



## **CANADA SOCCER**

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### **Request for Information (RFI)**

#### **National Training Centre Initiative**

**Date:** 12/01/2025

**To:** Municipalities, Provincial and Territorial Soccer Associations, USport, Sport Canada and other stakeholders of interest

**From:** Canada Soccer

**CC:** Concacaf, FIFA

**Subject:** Expression of Interest – Hosting a Potential National Training Centre for Soccer

#### **1. Introduction**

Canada Soccer invites stakeholders across Canada to express their interest in hosting a future National Training Centre (NTC) dedicated to high-performance soccer. The NTC will serve as a cornerstone legacy project of Canada's role in hosting the 2026 FIFA World Cup, a once-in-a-generation opportunity to strengthen our national sporting infrastructure, create a permanent home for Canadian soccer, and leave a lasting legacy for communities across the country.

This RFI seeks to identify stakeholders, including municipalities, provinces, soccer clubs, postsecondary institutions and other interested organizations with the vision, infrastructure, and alignment to collaborate in building a world-class environment for player development, coaching education, and community engagement. The purpose of this RFI is to gather preliminary information and explore partnerships. This is not a call for proposals, but rather is the first step in identifying suitable locations and strategic partners for future engagement and collaboration.

#### **2. Background**

As part of Canada Soccer's legacy plan following the FIFA World Cup 2026, the Federation is advancing the vision for a permanent home of Canadian soccer - a modern, integrated National Training Centre that serves as the heartbeat of the sport in Canada. The facility will unite player development, national teams, coach and referee education, sports science, and community programs under one roof. It will symbolize excellence, inspire the next generation, and project Canada's football identity globally.

Soccer is Canada's most widely played sport and one of its fastest-growing. Despite its reach and influence, the game lacks a true national home. The NTC aims to change that by connecting high-performance sport with community access, economic development, and national pride.

### 3. Objectives of the RFI

This RFI aims to:

- Identify stakeholders with interest and capacity to host the National Training Centre. This includes municipalities, provinces, soccer clubs, postsecondary institutions and other interested organizations.
- Assess potential partnerships with municipalities, provinces, private investors, and educational institutions.
- Evaluate candidate locations based on technical, logistical, and developmental criteria.
- Establish a collaborative process that aligns with Canada Soccer's long-term vision for sustainability, inclusion, and sport excellence.
- Create a foundation for subsequent feasibility assessments, site visits, and formal RFP processes.

### 4. Economic and Community Impact

The National Training Centre will deliver significant economic, social, and community benefits to the host municipality and surrounding region. Beyond its role as a highperformance sport facility, the NTC is envisioned as a catalyst for local development, tourism, and civic pride.

#### Economic Benefits

- Creation of direct and indirect jobs during design, construction, and operation.
- Attraction of visitors, athletes, and teams for national and international tournaments, training camps, and events.
- Stimulation of local businesses in hospitality, retail, and service sectors.
- Increased visibility for the host location as a national and international destination for sport and tourism.

#### Community and Social Benefits

- Enhanced access for local residents and youth programs to world-class facilities and coaching resources.
- Partnerships with schools and community organizations to deliver inclusive sport and wellness programming.
- Development of community pride and civic identity through association with Canada's national sport legacy.
- Alignment with municipal priorities for health, inclusion, active living, and economic renewal.

## 5. Site and Partnership Requirements

Municipalities are invited to provide information addressing the following key requirements:

### A. Land and Infrastructure

Preferred lot size: 40–60 acres of contiguous, developable land to accommodate 4–8 full-size outdoor natural and hybrid-grass pitches, one or more indoor or covered fields for year-round training, one small stadium, a high-performance building (gym, recovery, sports medicine, and analysis facilities), administrative and educational spaces (classrooms, meeting rooms, offices), dining facilities, parking and access control, and space for future expansion including commercial, academic, hotel and hospitality or community facilities. The site should also allow for long-term tenants such as professional or regional teams, ensuring operational sustainability and consistent usage. Accessibility to major transportation routes and airports is essential. Zoning and utilities must support institutional or sporting use with reliable access to power, water, and sewage.

### B. Transportation and Connectivity

International accessibility through direct or short-connection flights to major European hubs (e.g., London, Frankfurt, Amsterdam) is highly preferred. Domestic access via proximity to major Canadian airports and public transit connections is required to facilitate athlete, staff, and visitor mobility.

### C. Player and Competition Ecosystem

Proximity to elite youth and professional player and technical staff pools, such as provincial programs or professional academies, is beneficial. The location should provide access to a dense and competitive match environment to support continuous player development and regular competition opportunities.

### D. Climate and Environmental Factors

Preference will be given to sites enabling year-round training, whether through favorable climate or indoor facilities. Environmental sustainability will serve as a core principle, and all parties are encouraged to detail initiatives aimed at reducing carbon footprints and promoting sustainable practice.

### E. Community and Institutional Partnerships

Strong provincial, municipal and community support is vital. Respondents are encouraged to outline partnerships with local government, educational institutions, and regional sports organizations, as well as potential collaborations with private or public investors. Joint funding models, land-use partnerships, and community programming integration are considered strong assets.

### F. Future Expansion and Innovation

The site should allow for long-term scalability, including research and innovation facilities, dormitories, or commercial expansion zones. Canada Soccer encourages interest from partners open to innovation in sports science, performance analytics, sustainability, and athlete wellbeing.

## **G. Accessibility and Inclusion**

The NTC will be designed and operated with a commitment to environmental sustainability, accessibility, and inclusion. Respondents are encouraged to describe how their approach supports energy efficiency, Indigenous engagement, diversity and inclusive access to community programs.

## **H. Financial Sustainability**

Preliminary expectations include exploring commercialization opportunities such as retail operations, sponsorship and signage, and additional programming to ensure long-term financial sustainability of the project.

## **6. Information Requested**

Interested parties are invited to submit:

1. A letter of interest outlining motivation to host the National Training Centre.
2. Overview of available land or facilities (maps, zoning, ownership details).
3. Description of transportation and international connectivity.
4. Summary of the local soccer ecosystem (clubs, academies, leagues).
5. Proof of initial support or acknowledgement from the province.
6. Potential partnerships, funding opportunities, or incentives.
7. Letters of support from municipal council or regional authorities
8. Details of possible municipal or regional contributions (land, services, infrastructure, tax credits).
9. Additional unique factors supporting suitability for this initiative.

## **7. Evaluation and Next Steps**

All submissions will be reviewed by a CSA internal working group who comprise an internal project working group at this preliminary stage. Shortlisted partners will be invited for follow-up discussions and site visits as part of a subsequent feasibility phase. Canada Soccer expects to identify preferred locations by mid-2026, followed by a more formal Request for Proposals (RFP) and funding alignment process.

## **8. Funding and Partnership Framework**

The National Training Centre will be financed through a combination of:

- FIFA World Cup 2026 legacy funds.
- Federal and provincial investment.
- Private philanthropy and corporate partnerships (including naming rights opportunities).
- Municipal participation through land contributions, infrastructure support, tax incentives, in-kind services, or other value added contributions.

This multi-partner model reflects the project's national importance and ensures sustainable operations over the long term.

## **9. Submission Process**

Responses should be submitted electronically in PDF format to: [NTC@canadasoccer.com](mailto:NTC@canadasoccer.com) with the subject line “RFI Response – Canada Soccer National Training Centre”. The deadline for submissions is February 12, 2026 (11:59 PM EST). Following review, Canada Soccer may engage selected respondents for further dialogue, feasibility analysis, and eventual RFP or partnership discussions.

## **10. Confidentiality**

All information received will be treated as confidential and used solely for internal evaluation by Canada Soccer.

## **11. Contact Information**

Please send any inquiries or questions to [NTC@canadasoccer.com](mailto:NTC@canadasoccer.com)