

# 2026 Canadian Junior & Senior Chess Championship June 27 – 30, 2026

Submitted: November 13, 2025



# Key Information

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## HOST CITY

Calgary, Alberta, Canada

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## PROPOSED VENUE

Best Western Premier Calgary Plaza  
Hotel & Conference Centre

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## PROPOSED DATES

June 27 – 30, 2026



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# Bid Overview

## Tourism Calgary is thrilled to present our destination bid for the 2026 Canadian Junior & Senior Chess Championships.

Calgary sits on the edge of the snow-capped Rocky Mountains and the vast expanse of the Canadian prairies. There is an underlying energy in the city that exhilarates, invigorates and motivates. With a population of almost 1.4 million, Calgary is a place of blue skies, big ideas and welcoming, friendly people.

There is always something to do - some new restaurant to try, festival to lose yourself in or attraction to experience. Calgary is dynamic. Renowned for our warm Western hospitality, the city is also gaining global recognition for our architecture, young and affluent population, and celebrated arts and culinary scenes.

It's a combination of cosmopolitan feel and undeniable community spirit that gives Calgary its unique energy, and sport and cultural events are at the heart of it all.



**Calgary is good for your bottom line.**  
**Alberta is the only Canadian province with 0% provincial sales tax.**



**Calgary is easily accessible worldwide, just one stop away from most major global cities.**



**Calgary is Canada's sunniest city with 333 days of sunshine a year.**

### VENUE –Best Western Premier Calgary Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre



### FUNDING



Tourism Calgary is pleased to provide the funding to support bringing the 2026 Canadian Junior & Senior Chess Championships to Calgary.

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We acknowledge that Calgary is located on the ancestral and traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy, made up of the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations; the Îethka Nakoda Wîcastabi First Nations, comprised of the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney First Nations; and the Tsuut'ina First Nation.

The City of Calgary is also homeland to the historic Northwest Métis and to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, Métis Nation Battle River Territory (including Nose Hill Métis District 5 and Elbow Métis District 6). We acknowledge all Indigenous people who have made Calgary their home.





## Local Support

We are excited about hosting the 2026 Canadian Junior & Senior Chess Championships. Alberta Chess Association is in full support of this event and look forward to the opportunity of this championship being hosted in Calgary. They have a good number of individuals that can step up to help and are excited about us hosting in 2026.

Tourism Calgary and Alberta Chess Association have worked in collaboration to thoroughly respond to the 2026 Canadian Junior & Senior Chess Championship requirements and provide unique enhancements available only in Calgary. In this document you will find an overview of the event footprint, including facility details enhancements and host city information.

**Calgary is a hub for world-class sport and culture and is pleased to present this bid to host the 2026 Canadian Junior & Senior Chess Championship from June 27 – 30, 2026 in Calgary.**

At the heart of Calgary's bid are the passionate people within the chess community who are committed to supporting this event. The Alberta Chess Association along with the Calgary Junior Chess Centre and Calgary Chess Club aim at organizing and promoting chess for juniors and seniors around several Calgary locations and libraries.

The local committee members have had previous organization experience hosting major events. Some of our committee have had previous experience organizing Canadian Opens, the 2022 North American Youth Chess Championship, the 2024 North American Jr Chess Championship and the 2025 Calgary International Chess Festival in Calgary.

## Local Host Organizing Committee

Vlad Rekhson – Chief Organizer  
Alexander Nguyen- President of Alberta Chess Assoc & President of Calgary Junior Chess Centre  
Ian Lee – Vice President, Calgary Chess Club  
Zeeshan Munir – President, Calgary Chess Club

## Tourism Calgary

Tourism Calgary is the city's destination marketing organization. Representing the tourism industry, and more than 1,000+ partners, Tourism Calgary brings the world to Calgary and Calgary to the world. They support and encourage visitors from across Canada to explore Calgary for leisure travel, sport, culture and major events. Tourism Calgary contributes over \$1.7 billion annually in economic impact to the local community.

Tourism Calgary Sport, Culture & Major Events is a collaboration of community leaders in sport, business, government and tourism who will provide advice, due diligence and strategic direction in evaluating and attracting major sport event opportunities to Calgary. Tourism Calgary works with local, national and international sport federations to secure hosting rights which further promote and position Calgary as a world class sport city.

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# Host Organizing Committee Bios

## Vlad Rekhson – Chief Organizer

Vlad is an experienced chess organizer who created, organized and directed the 2005/2009 Canadian Opens, 2006-2012 Edmonton International, 2013-2025 Calgary International events. Vlad was the chief arbiter and organizer of the 2022 North American Youth and 2024 North American Junior competitions which took place in Calgary and was the chief arbiter of the 2025 North American Youth in Kitchener, On. He was an organizer and arbiter of a large amount of local and regional chess competitions over the past 20 years. Vlad served as Alberta Chess Association Executive Director from 2011-2014 and as president from 2016-2019. Currently Vlad works as a chess instructor and a school math schoolteacher.



## Alexander Nguyen – President of the Alberta Chess Association & President of the Calgary Junior Chess Centre

Alex Nguyen is the incoming President for the Alberta Chess Association (ACA). He has been President of the Calgary Junior Chess Centre (CJCC) for the past 2 years growing the profile of youth Chess in Calgary expanding tournaments to the northern and southern sectors of Calgary. As ACA President, one of Alex's goals is to bring more national and international tournaments into Alberta to develop Alberta's talent pool. As CJCC President, one of the biggest tasks is to bring Chess into the schools, Calgary schools have represented Canada on the world stage and CJCC is trying to develop that talent further. Alex currently works in chemical commodity sales with sites throughout Canada selling into multiple industries such as pulp and paper, oil and gas and renewables.

## Ian Lee – Vice President, Calgary Junior Chess Centre

Ian is currently the Vice President of the Calgary Junior Chess Center and an active tournament director in the Calgary region. Previously he was an active chess player and helped Team Southern AB win the Battle of Alberta in 2005. These day's he is mainly coaching his son who represented AB in the Canadian Chess Challenge 2024 & 2025.

## Zeeshan Munir – President, Calgary Chess Club

Zeeshan is an experienced IT professional with a Master's degree in Computer Science and over 19 years of industry experience across Telecommunications, Oil & Gas, Database Support, and the Railroad sector. He is currently working as a Specialist Database Administrator at Canadian Pacific Kansas City Railway (CPKC), where he has been contributing his expertise for the past eight years.

Beyond his professional career, Zeeshan is actively involved in the community as the President of the Calgary Chess Club, a role he has held for the past three years, currently serving a two-year term.

A devoted family man, Zeeshan lives in Calgary with his wife and two teenage children.





**Why Calgary**



# A History of Excellence

## Calgary's Hosting Legacy

**2025**

Calgary International Chess Festival  
Alberta Youth Chess Championships  
Boxing Canada Open  
National Open Judo Championship  
Canadian Gymnastics Championships

**2024**

Scotties Tournament of Hearts  
Softball Canada U17 Girl's Cdn Championship  
Special Olympics Canada Winter Games  
ISU World Speed Skating Championships  
North American Youth Chess Championship

**2023**

World Ringette Championships  
ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships  
Nitro Rallycross  
Futsal Canadian Championships  
Volleyball Canada National Championship  
Red Bull Outliers

**2022**

Canadian Ringette Championships  
Squash Canada Open  
FINA Diving Grand Prix – Canada Cup  
North American Youth Chess Championships  
Canadian Country Music Awards  
FIVB Volleyball Nations League

**2021**

Curling Hub City – Curling Canada Season of Champions & Rogers Grand Slam of Curling  
IIHF Women's World Championship  
Canadian Irish Dance Championship  
Men's Soccer National Championship





# Airlift & Transportation

## Calgary International Airport

As Canada's third-busiest airport, YYC offers unparalleled convenience with over 90 direct national and international flights. A 20-minute drive downtown and 90-minute drive to the beautiful Rocky Mountains in Banff, Calgary's location is the ultimate destination for blue sky experiences.

### Airport to venue:

Best Western Premier Calgary Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre: 13.1 km / 19 minutes

For the latest flight details, [visit YYC's website](#).

### Airline Offers

Simplify planning with group travel programs from WestJet and Air Canada. Designed to offer competitive rates and easy booking for groups of 10 or more, these programs make event travel effortless.

## Getting Around Calgary

**Taxis & Ride Sharing:** Available at YYC and most downtown locations, offering mobile booking options for added ease.

**Rental Cars:** Conveniently located at the airport and throughout downtown Calgary.

**Public Transit:** Travel seamlessly with Calgary's C-Train, featuring a Free Fare Zone in the downtown core.

### Explore Calgary on Foot

Calgary's downtown is a pedestrian's paradise. Its compact, flat layout and extensive pathways make it incredibly walkable, offering seamless exploration of vibrant inner-city neighborhoods.

From bustling streets to serene green spaces, Calgary blends urban energy with natural beauty, perfect for discovering the city on foot.



# **Calgary: Ultimate Sport City**







# Tentative Format & Schedule

**When:** June 27 – 30, 2026

**Eligibility:** Junior and Senior players from Canada

**Where:** Best Western Premier Calgary Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre  
1316 33 Street NE  
Calgary, AB T2A 6B6

**Sections:** Junior & Senior

**Special events:** Blitz Championship

**Schedule:**

Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup> – 9am – 9:40am - Check-in

Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup> – 9:40am – Opening

Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup> – 10am – Round 1

Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup> – 3:30pm – Round 2

Sunday June 28<sup>th</sup> – 10am – Round 3

Sunday June 28<sup>th</sup> – 3:30pm – Round 4

Monday June 29<sup>th</sup> – 10am – Round 5

Monday June 29<sup>th</sup> – 3:30pm – Round 6

Tuesday June 30<sup>th</sup> – 10am – Round 7

Tuesday June 30<sup>th</sup> – 3pm – Closing

Tuesday June 30<sup>th</sup> – 4:30pm – 4:45pm – Blitz Registration

Tuesday June 30<sup>th</sup> – 5pm – 8pm – Blitz

**Format:**

Junior & Senior - 7 Rounds Swiss System

Blitz: 9 Rounds Swiss system

**Time Control:**

Open U20, Girls U20, Canadian Seniors 50+ and 65+, Under 1800 and Under 1200 sections - Game in 90 minutes plus 30 second increment per move. Blitz-Game in 3 minutes plus 2 seconds increment per move.

**Prizes:** Trophies for the top 3 players in each junior section. 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Open/Girls Under 20 flight to 2026 World Junior/Girls Championship in Peru. 80% of entry fees returned as prizes in the Seniors sections.

**Titles to be awarded for Open U20 and Girls U20:**

Gold (after tiebreaks if needed) = GM Norm and IM/WIM title

2nd, 3rd (if all tied for first) = IM/WIM title

Silver & Bronze = IM/WIM norm and FM/WFM title

\*All titles must be approved by FIDE and conform with all FIDE requirements

**Computer Tie Breaks:**

- 1) Direct encounters (applies only if all tied players have played each other).
- 2) Buchholz cut 1
- 3) Buchholz
- 4) Sonneborn-Berger
- 5) The greater number of wins
- 6) The greater number of games with black (unplayed games count as played with white).
- 7) Younger player

**Ratings used:** All ratings as of mid June (Date TBA) - (or as soon as possible thereafter). If a player has a FIDE Standard rating, then that will be used.

**Rated by:** CFC & FIDE

**Equipment provided:** Chess boards, clocks and scoresheets will be provided.

**Tournament Room:** Best Western – Garden Courts

**Skittles Room:** Best Western – WPR Rooms (Whitehorn, Pineridge and Rundle Rooms)





# Volunteers, Media & Advertising

## Volunteers

The Alberta Chess Association has the overall knowledge and expertise with competitions. They also have the connections to find volunteers. Volunteers for major roles will come directly from the Calgary Junior Chess Club and more volunteers knowing their way about chess competitions will be found through the Calgary Chess Club.

Calgary is renowned for our warm, welcoming hospitality and community spirit. Not only are Calgarians eager to share the city's extraordinary experiences and unique stories with visitors, but locals also enthusiastically support events in all capacities – from strong event attendance to our remarkable volunteer culture. Largely born out of the 1988 Winter Olympics, and perpetuated with the annual Calgary Stampede, Calgary has grown to become the volunteer capital of Canada! Tourism Calgary will work with organizers and the host committee to ensure all volunteer requirements are met.

## Media & Industry Contacts

Tourism Calgary has been promoting the destination for 50+ years. Over that time, we've developed great relationships with local media and publishers. Tourism Calgary will share a media list with the Alberta Chess Association to tap into Calgary's extensive media network.

## Advertising and Publicity

The promotion of this event will be mainly conducted through website and social media.

The event will be posted on the following websites:

- Alberta Chess Association Website ([www.albertachess.org](http://www.albertachess.org))
- Calgary Junior Chess Centre Website ([www.calgaryjuniorchess.com](http://www.calgaryjuniorchess.com))
- Chess Federation of Canada Website ([www.chess.ca](http://www.chess.ca))

We will promote this event through social media:

- Alberta Chess Association Facebook ([www.facebook.com/AlbertaChessAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/AlbertaChessAssociation))
- Calgary Junior Chess Centre Facebook ([www.facebook.com/groups/157167691566128](http://www.facebook.com/groups/157167691566128) )
- Chess Talk Forum ([forum.chesstalk.com](http://forum.chesstalk.com))

Flyers will be distributed via school chess clubs and all of the “ Chess in the Library” locations.

Whenever Calgary junior and senior players attend a chess event, we will have them share the flyer about the 2026 Canadian Junior & Senior Chess Championships.



# Chief Arbiter

## International Arbiter – Vlad Rekhson

Vlad is an Arbiter with over 17 years of experience. The most prominent competitions where Vlad was an Arbiter in included:

- 2005 and 2009 Canadian Open
- Edmonton International 2006-2011
- Calgary International 2012-2019
- European Club Cup 2012

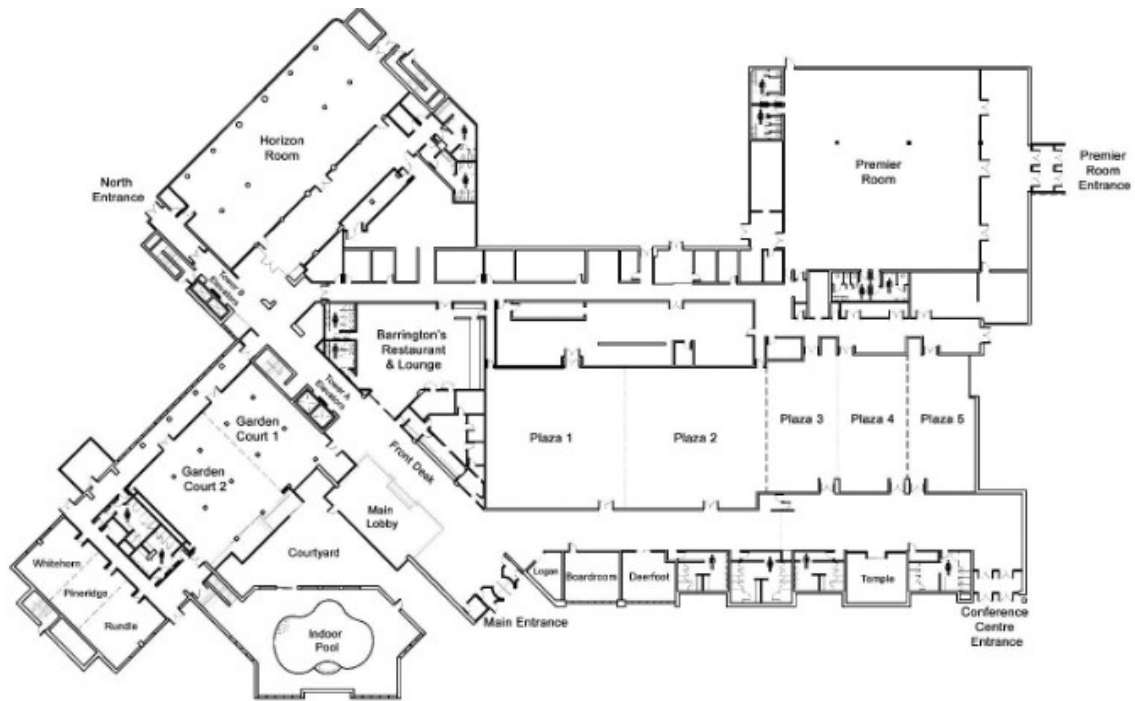
Vlad has been the chief organizer and creator of the Edmonton and Calgary International events, which are the annual International norm competitions in Alberta. Over the years events which he organized attracted players such as: Vassily Ivanchuk, Wesley So, Gata Kamsky, Nigel Short, and many other Grandmasters.

Currently Vlad works as a chess and math teacher at the Renert School.





# Best Western Premier Calgary Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre





# Preferred Hotel & Venue

## Accommodation Overview

As the Ultimate Host City, Calgary offers over 15,000 guestrooms across 56-member hotels. Many of these hotels boast extensive experience accommodating major event and sports groups. Stay relaxed and rested at comfortable accommodations while competing in Calgary.

## Best Western Premier Calgary Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre

Conveniently located between Calgary International Airport and the city centre, in the heart of Calgary's Northeast business community, the Best Western Premier Calgary Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre is your home away from home. Located just 18 minutes away from the YYC Calgary International Airport and one hour and ten minutes away from the Rocky Mountains. The hotel is within walking distance to two shopping centres, a variety of dining and entertainment destinations and the nearby light rail transit system. The hotel is near the Calgary Zoo, TELUS Spark Science Centre and the Calgary Stampede grounds.

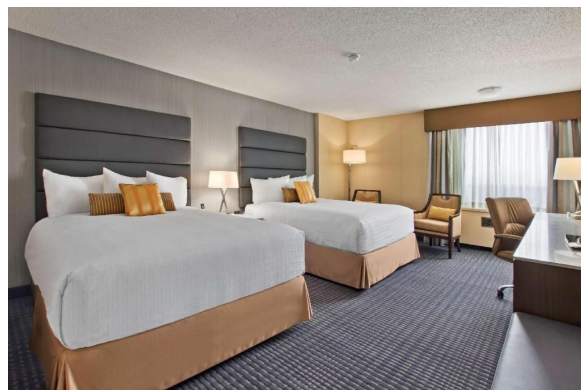
With 248 spacious guestrooms, the hotel is perfect for all sizes of groups. Experience exception comfort in their select or upgrade to the premier guestrooms on the premium floor.

Barrington's Restaurant and Lounge is open for breakfast and dinner offering delicious contemporary cuisine in a relaxing atmosphere.

**Queen/Queen or King : \$179.00++ single/quad including breakfast for 2 people. Additional charge for breakfast is \$10.00 per person in room.**

Rates are subject to a taxes & fees (currently 15.45%) + Flat environment fee of \$70.00 to be added to final bill for meeting space usage.

- Indoor Pool & Fitness Centre
- Onsite Restaurant – Barrington's & Room Service
- Complimentary WiFi (one connection only)
- Complimentary Parking
- Airport Shuttle (\$5.00 per person each way) – call ahead to make reservations
- In-room coffee maker, mini-fridge, microwave







# Preferred Hotel & Venue

## Best Western Premier Calgary Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre

Main Competition Room - Garden Courts – 3,128 (46’ x 68’)

Skittle Room – Whitehorn, Pineridge and Rundle Rooms - Plaza 3 – 1,567 sq ft (29’ x 56’)

Refreshments can be purchased from the Barrington’s Restaurant and Lounge throughout the day.

A small concession pop-up will be available with limitations. Menu selection and operating times will be determined at the time of contracting.

## Meeting Space / Schedule of Events

Time	Function	Room	Setup	Attendees	Room Rental
Friday, June 26					
7PM-11PM	Set up	Garden Courts / WPR	Custom	--	Comp.
Saturday, June 27					
8AM-8PM	Chess Tournament	Garden Courts	Custom	120	\$1,276.00
8AM-8PM	Skittle Room	WPR	Custom	40	\$583.00
Sunday, June 28					
8AM-8PM	Chess Tournament	Garden Courts	Custom	120	\$1,276.00
8AM-8PM	Skittle Room	WPR	Custom	40	\$583.00
Monday, June 29					
8AM-8PM	Chess Tournament	Garden Courts	Custom	120	\$1,276.00
8AM-8PM	Skittle Room	WPR	Custom	40	\$583.00
Tuesday, June 30					
8AM-8PM	Chess Tournament	Garden Courts	Custom	120	\$1,276.00
8AM-8PM	Skittle Room	WPR	Custom	40	\$583.00





**Calgary's Offer**



# Funding Support

**Tourism Calgary is pleased to provide the following funding to support bringing the 2026 Canadian Junior & Senior Chess Championship to Calgary.**

Secured Funding	
\$4000 CAD	Cash towards operational costs
\$1000 CAD	In-Kind Event Servicing

Tourism Calgary is pleased to provide a financial contribution of **\$4,000 CAD** upon receiving a favourable announcement from NCCMA to host the **2026 Canadian Junior & Senior Chess Championship** event in Calgary from **June 27 – 30, 2026** and subject to the completion of a formal Host City Agreement (HCA) and corresponding hotel contracts.

Mutual payment dates of the financial assistance will be worked out with the HOC based on requirements.

Tourism Calgary can commit to offer up to **\$1000 CAD in-kind Event Servicing**. This in-kind servicing will be controlled by Tourism Calgary to use on servicing enhancements with collaboration with the HOC to help make this event the best.

## Other Grant Opportunities

Should Calgary be selected as the host city, Tourism Calgary will provide letters of endorsement for all grant applications and offer recommendations to a network of consultants with extensive knowledge and experience in applying for local grant opportunities.

The following grant opportunities are available to events that have been confirmed for Calgary and are subject to terms and conditions specified by each issuing entity. The Alberta Chess Association can look into possible grants that are available.

**GOA – (Community Initiative Program (CIP) – Project Based**  
\$75,000 maximum – offered by the Government of Alberta  
<https://www.alberta.ca/cip-project-based-grant>

As more grants become available Tourism Calgary will keep the HOC informed.



# Event Services



**Tourism Calgary offers an extensive list of resources and services to ensure the best event experience for event planners and athletes.**

## Overview

Our dedicated Event Services team is committed to assisting event planners in organizing the details of your confirmed event. Our team can provide you with event logistics, pre and post event options, attendance building, and more.

## Event Planners Toolkit

We know that your time is at a premium, which is why we have compiled a comprehensive toolkit of helpful resources, such as:

- Customizable attendance building materials.
- Custom microsite connecting spectators with what they need to know when visiting Calgary.
- Media library with high-quality destination photos, B-roll, and Tourism Calgary logos.
- Digital downloads of visitor guides and Calgary mini-maps to help spectators and athletes make the most of their visit.
- Discounts including links and QR codes to coupons for local attractions – Explore More Pass
- Pre and post, local tours and companion tour experiences.
- Connections to local experts that can assist with developing and facilitating technical tours related to the event
- Written destination content, links to useful destination resources, and digital banners for e-newsletters and event websites.
- A list of local suppliers, including, photographers, transportation providers, local gift options, off-site venue options, restaurants, tour operators, and more.



# Marketing Services



## Tailored Marketing Support

Our adaptable approach ensures every event receives the attention it deserves through:

- Targeted social media campaigns.
- Connections with industry and local media.
- Community activations to engage attendees.
- Paid digital advertising campaign.

## Amplified Exposure

We enhance event awareness and engagement with:

- Customized website content and listings.
- Email newsletters designed to reach key audiences.
- Event calendar placements to maximize visibility.
- Tourism Calgary is your go-to partner for delivering impactful marketing solutions, ensuring your event achieves exceptional results.

**Tourism Calgary's  
marketing team  
blends local expertise  
with innovative  
strategies to elevate  
your event's visibility  
and impact.**



# Activities & Attractions

## Calgary Zoo / Wilder Institute

Located downtown on St. George's Island in the Bow River, the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo is a central fixture in the city. It offers captivating animal experiences and exhibits, including the recently redeveloped Canadian Wilds featuring a world-class Polar Bear exhibit. As one of Canada's leaders in conservation efforts, the zoo combines education, preservation, and unforgettable wildlife encounters.



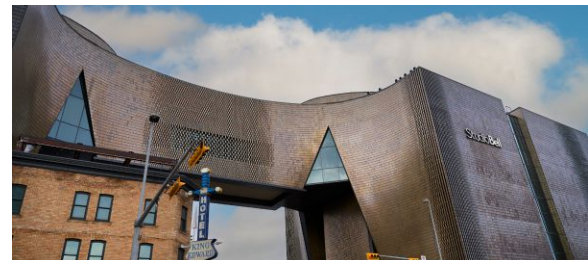
## TELUS Spark

TELUS Spark Science Centre is a dynamic space that sparks curiosity in visitors of all ages and abilities. With over 200 hands-on exhibits, engaging STEAM programs, and the largest Dome Theatre in Western Canada, it's the ideal destination to explore science, technology, engineering, art, and math in an interactive and inspiring environment.



## Studio Bell

Home of the National Music Centre, Studio Bell is an internationally recognized architectural wonder and a hub for music and technology. It houses over 2,000 artifacts, 22,000 sq. ft. of exhibitions, a 300-seat performance space, and legendary recording studios, including the Rolling Stones Mobile Recording Studio. Visitors can explore Canada's rich musical history and experience interactive exhibits that celebrate sound and innovation.



## WinSport

For those seeking a complete sport and adrenaline-filled experience without leaving the city, WinSport (Canada Olympic Park) delivers year-round adventure. From skiing and mountain biking to a breathtaking skyline luge ride and high-speed zip lines reaching up to 70 km/h, WinSport offers outdoor enthusiasts the ultimate playground for action and excitement.







# Appendix



# Budget

## 2026 Canadian Junior & Senior Championships

*Draft*

June 27 - 30, 2026



Income/Revenue	Amount	Details
Entry fee	\$9,120	
Tourism Calgary	\$4,000	Guaranteed
Alberta Chess Association	\$3,000	Estimation
Corporate Sponsorship	\$1,000	Estimation
Blitz Tournament	\$600	Estimation
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$17,720</b>	
<b>Expense</b>		
Head Tournament Director	\$800	
3 TD's	\$1,305	
Rating Fees	\$157	
Venue rental	\$8,500	Best Western Premier Plaza Calgary
Trophies & Medals	\$760	Estimation
Prizes cash/travel	\$4,800	
Scoresheets	\$250	
Printing	\$150	
Miscellaneous	\$300	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$16,322</b>	
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>\$1,398</b>	

\*Any loss will be covered by Alberta Chess Association