



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Valley Park Go Green Cricket Field Project (VPGGCFP) is pleased to submit a budget request to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance asking that it contribute \$130,000.00 to purchase & install a state-of-the-art multi-sport scoreboard to augment a recently completed \$1.8 million grassroots & multi-sport community cricket field project in East York, Toronto. Both items will enable the Thorncliffe Park & Flemingdon Park communities to host their own youth programs, tournaments and events while at the same time proudly extending invitations to youth across the City of Toronto and beyond. This assistance will:

- Support families & help vulnerable mostly newcomer South Asian youth living in Thorncliffe Park and the Priority Neighbourhood of Flemingdon Park by focusing on health, education, recreation and sports, youth leadership & coaches' training;
- Ensure a more prosperous and secure community through infrastructure support focused on sport, recreational and environmental education;
- And enable the project to offer jobs to new & young Canadians who lead and work in our programs teaching cricket and next summer, additional sports and outdoor education.

THE PROPOSAL:

Project planning started in the spring of 2010 by a grassroots group of parents, staff, and students from Valley Park Middle School (VPMS), then Canada's largest middle school with 1200 students, grades 6-8. With early plans for a tulip garden, the project evolved into being a large-scale community project focused on storm water management as well as cricket. For South Asian families, cricket is a passion that brings together people of all ages and backgrounds to socialize, watch games & celebrate. A cricket ground becomes a picnic area attracting various activities including festivals, cultural performances and market bazaars.

Our mission is to welcome new Canadians and youth by offering a wide range of enriched recreational, educational, ecological & leadership opportunities at our revitalized outdoor facility, while at the same time connecting the site to the adjacent Don River Valley and teaching environmental stewardship and Watershed protection.

Surface and recaptured ground waters beneath our new sports field (which accommodates cricket, baseball and soccer), drain to a bioswale, wetland, butterfly meadow and urban forest. A new red clay running track, a baseball backstop, baseball and cricket practice cages, an amphitheatre, and a multi-sport basketball court surround the new field. Environmentally friendly LED sports lights are being added to accommodate more youth in this densely populated community. This will make us Canada's first illuminated cricket field which is a big accomplishment for a grassroots group. A state of the art LED multi-sport scoreboard will be the finishing coup de grace that will complete the field to exemplary standards for the rest of the GTA, where cricket and soccer are among the fastest-growing sports.

VPGGCFP is independent of the Toronto District School Board (TDSB), and received no funding from it. It is operated by a federally incorporated not-for-profit entity called Valley Park Community Association (VPCA), which has a locally representative nine-member board of directors. It can offer tax receipts through the TDSB's arms length charity Toronto Foundation for Student Success. VPCA has sub-licensed the school yard and Hydro land from the TDSB, (which has a sublicense from the City of Toronto and Infrastructure Ontario for the Hydro land.) VPCA can use the outdoor facility for its exclusive use after 6 pm on weekdays during the academic year and all day long on weekends and holidays throughout the calendar year. It also has the right to issue permits.

VPCA is responsible to the TDSB to pay incremental operating and maintenance costs during the term of its five-year renewable sub-license. VPGGCFP has trained 12 youth cricket coaches who have led accessible year-round after school indoor cricket clinics and all-day summer day camps for the past 1-1/2 years as we waited for construction to begin. By next spring 2015, when programming on our outdoor facility begins, VPGGCFP will have trained another 15-20 youth as soccer, basketball and baseball coaches and will offer an accessible multi-sport summer 10 am to 5 pm day camp to youth from the neighbourhood and beyond. Families from outside the community will undergo a means test to determine if they qualify for subsidized programming. A GTA-wide local youth league will also be formed and will play after 5 pm during the summer.



Our project plays an important role in integrating immigrant youth of all ages, whose identities are stressed when they enter Canada. Continuing to develop cricket keeps their identities and family traditions intact, while the development of new skills in other sports boosts self-confidence. Several of our coaches, aged 17-20, come from conflict-ridden areas, such as Peshawr, Pakistan along the Af-Pak border, as well as Afghanistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Dubai, UAE. The ability of young teenagers to feel proud of their cricketing skills when they arrive and become respected community leaders as coaches has helped them embrace plurality and Canadian values. This is why other communities such as the Ismaili Shia Muslim community in Thorncliffe are also project supporters despite conflicts in other parts of the world. The Ismaili community's success in Thorncliffe & Flemingdon in the early 1970's stands as an inspirational example for the mostly Sunni Muslims who also now live there.

Our project's role in promoting plurality among youth within Thorncliffe & Flemingdon, now dubbed "Arrivals City" is supported by research recently conducted by the Mosaic Institute called "The Perception & Reality of Imported Conflict into Canada – March, 2014" which said, "The single most powerful factor at work in achieving the repudiation of violence and reframing of conflict and its solutions is social, economic, and political inclusion. Repeatedly, respondents described ... how learning how to live, study, and work together in Canada had changed their perspective on the possibility of overcoming the pain of the conflict but also on the conflict itself. People did not expressly speak about "inclusion" when they described these seemingly mundane interactions, but inclusion is what allows those opportunities to occur in meaningful ways."

Funds for our capital project were provided by Ontario Trillium Foundation and Live Green Toronto, as well as private & environmental foundations including Toronto Community Foundation, MLSE & Jays Care Foundations, and private companies and individuals. From an operating perspective, the TDSB Focus on Youth Toronto Program and the Canada Summer Employment grant have enabled us to employ our youth coaches for the past two summers. During the academic year, we formerly trained and paid youth coaches through a now exhausted City of Toronto Community Investment Recreation grant. Moving forward, this gap will be partially filled by Canadian Tire Jumpstart and hopefully other sponsors.

Construction started on our competitively tendered \$1.8 million Phase One on October 4, 2013 and will be completed in November 2014. Moving forward, we hope to sustain our accessible programming through grants, sponsorships and limited outside permitting of our field. We are asking the Standing Committee on Finance to help us turn our humble community cricket field into a professional-looking place where we can host outside matches and accommodate a lot of people from the local community and beyond. We are asking the House Standing Committee for \$130,000 for the multi-sport scoreboard described in the table below.

Thank you for considering our request:

Item	Description	Goal	Cost
Daktronics multi-sport scoreboard supplied by Centaur Products Inc., Toronto Scoreboard / Message Centre for Valley Park Centre QUOTATION #7412DW BUDGET PRICING	Overall Dimensions 17'2" high x 25'0" wide • Identification panel (Non-Backlit) (above scoreboard) 2'0" high x 25'0" wide • Football Scoreboard FB-2023-R-PV w/ 8x48-34-R TNMC & Electronic Captions 8'0" high x 25'0" wide • Daktronics Message Display AF-3500-80x256-20 5'2" high x 17'0" wide • Filler panel (Non-Backlit) @2 (beside message display) 5'2" high x 4'0" wide • Sponsor panel (Non-Backlit) (below message display) 2'0" high x 25'0" wide ALL DIMENSIONS ARE APPROXIMATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> score baseball, soccer, cricket & basketball matches to recognize federal government for scoreboard on side panels and bottom sponsor panel offer flexibility to recognize other donors on message display facilitating ongoing fundraising & customizing at events 	\$130,000.00 - supplied and installed. Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Electrical by others - Laptop for show control not included - Fibre optic communication cable by owner (per specification) - Wind velocity of 150mph disregarded in lieu of local wind factors - Additional permit costs due to variances, if any, will be extra *Freight is included to Belleville on all above pricing *Prices are firm for 60 days from quote date

Thank you,

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