

## Olympic Oval



### Key Facts

- Total project estimate: \$65 million\*
- Government funding request: \$65 million
- Total person years of employment generated: 312‡
- Total short-term economic stimulus: \$99,385,000‡
- Reduced Deferred Maintenance liability: \$11 million
- Estimated annual GHG reduction: 300 tonnes eCO<sub>2</sub>
- Additional learner (FLE) spaces enabled: N/A

### Project Summary

The Olympic Oval was completed in 1987 for the 1988 Olympic Games, as one of only two 400 metre indoor tracks in the world. The Olympic Oval is still one of the fastest speedskating ice surfaces existent and is a sought-after facility for training speed skaters from around the world, frequently hosting global competitions. It is an important piece of infrastructure, not just for the university but also for the amateur sport and recreation community and tourism sector in the city, province, and country. While minor renovations have taken place over the past 35 years, the facility is showing its age as much of the building is as originally constructed and many of the building systems are at the end of their lifespan. A thorough audit of the building undertaken as part of Calgary's Olympic Bid analysis in 2017, identified that the ice plant and refrigerated slabs were in danger of critical failure and needed replacement to meet present safety and environmental standards. Additionally, spectator and concourse spaces do not meet accessibility requirements.

The two-phase project proposes the rebuilding of the ice plant and refrigerated slab and facility upgrades to meet life safety and code requirements and improve sustainability by reducing energy use, water use and GHG emissions, and improve air quality as well as meet accessibility standards. The first phase will see the ice plant, slab, tunnel, and track replaced, with 1,700m<sup>2</sup> of new space added and 20,400m<sup>2</sup> of space renewed. Phase 2 of the project focuses on supporting facilities, including new universal change rooms, office space renewals, a VIP hosting area upgrade, and timing deck renewal. This reconfiguration, expansion, and renewal of dressing rooms, washrooms, and other athlete and public areas will provide broader access and more flexible operations.

The benefits of a full renovation include, but are not limited to:

- Improved ice quality, thus faster ice potentiality, through reconditioning of original ice plan equipment
- Reduced carbon footprint, energy consumption, and operating costs
- Improvements in accessibility to the Olympic Oval, including remodeled change rooms and new spectator areas
- Enhancing the Olympic Oval as a destination of choice for world class training and competition
- Reduced risk of ammonia leak and an 80-90% reduction in ammonia charge
- Continuation of Olympic Oval operations for the next 25-30 years

\* Based on 2021 design estimates

‡ Office of Statistics and Information, Economics and Fiscal Policy, Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, 2017, Alberta Economic Multipliers 2013, Table 1: Alberta Simple Multipliers (Industries), (Open Model - Direct and Indirect Impacts), Non-residential building construction

## Impact

The Olympic Oval is a global icon bringing Calgary to the world and provides access to world-renowned athletic facilities for the community. This renewal project will enable the Olympic Oval to continue to host over 30 skating and other sports events and competitions each year, while welcoming over 200,000 community and club members, university athletes, and high-performance athletes from around the world each year. Canada's current Olympic success is owed in large part to the ongoing legacy of Calgary '88 and the Olympic Oval is integrated into the broader WinSport Centre of Excellence initiative. The facilities uniquely provide multi-generational support for Canada's Olympians. The Olympic Oval can serve as an Alberta and Canadian advantage for years to come. The construction and renovation will generate 312‡ total person years of employment, bringing \$99,385,000‡ in short-term economic stimulus.

The Olympic Oval's ongoing mandate is to provide equal access to high-performance, university, and community users. Over 6,800 community client hours, representing over 35% of the facility usage, were booked in 2019-20. This equates to over 57,000 community members attending public skating, running, club events, and other programming. High-performance clients (33% of bookings in 2019-20) include both short- and long-track competitions, Speed Skating Canada, and other national and international organizations. Over 35,000 international and domestic athletes use the Olympic Oval as a training facility, with 3,200 athletes competing annually in events viewed by over 13,000 spectators. University clients (32% of bookings) included the UCalgary Dinos, Active Living groups, and academic research. The UCalgary Faculty of Kinesiology is currently ranked #1 sport science school in North America and #7 in the world, and the Olympic Oval is an integral part of the faculty's athletics facility complex. This project is critical to ensure the long-term viability of the Olympic Oval for our community, our nationally and internationally recognized academic and research excellence, as well as the needs of high-performance athletes and international competition.

The Olympic Oval employs 45 full-time and upwards of 100 part-time staff, with additional employment opportunities arising as required for major events. Over a five-year period, the average economic impact of events and community activities at the Olympic Oval total \$25 million, creating 56 FTE jobs. This includes one world championship competition (\$3.5 million, 20 FTE), four world cup events (\$1.7 million per event, 36 FTE total), four ice-out sport events (\$2.5 million per event), and \$4.7 million in economic impact from community activities. The total economic impact over the lifespan of the Olympic Oval is over \$170 million, drawing crowds of over 6.8 million attendees and supporting Calgary's economy and legacy as a sports centre of excellence.

Annual energy cost savings are projected at over \$27,000, with avoided carbon emissions of more than 120,000 kg. Over a 20-year period, this equates to nearly 2,500 tonnes of carbon, or the equivalent of taking more than 540 passenger vehicles off the road. In today's dollars, the operational savings over the same 20-year period is more than half a million dollars.

This project will ensure the long-term viability of the Olympic Oval as a world-class facility for the next 25-30 years while offering improved ice quality for future generations of Olympic hopefuls from Canada and abroad. Support for the Olympic Oval redevelopment to ensure it can continue to provide global exposure for Calgary and Alberta, growing our tourism industry and growing the broader economy.

\* Based on 2021 design estimates

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