

## **Canada's Bid for the 2008 Olympic Games**

- In 1998, the Canadian Olympic Association voted to support Toronto's bid to host the 2008 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games. Toronto 2008 Olympic Games Bid is chaired by John Bitove Jr., president and chief executive officer. Steve Hudson is the Executive Committee chair.
- In September 2000, Toronto was named one of five cities to make the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) shortlist to host the Games. The other cities on this list are Beijing, Istanbul, Osaka, and Paris.
- The IOC will make its decision on July 13, 2001, in Moscow.
- Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and senior government officials have consistently demonstrated federal support for Toronto's bid, and the Prime Minister has taken part in a number of related events and announcements.
- The Prime Minister has given key roles for supporting the Olympic Games bid to the Minister for Canadian Heritage, the Minister of Transport (in his capacity as the regional minister), the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Secretary of State (Amateur Sport), and Canada's Olympic ambassador. All have taken part in activities and announcements related to the bid.
- The federal government established the Toronto 2008 Bid Secretariat in the Department of Canadian Heritage to assist in all aspects of organizing Toronto's bid. The secretariat works closely with 20 federal departments and agencies and acts as a one-stop federal point of contact. The Bid Secretariat also works in partnership with officials from the provincial government and the city of Toronto.