

Halifax 2014 Commonwealth Games Bid

Games Budget Chronology

December 21

During a meeting of the Halifax 2014 Executive Committee, the local funding partners expressed concern regarding the amount of the potential Games budget expenditures and approved potential options for capital budget cuts. The preliminary budget figure discussed was \$1.375 billion and the executive directed that the budget be reduced to \$1.2 billion.

January 9-11

Halifax 2014 conducted three days of budget validation meetings to go through the initial draft budget figures in detail and identify areas of major risk. All three levels of government were represented. At this point, the total draft figure was approximately \$1.37 billion, but much of the work on budget details was not yet complete.

January 24

At a Halifax 2014 Executive Committee meeting, members were provided a copy of proposed expenditures and passed a motion to recommend that the 2014 Board of Directors approve the proposed expenditures for the purpose of detailed review and assessment of all partners. During the meeting, local funding partners expressed concern related to the impending funding gap.

January 26

The 2014 Board of Directors approve the proposed expenditures for release to the funding partners for detailed review and assessment.

January 29

Each funding partner received a large volume of proposed budget information developed by the Bid Society. This material includes capital and operating expenditure estimates, a proposed business plan, architectural plans and estimates for proposed Games infrastructure, detailed environmental assessments, and all associated supporting documentation. Proposed expenditures at this point were estimated at \$1.348 billion in 2007 dollars.

February 9

Requested meeting with Prime Minister and Mayor was cancelled. Premier discussed file with Prime Minister and requested further support.

February 14

At a Halifax 2014 Executive Committee meeting, the funding partners expressed concern regarding capacity and the ability to match total public funding to support the expenditures outlined in the proposed Games budget. The funding partners suggested that consideration be given to budget amendments to close the funding gap.

February 17

Mayor discusses file with Minister MacKay at Broadband announcement.

February 22

HRM and the Province of Nova Scotia provided a letter to Halifax 2014 to indicate the budget concerns in writing and request that options for reduction to be developed.

February 22

Senior Province of Nova Scotia staff, on behalf of local funding partners receive a detailed, preliminary overview of McMahon report and findings.

February 23

Minister Barnett discussed file with Prime Minister at opening of Canada Games and requests further support.

February 27

Senior Province of Nova Scotia staff, on behalf of local funding partners, meet with H2014 staff to understand the difference between the proposed budget and the \$785 originally discussed. It was apparent at this time that H2014 staff had not seen the letter of February 22.

March 1

Meeting with Premier MacDonald, Minister Barnett, Mayor Kelly and staff to discuss Games funding. Meeting with Regional Minister and Minister of Sport requested.

March 1

HRM and PNS senior staff provided overview of preliminary findings of Price Waterhouse Coopers review of Halifax 2014 capital plan and budget review.

March 2

In follow-up to February 22 letter, the local funding partners requested clarification on specific risk areas and budget concerns as identified in preliminary consultants reports.

March 4

Mayor discusses file with Minister MacKay via phone requesting further support.

March 5

Draft final report on the review of the 2014 proposed business plan and budget by McMahon Consulting received by funding partners and Halifax 2014.

March 5

At the monthly meeting of Halifax 2014 staff with the Commonwealth games Council Advisory Committee, the approach to taking Games budget information to Council was discussed.

March 6

Halifax 2014 provided a briefing note suggesting adjustments resulting in a proposed total budget of approximately \$1.6 billion, including inflation, and indicating that a one week period for further review and/or adjustments would be requested at the March 7 Executive Committee meeting.

March 6

Draft final report on the review of the 2014 proposed capital plan and budget by Price Waterhouse Coopers received by funding partners and Halifax 2014.

March 6

Conference Call with Minister MacKay, Minister Guergis, Minister Barnett, Mayor Kelly and senior staff to discuss Federal funding for the Games budget.

March 7

Conference Call with Minister MacKay, Minister Guergis, Minister Barnett, Mayor Kelly and senior staff to discuss Federal funding for the Games budget.

March 7

At a Halifax 2014 Executive Committee meeting, the local funding partners reiterated concerns regarding the total budget and resulting funding gap and indicated a desire to recommend against proceeding with the Bid. Andrew Pipe, President of Commonwealth Games Canada requested an extra week to review the proposed budget and reduce the total to approximately \$1 billion.

March 7

A letter was received from Andrew Pipe, President of Commonwealth Games Canada, requesting additional time to allow Halifax 2014 to reconfigure the Bid and decrease the proposed budget.

March 7

Provincial Cabinet decide to discontinue process to fund the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

March 8

Council session followed by formal announcement of joint HRM / Province of Nova Scotia decision to withdraw the Games bid.