kelowna 2026 BC Summer Games

Kelowna, BC — Kelowna will mark the road to the 2026 BC Summer Games with a ceremonial torchlighting event at Jim Stuart Park on Wednesday, April 15, 2026 from 11am to 12pm.

The ceremony will include remarks from Kelowna Mayor Tom Dyas, representatives from the Kelowna 2026 BC Summer Games Society, and leadership from Westbank First Nation, followed by the ceremonial lighting of the Games torch along Kelowna's waterfront.

"Hosting the BC Summer Games is an exciting opportunity for Kelowna," says Devin Rubadeau, President, Kelowna 2026 BC Summer Games. "The torchlighting ceremony is a chance to recognize the work already underway and the many volunteers and community partners helping prepare for the Games."

The 2026 BC Summer Games will bring thousands of athletes, coaches, officials, and volunteers from across British Columbia to Kelowna to compete in a range of sports while celebrating youth athletics and community sport.

Kelowna will host the Games July 22–26, 2026, welcoming approximately 2,800 athletes between the ages of 12 and 18 from communities across the province. Competing as members of regional zone teams, the athletes will take part in competitions at venues throughout Kelowna and the Central Okanagan.

The BC Games, held in communities across the province since 1978, have helped launch the careers of many athletes who later competed at national and international levels.

To learn more about the Kelowna 2026 BC Summer Games and how to get involved, visit bcsummergames.ca.

QUICK FACTS

Event: Torchlighting Ceremony for the Kelowna 2026 BC Summer Games

Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Time: 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Jim Stuart Park
1430 Water Street, Kelowna, BC

Program includes:

- Remarks from Kelowna Mayor Tom Dyas
- Gifts Presentation
- Ceremonial lighting of the Games torch
- Photo opportunities along Kelowna's waterfront



AGENDA

Renata Mills, Director of Ceremonies and Special Events

Kelowna 2026 BC Summer Games Board of Directors

Welcome and opening remarks

Councilor Jordan Coble

Westbank First Nation

Greetings from Westbank First Nation

Mayor Tom Dyas

City of Kelowna

Greetings from City of Kelowna

Devin Rubadeau, President

Kelowna 2026 BC Summer Games Board of Directors

Highlights from event

Gift Presentation (Photo Opp #1)

Arrival of Torch Runners and Lighting of the Games Cauldron [AV1] (Photo Opp #2)

Closing Remarks

End

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES

Following the ceremony, media will have the opportunity to speak with representatives involved in the Kelowna 2026 BC Summer Games, including:

- Kelowna 2026 BC Summer Games Society Leadership
- Mayor Tom Deyas
- Torch Runners
- Councilor Jordan Coble, Westbank First Nation
- Games Organizers and Volunteers

Interview opportunities will take place following the ceremonial lighting of the torch. Please contact Christina Skinner at pr@bcsummergames.ca 778 322 4951 to schedule.

EVENT FLYER

**BC GAMES
KELOWNA
2026 SUMMER**

COUNTDOWN TO THE GAMES TORCHLIGHTING EVENT

April 15th • 11:00 am – 12:00 pm • Jim Stuart Park • 1430 Water Street

Join us as we ignite the flame
that begins the journey to the 2026 BC Summer Games

RSVP by Monday, April 13 at 4:00 pm to RSVP@bcsummergames.ca

BRITISH COLUMBIA City of Kelowna Central Okanagan Public Schools Together We Learn Black Press Media Global BC

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Torch Runners - Athlete Bios

Karina Haggerty (Twin sister of Layna)

Karina Haggerty, a Grade 12 student at Kelowna Senior Secondary, has excelled in both basketball and field hockey throughout high school. Next year, she will continue her basketball career at Okanagan College. Karina has been recognized as a finalist for the Kelowna Civic & Community Awards Young Female Athlete of the Year. Her field hockey achievements include earning a silver medal at the BC School Sports Senior Girls Provincials, as well as two silver medals with the Kelowna Kraken club team at the BC Club Senior Girls Provincials. Although she does not have Summer Games experience, she remains dedicated to her sports.

Layna Haggerty (Twin sister of Karina)

At 17 years old and currently in Grade 12 at Kelowna Senior Secondary, Layna Haggerty has been deeply involved in both basketball and field hockey throughout her high school years. This autumn, she will continue her basketball journey at Okanagan College. Although she has not participated in the BC Summer Games and will not be competing this year, her field hockey career is marked by notable achievements, including a silver medal at the BC School Sports Senior Girls Provincials in Grade 11 and two silver medals with her Kelowna Kraken club team. Layna is also a finalist for the Kelowna Civic & Community Awards Young Female Athlete of the Year.

Isaac Hamilton, Okanagan Mission Secondary School, Grade 12

Isaac Hamilton is an accomplished Grade 12 student at Okanagan Mission Secondary School, actively competing in both provincial level soccer and basketball. His dedication and talent have distinguished him as a standout athlete among his peers. Currently, Isaac is a finalist for the Kelowna Civic & Community Awards Young Male Athlete of the Year, a testament to his outstanding performance, leadership, and commitment to sport. He continues to inspire others through his achievements and passion for athletics in his community.

Coen Kissman

Coen Kissman is a dedicated track and field and cross-country athlete, competing provincially and nationally over the past several years. As one of BC's leading developing distance runners, he ranks 2nd in BC and 5th in Canada (U18) in the 2000m steeplechase after earning silver at the 2025 BC Athletics Championships. He also placed third in the 3000m event and consistently finishes top 10 in the 1500m. At the 2024 BC Summer Games, Coen earned two golds, one silver, and received a Leadership Bursary. Known for his work ethic and commitment, he proudly represents his school and community.

Finley Stewart

Finley Stewart is a 17-year-old student at Kelowna Senior Secondary and a finalist for the Kelowna Civic & Community Awards Young Male Athlete of the Year. He excels in basketball and volleyball, earning bronze medals at the BC provincials in basketball (2025-2026) and volleyball (2024-2025), and a basketball bronze at the 2022 Summer Games. Finley was also named Valley MVP, Thompson Okanagan All Star Game MVP, and Western Canada Basketball Tournament First Team All-Star. He helped his team win silver at the 2023 BC Cup Volleyball and hopes to volunteer or coach this summer.

Peyton Manzuik (pronounced Man-zick)

Peyton Manzuik, graduating this year from George Elliot Secondary, is a talented track and field athlete who competed at the 2022 BC Summer Games, earning a bronze in the 2000m and a silver in the 1500m steeplechase. Since then, Peyton has continued to excel, racing at both provincial and national levels in cross country and track events. This fall, she will be joining Simon Fraser University's Women's Cross Country and Track teams, eager to further her athletic career. Peyton's dedication and success highlight her as a promising competitor with a bright future in collegiate athletics.

Madison Jack

Madison Jack, a member of the Westbank First Nation, has served on the WFN Youth Council for the past two years. After graduating from Mount Boucherie Secondary School in 2025, Madison plans to attend UBC Okanagan and pursue physiotherapy. With eight years of softball experience, she is committed to developing her athletic skills. Madison's passion extends beyond sports, as she aims to advocate for community youth and amplify their voices through her council work. Grateful for the chance to embrace a leadership role, Madison is determined to make a positive impact both on and off the field.

VOLUNTEER WITH THE GAMES

Volunteer registration is easy. Any QR code below can be shared and scanned for more information and to sign-up.

