



% 7 Brady Court, Dundas, ON L9H6R4
905-536-6058, info@hamiltonolympicclub.ca

September 28th, 2020

Hamilton City Council
City Hall
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor and Councillors:

RE: Commonwealth Games 2026

Our two organizations represent over 200 aggregate years of volunteer service to the athletic community of Hamilton, specifically in the area of track and field. Countless athletes have competed at the annual Indoor Games and thousands have, at one time, called themselves members of the Hamilton Olympic Club.

Track and field involves a commitment of volunteers - sometimes a lifetime of commitment - as well as facilities and infrastructure, as it does with other sports. Amateur sport, you will agree, is critical in ensuring the mission to make Hamilton the best place to raise a child.

Right now, the critical facility need for the track and field community is a competition ready banked indoor track and field facility. It is, indeed, essential for the survival of the century old 91st Highlanders Athletic Association indoor games, the "Indoor Games". It is also critical for the amateur athletes of today and the elite ones of tomorrow to have access to year-round training and competition facilities locally.

We believe strongly that a successful staging of the 2026 Commonwealth Games presents the community with the best opportunity to make the dream of such a facility a reality, in that it would allow the community to leverage funding from different levels of government, avenues which to this point have not been successful.

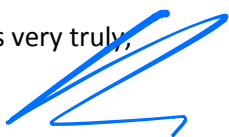
The Hamilton Olympic Club indeed had a role in the first British Empire Games in 1930 in that our founder and first president, M.M. Robinson, was their founder. It would behoove the memory of Mr. Robinson to have the Games come home not just for the two week celebration of sport, but for the

lasting facility legacy it will bring for future generations of athletes.

It should be recognized that two of the lasting legacies of the 2026 Hamilton Commonwealth Games are connected and will provide benefits to our citizens for many years, just as Jimmy Thompson Pool and Civic/Ivor Wynne Stadium did following the 1930 Games. The proposed affordable housing and the indoor track and field facility connection may not be immediately apparent. Many who use affordable housing do so because of limited financial means and the children have limited sporting opportunities because of the costs of equipment and user fees. The costs to be involved in track and field are minimal and most track organizations make considerations for those who require them.

We hope, Mayor and esteemed Councillors, that you will come together and support the community in bringing the 2026 Commonwealth Games home to Hamilton.

Yours very truly,



Richard Gelder
President, Hamilton Olympic Club



Dan Clark
President, 91st Highlanders Athletic Association