

## Empowering Manitoba Youth



*Volunteers and players stand in the bleachers at a previous Manitoba Summer Games event.*

*Alt-text: A crowd of people are standing in bleachers, each region wearing a different coloured jacket. Red, black, orange, yellow and blue.*

The Manitoba Games powered by Manitoba Hydro take place every two years, alternating between summer and winter, and is Manitoba's largest multi-sport event. The Manitoba Games started in 1972 as an effort to give rural Manitoban youth an equal opportunity to participate in amateur sport.

Manitoba Hydro has been sponsoring the Manitoba Games since 2006, which has been interrupted twice (2020 & 2022) by the Covid-19 pandemic — but will be back up and running this August 11-17 in Dauphin.

*If you're planning to attend, don't miss out on the Customer Appreciation BBQ at the Dauphin Customer Service Center on Tuesday, August 13 from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.*



Manitoba Hydro invites you to a Customer Appreciation BBQ in support of the Manitoba Games.

Tuesday, August 13, 2024  
11:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Dauphin Customer Service Centre  
480 Whitmore Ave. E.

*Hotdog, drink,  
and chips. Come  
to play AND eat.*

To request accessible formats  
visit: [hydro.mb.ca/accessibility](http://hydro.mb.ca/accessibility).



Alt text: Promotional graphic for the Customer Appreciation BBQ it reads: Manitoba Hydro invites you to a Customer Appreciation BBQ in support of the Manitoba Games. Tuesday, August 13, 2024. 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Dauphin Customer Service Centre. 480 Whitmore Ave. E. Hotdog, drink, and chips. Come to play AND eat.

The Games are composed of 12 sports: athletics, baseball, basketball, cycling, golf, rugby sailing, soccer, softball, swimming, triathlon, and volleyball. Between athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers, there are around 7,500 people involved.

The Games have a huge economic impact on their host-cities. In the last event, which was hosted in Thompson in 2018, there was an estimated \$1.5M increase in GDP. Translating to \$1.1M in municipal economic impact, \$859K in visitor spending, \$400K in local capital investment and \$150K in host capital investments.

“The benefits that this strategic alignment provides for both Manitoba Hydro and past, present, and future Host communities is astounding. Strategic infrastructure investment & upgrades; building volunteer capacity; youth engagement; nurturing local leadership; and glowing support for our corporation from rural communities and the customers who call them home,” said **Tara Kendzierski** (Community Investment).

This year, Manitoba Hydro will be leaving a “Legacy Gift” in the way of energy upgrades for the Rugby Field at the Dauphin Regional Comprehensive Secondary School. A new tradition that Manitoba Hydro is excited to continue for future Host communities.

“Supporting amateur sports in Manitoba is crucial for our young athletes' growth and success. The Manitoba Games provides a stage for them to develop professionally and showcase their skills at competitions like the Canada Games,” said Tara.

It’s an excellent way for young athletes — ages 10-18 — to break into the scene and potentially launch their professional sports career. But more importantly, to have fun!



Alt-text: Promotional graphic reads: 2024 Come to Play. Dauphin, MB. August 11-17, 2024. 2024 Manitoba Summer Games. Followed by a list of sponsors.

*Hydrogram* spoke with one such young athlete, **Bekah**, daughter of **Carson Smith** (Operations). She's found her passion on the track field and has unlocked the benefits of going for a good run. Something many of us adults struggle to find the will for.



*Ready... Set... GO!*

Alt-text: Bekah running on the track on a sunny day.

**What got you interested in track and when did you start competing?**

In grade 5, my school had a track and field day for everyone. I did well and enjoyed the events, so I have practiced and competed ever since.

**Are you excited for the Manitoba Summer Games? What are you looking forward to the most about the event?**

Yes, I am very excited. I'm looking forward to making some new friends and being part of a team. We get to stay in team accommodations and take a team bus up to Dauphin. The whole experience sounds like it will be a lot of fun.

**What is your favourite part about running, what fuels your passion?**

You feel way better after going for a run. I like the adrenaline rush you get right before the starting gun goes off and I'd be lying if I didn't include winning, I'm competitive.

**Do you have a track hero/inspiration, if so, who?**

My parents. They have always encouraged my siblings and I to participate in sport. My mom did a lot of track when she was younger so it's fun to train with her and share our interest in track and field.



*Bekah gearing up for a jump.*

Alt-text: Bekah running towards a sand pit, preparing to jump.