



**2016 ISF XV WOMEN'S WORLD
FASTPITCH CHAMPIONSHIP**



Surrey Named Host City for 2016 Women's World Fastpitch Championships

For immediate release: October 25, 2013

Cartagena, Colombia – The City of Surrey will be the host city of the 2016 Women's World Fastpitch Championships, after Canada was awarded the bid by the International Softball Federation (ISF). The Championships will bring the world's best fastpitch athletes to Surrey, representing upwards of 30 nations.

Surrey Mayor Dianne Watts and Councillor Tom Gill were at the ISF Congress in Cartagena this week as part of the Canadian Bid Presentation Committee. "We believe international sport competition brings with it the spirit of peace and friendship," said Mayor Dianne Watts. "Additionally, securing an event of this magnitude is strongly aligned with our sport tourism strategy and economic action plan."

As Chair of Surrey's Finance Committee, Councillor Gill noted, "We continue to look for ways to utilize Surrey's world-class facilities to bring economic generation to our city. It's incredibly important that the facilities we are building for the use of our residents are also being leveraged to host events of this scale, which bring significant investment into our city. The strategic investments made under the Build Surrey program allow the city to enter the world's stage for sport hosting – winning this event is a springboard in making that vision a reality."

2016 Bid Chair Greg Timm said, "Developing our Bid was 18 months of work on behalf of the Bid Committee, and winning today is incredibly exciting. This is the premier tournament in our sport, and bringing it home to Surrey and Canada is an incredibly proud moment for the 400 volunteers who will fulfill this tournament in 2016."

The 2016 Championships will likely coincide with Surrey's annual Fusion Festival, which will welcome the athletes as well as an expected 100,000 fans, visitors, and sport dignitaries attending the 10-day sporting event. Tentative dates for the event are July 15 - 24, 2016.

To view the Canadian Bid Presentation video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BoeGagwa22g&feature=youtu.be>

For more information about the 2016 Women's World Championship event visit

www.canadianopenfastpitch.com

-30-

Media requests:
Amanda Silvers
Senior Communications Specialist
Office of the Mayor, City of Surrey
604-591-4519

In Cartagena:
Laura Ballance
Surrey 2016!
laura@LBMG.CA
604-771-5176 (mobile)