

F *irst Things Last*

The XV Olympic Winter Games will be the first ever hosted by a Canadian city. In the three months leading up to the opening ceremonies on February 13, the longest torch relay in the history of the Olympic Winter Games will take place covering some 18 000 km in 88 days. There are several "firsts" associated with these Games, among them the following:

For the first time in Olympic Winter Games history, all speed-skating events will take place in a fully enclosed 400-m oval. The 4 000-seat Olympic Oval, constructed for the 1988 Games on the campus of the University of Calgary, is North America's first fully enclosed speed-skating facility.



Canada Olympic Park's bobsleigh and luge track is the most technologically advanced bob/luge facility in the world today and the first combined track built in Canada. Not only can the track remain frozen in temperatures up to 20°C, but lighting also allows it to be used for night training.



The Olympic Saddledome is the largest ice-hockey arena ever used during Olympic Winter Games competition. The facility features the world's largest concrete-suspended roof, enabling almost 20 000 spectators an unimpeded view of the arena.



The XV Olympic Winter Games are the first in history to present demonstration events in short-track speed skating and freestyle skiing. Disabled skiing exhibitions in cross country and modified giant slalom will also be presented in Calgary.

