

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Athletics Ontario and the Niagara Olympic Club Awarded \$1.4 Million Capital Project to Revitalize Niagara Olympic Track and Field Centre.

St. Catharines, ON – June 24, 2025 — Athletics Ontario, in partnership with the Niagara Olympic Club (NOC), is proud to announce that it has been selected as a recipient of the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (CSRIF), a provincial capital grant program delivered by the Ontario Ministry of Sport. The CSRIF supports revitalizing key community sport and recreation infrastructure across the province. The total capital budget for this project is \$1.4 million, with 50% funded by the province and the remaining 50% raised through strong community partnerships.

A Game-Changing Investment in Community Sport

The funding will support a major surface upgrade at the Niagara Olympic Track and Field Centre, a critical hub for athletics in Niagara, Ontario, and beyond. The revitalized facility will offer improved safety and access for all user groups, from youth and recreational athletes to provincial and national-level competitors. This upgrade ensures the centre remains a premier venue for training, community programming, school competitions, and regional events.

“This investment is about more than just resurfacing a track,” said Sharon Stewart, Chair and Head Coach of the Niagara Olympic Club, “it’s about strengthening our Athletic community and ensuring equitable access to safe, high-quality sport infrastructure for generations to come.”

A Community Effort Powered by Partnerships

The success of this project is rooted in a remarkable spirit of collaboration.

- The City of St. Catharines has renewed its lease agreement with the Niagara Olympic Club. It is contributing 30% of the project’s funding, demonstrating a shared commitment to community health, wellness, and youth development. Support from the Mayor, City Council, and City staff has been unwavering since the project's inception.
- The Niagara Community Foundation – David S. Howes Fund has contributed \$200,000. As a long-standing public foundation, NCF connects donors to causes and ensures meaningful impact in the health, recreation, and education sectors.
- The Wise Guys Charity Fund, dedicated to improving lives in Niagara, awarded \$20,000 in support of this vital community initiative.
- The Niagara Olympic Club has raised \$40,000 through its strategic reserve fund, fulfilling a primary objective outlined in its 2022 Strategic Plan.

A Shared Vision: “It Takes a Village”

This project is guided by the belief that it truly “takes a village” to build a healthy, thriving community. In keeping with the African philosophy that children are a collective responsibility and joy, this revitalization effort reflects a shared vision to provide youth with meaningful opportunities in sport and empower all residents to live active, healthy lives.

Through this unprecedented collaboration among government, charitable foundations, and local stakeholders, the Niagara Olympic Track and Field Centre will soon stand as a renewed beacon for community sport, an investment not only in infrastructure but also in the future of Niagara.

About Athletics Ontario: Athletics Ontario is the provincial governing body for track and field, cross country, race walking, and road racing in Ontario, dedicated to promoting excellence and participation at all levels of Athletics.

About the Niagara Olympic Club: Serving the region since 1994, NOC offers coaching, training, and competition opportunities for athletes of all ages and abilities in Niagara.

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