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For Immediate Release

Richmond Olympic Oval wins prestigious honours

RICHMOND, BC - The Richmond Olympic Oval has won two prestigious architectural awards presented by the International Association for Sports and Leisure Facilities (IAKS) in partnership with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC).

In an awards ceremony held recently in Cologne, Germany, the City of Richmond and Cannon Design Architecture, owners and architects respectively for the Oval, received the IOC/IAKS Gold Medal for exemplary design and function. The City and Cannon also received the IPC/IAKS Distinction Award for sports facilities suitable for persons with a disability.

“From the start we had a vision for the Oval to be a world class venue that would provide legacies for our community for generations to come and be accessible to everyone. The Oval has won numerous awards for design and sustainability, but to receive these two prestigious awards endorsed by the IOC and IPC reinforces how successfully we fulfilled our vision,” said Richmond Mayor Malcolm Brodie. “It’s an incredible honour for the City, the Richmond Olympic Oval and our design team led by Cannon Design.”

The IOC/IAKS Award is the only international architecture prize for sports and leisure facilities already in operation. Every two years since 1987, the IOC/IAKS Award has been commending sports facilities of exemplary design and function. The winning projects can be new buildings or existing facilities that have been extended or modernized. The Gold Medal is the highest level presented.

Together with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) in Bonn, Germany, the IAKS also presented the IPC/IAKS Award of Distinction for sports facilities suitable for persons with a disability. The IPC/IAKS Award of Distinction aims to promote accessibility to sports facilities and all other buildings in order to give people with a disability the opportunity to practise or view sport without limitation or barriers.

The Oval was the only one of the 135 entries into this worldwide competition to have won both the IOC/IAKS Gold Medal and the IPC/IAKS Award of Distinction. Judged by a jury of international experts and peers, this award is considered to be the most prestigious international award for sport and leisure facilities.

Dubbed “the most successful sport facility” of this year’s competition, the Oval garnered praise from the IAKS jury. “The jury was impressed by the success of this design as an Olympic icon,

the commitment of the designers to creating a viable post-event multi-faceted recreation centre, and the extent to which the materiality of the design reflects, without compromise, its location.”

Gilbert Felli, the IOC Executive Director for the Olympic Games commented, “The Richmond Oval was a world-class Olympic venue that is now a cutting-edge, multi-use facility for sports and recreation. The iconic venue made a great impression on all those who visited it and the millions more watching the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games around the world. Built with legacy in mind, the Richmond Oval has been greatly received by the local community and we have no doubt it will continue to spread the Olympic spirit for many years to come.”

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