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Statement from MP Brendan Hanley on the Canada Winter Games 2027

“Along with many other Yukoners, I was surprised and saddened to learn that the Yukon Government has decided not to pursue its bid for the Canada Winter Games 2027.

“Sport is a critical component of Northern life, offering a chance to celebrate our diverse communities and cultures through competition, friendship, and physical activity. Hosting national and international events means legacy infrastructure as well. We all recognize how much the 2007 Games in Whitehorse has brought us in improved sports and housing facilities, including the Canada Games Centre, a revitalized Mt. Sima ski hill and some much needed housing.

“I shared the Yukon Government’s excitement in bidding for the Games. Over the last few months, I have engaged with various federal ministers, including the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, to see what supports the federal government could commit to should the bid be successful.

“Last month, the Department of Heritage reiterated Sport Canada’s commitment of \$16.75 million to the Games, while also confirming that the Yukon would receive the maximum funding amount outlined in the graduated funding model for the Games. More critically, I know that federal ministers and departments were committed to continuing to work hard to find direct and indirect funding supports for the components of the Games.

“Yukon Government’s decision to withdraw its bid is therefore disappointing, given the federal government’s commitment to continue collaborating with the Yukon Government on finding the resources to finance the Games. This included coordinated efforts by federal departments to help the Yukon Government identify where additional funding could be found.

“Fostering physical activity and promoting sport and recreational opportunities for youth will continue to be a key part of our government’s commitment to the health and wellbeing of our youth. As one of the main themes of this bid was reconciliation, the federal government will continue to look for opportunities to encourage sport and recreation on the pathway to reconciliation with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis.

“Although the Yukon’s decision to withdraw its bid for the Games is indeed disappointing, we should recognize that Yukoners are experiencing the impacts of crises in inflation, climate change, healthcare, housing and community infrastructure. In that regard, I am pleased to see the territory recommit to supporting Yukoners in a time of need. Federal contributions to priorities such as housing, healthcare, infrastructure, and climate change--areas that we know Yukoners care deeply about-- will continue as we invest in the growth and well-being of all our communities, in collaboration with all Yukon partners.”