

**Stakeholder Meeting
Commonwealth Games
Wednesday April 19, 2006
8:00am
Speaking Notes – Dan English**

First, let me thank you all for being here. I am very excited about the opportunity that we have before us, and am very pleased that you all have taken the time to learn more about, and participate in the Halifax 2014 Commonwealth Games International Bid.

For those who don't know, I'm Dan English, Chief Administrative Office of Halifax Regional Municipality. HRM, through the Mayor and Council, is strongly committed to this bid, and I couldn't be happier that I have the good fortune to be leading the organization as we take the steps towards hosting the 2014 Commonwealth Games in our community.

That being said, no one is going to do this alone. The CWG Society is lucky to have strong leadership through the Board of Directors and the Bid Committee Staff.

But for all of the commitment from the municipality, the province, the federal government and Canada's sport community to be successful, we must all get behind this International Bid process. That is what today is about.

We proved our ability and our commitment with the domestic bid. The Municipality, the Province and the Community came together in strength and developed a bid that was not to be reckoned with. Let's keep that spirit alive.

Today, we are one step closer to realizing the full potential of the Commonwealth Games. One step closer to the potential social, cultural and economic benefits that only an opportunity like this can provide. A successful Commonwealth Games bid, that is Halifax built, Halifax sized, and run like only the people in our community can do it, will bring opportunity and recognition to our community, our province, our region and our country, like nothing before it.

For HRM, I see a lot of synergy between our current focus on growth and the Commonwealth Games.

We have the potential to leverage new investment in our community, to leverage economic opportunities and grow even further the positive aspects of our quality of life. The Games will be a celebration, will build partnerships, will build on the values we hold as a community and help us to cement the knowledge that our community and our province are world class in terms of a place to visit and do business.

HRM has recently adopted an economic strategy, a cultural plan, an immigration action plan and we are finalizing the regional plan for council approval. The Commonwealth Games has the potential to fast track our success on each of these fronts. The goals and the principles are consistent. It is about growing our community in the way we want and need to grow it.

Let me close by reminding everyone that although Halifax has what it takes to win this bid and make it work for our community, we can not forget that we are in a tough competition. From my perspective, there are 2 key ingredients that will ensure we win this competition: team work and community spirit.

I encourage you to think about the potential that the Games can bring and to think about how you will capture this potential. We need you to share our enthusiasm, offer your support, and join the campaign for a successful Halifax 2014 Commonwealth Games bid.

Thank you again for being here today. I know it will be an effective use of our time, to get more information about the games bid, and to hear from each of you what you see to be the impacts of the Games.