

News Release

ALBERTA

Strong Communities

October 21, 2008

Province contributes \$10 million for new multi-use athletic centre

Edmonton... The Alberta government is contributing \$10 million towards the development and construction of the GO Community Centre.

The 195,000-square-foot centre will provide space for three indoor sports - basketball, volleyball and gymnastics. The centre will help overcome a growing demand for quality, affordable facility space to serve the Capital Region's indoor court sports and gymnastics communities. Three organizations - the Edmonton Grads Basketball Centre, the Edmonton Volleyball Centre Society and the Ortona Gymnastics Club - have partnered to initiate development of the centre.

"Indoor activities like basketball, volleyball and gymnastics are very popular in the Capital region, and Alberta," said Lindsay Blackett, Minister of Culture and Community Spirit. "Funds provided for the new centre will help to ensure that Albertans have access to indoor courts and facilities for many years to come."

The University of Alberta has partnered with the GO Community Centre to build the facility at the U of A's South Campus.

Funds provided will assist with the construction of the centre, including nine basketball courts, eight volleyball courts, state-of-the-art gymnastics centre, 10,000-square-foot fitness/wellness centre, walking track, indoor child play area and retail space for health-related services.

"Families, teams, and individuals of all ages and abilities will have access to this unique, multi-purpose facility, the first of its kind in Canada," states Ken Flesher, President of the GO Community Centre. "The commitment shown by the provincial government has created positive momentum for our \$9.0M *Get Up and GO!* Capital Campaign."

Funds for the facility are provided as part of the provincial government's Major Community Facilities Program. This two-year, \$280-million lottery-funded community investment program helps municipalities, not-for-profit organizations and Aboriginal communities plan, upgrade or build major public-use facilities that enhance community life.

-30-

Editors Note: A cheque presentation will take place at half-time during tonight's Toronto Raptors/Denver Nuggets basketball game at Rexall Place. The game begins at 7 p.m.

Media inquiries may be directed to:

Lisa Shankaruk
Communications
Culture and Community Spirit
780-427-6530
To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

Ken Flesher
President, GO Community Centre
780-994-2257 [cell]

Visit the Government of Alberta newsroom newsroom.alberta.ca.