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EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR 2010 WORLD MASTERS INDOOR ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

It isn't too late to register for the 2010 World Masters Indoor Athletics Championships!

The Kamloops Local Organizing Committee is pleased to announce that athletes from 49 countries have thus far registered for this world-class track and field event, which will be held March 1-6 and will be based at the Tournament Capital Centre.

The committee has heard from more countries who also wish to enter, so local organizers in consultation with World Masters Athletics have decided to extend the early registration deadline (and early-bird pricing) two weeks to Jan. 23.

This is an exciting chance for athletes to compete in a prestigious world championships in a non-intimidating atmosphere — because more than competition, this is an event at which friendships are formed and renewed.

This will be the first time the WMA Indoor Championships will have been held in North America, and it will offer a full range of track and field disciplines, including race walking, an 8K cross-country and the half marathon. The majority of the championships will be held at the Tournament Capital Centre, a state-of-the-art facility that has received rave reviews. In fact, in March 2008, a men's 4x400-metre men's relay team from Surrey, B.C., set a world record in the men's 60-69 age group on the very track to be used at the WMA Championships. The distance races will be held against the backdrop of the mountains that surround Kamloops and the river that runs through it. The racewalk, for instance, will be held on McArthur Island, a sports paradise that is comprised of soccer pitches, baseball diamonds, an ice arena, skatepark, BMX track and flat, paved walking paths.

"We are excited, and the planning that has gone into the event by the LOC is outstanding," 2010 World Masters co-chairperson Judy Armstrong says. "Athletes that come here will find this is a first-class event and will not be disappointed. Kamloops prides itself on hosting events and this will be fantastic — one you do not want to miss! We are encouraging the world to take this opportunity to compete."

Countries who have registered athletes to date include: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Aruba, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Ivory Coast, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Romania, Russia, Slovak Republic, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, United States and Venezuela.

Media Contacts

Bob Cowden, Co-Chairperson
h - 250.377.4586; c - 250.319.2908
rcowden@shaw.ca

Judy Armstrong, Co-Chairperson
c - 250.319.6321
j2armstrong@shaw.ca

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