



Fencing Vision 2012 – Canada's Road to the Podium

Our vision is to continue fencing's progress and ensure that Canadian fencers have their BEST EVER performance at the Olympics in 2012

The **Canadian Fencing Federation (CFF)** is proud to announce that **Own the Podium (OTP)** has recommended that Fencing Canada receive support to prepare our high performance athletes for the next Olympic Games in 2012. This support is a lifeline to our elite athletes who have the capacity to medal at the next Games. The recommended level of funding is \$860,000 annually for the next two years, with a mid quadrennial review to determine the level of support leading up to the 2012 Olympic Games. The funds are specifically targeted by OTP to support the goal for Canada to place in the top 12 nations in medal count at the 2012 Olympics.

“This is tremendous news. All members of CFF can be extremely proud of their achievements over the last few years because it has permitted Canadian fencers to be identified by OTP as one of Canada's Olympic medal potentials in 2012,” said CFF President **Stephen Symons**. “These OTP funds are targeted to allow fencing athletes to achieve their best Olympic performance ever –which is for a Canadian fencer to reach the podium. I would like to highlight the fact that CFF, its athletes, coaches, provincial partners and clubs have worked extremely hard to develop our talent pool of current and future athletes with this podium potential.”

“All of you are part of the equation which has culminated in our best ever performances at recent World Championships and the Beijing Olympics. If we continue working together, we can move to the next level and accomplish even greater performances,” added **Symons**. “More than ever CFF needs you. OTP is investing in fencing because of results in the last quadrennial and more crucially because of our will and determination to set up optimum training conditions for our top high performance athletes so they can achieve podium success in 2012. OTP funding, which only podium potential sports receive, will reinforce our entire high performance program.”

“This OTP funding will allow us to train and build with confidence towards the 2012 Olympic Games. Knowing we will have the optimum coaching, training and technology to achieve success is a terrific boost to the sport of fencing in Canada,” said three-time Olympian **Sherraine Schalm**, the first Canadian to win the overall World Cup Circuit (2006) and a medal at the World Championship (bronze in 2005).. “These optimum conditions will bring us closer to countries that win the majority of medals. It will help close the gap and will be a leap forward for Canadian elite fencing.”

“As a coach of national team athletes and former Olympian, I see this as the next step for fencing on our road to greater Olympic performances. It is one thing to want to achieve success –it is another to have the

optimum conditions in place to help us reach our goals. Canada can be in a position to medal in 2012, while reinforcing our entire high performance program. This is our goal,” stated **Jean Marie Banos**, “OTP has provided results-based funding because of what our top high performance athletes are capable of at the 2012 Olympics, and these Games will be here before you know it.”

“We have clear performance objectives and we want to seek every possible advantage for our Olympians. OTP will help get world-class coaches to create a strong national coaching team, which is core to our success, as well as technology and expertise and will provide us with resources that will translate into achievement in 2012. We have a long-term vision that goes to 2016,” said **Danek Nowosielski**, CFF High Performance Director, on behalf of CFF’s High Performance Strategic Committee. “We want to take funding to the next level by delivering achievement. This funding is also a vote of confidence from OTP on the direction we have taken, and on how well Canadian fencers can perform at major events on the world’s stage.”

“The CFF, its athletes, coaches, provincial partners and clubs have worked hard to develop a talent pool of current and future athletes with podium potential. Own the Podium is looking forward to working in partnership with the CFF to develop a world-class high performance program that provides talented athletes with the additional support and guidance necessary to podium at the 2012 Olympic Games,” stated **Sean Scott**, OTP High Performance Advisor.

Own the Podium (OTP) funding is based on the goal for Canada to place in the top 12 nations in medal count at the 2012 Olympics. This is OTP’s decision-making principle when awarding OTP funding to National Sport Federations (NSF).

The Canadian Fencing Federation (CFF) vision is to be the best sport system, which provides national leadership and resources for growth and development supporting our fencers to be the best in the world. The objective of the CFF’s High Performance Program (HPP) is to design programs so that Canadian teams/athletes can win medals at the World Championships and Olympic Games on a sustained basis. This objective is the driving force behind any decision and orientations in the HPP.

Fencing Facts to Celebrate

Fencing Vision 2012 – Facts about Canada's Road to the Podium

The following are results of which the Canadian fencing community can be proud, and on which CFF wants to build by providing the tools to win at the next Olympic Games. The CFF needs you. If we continue working together, we can move to the next level and accomplish even greater performances. We can and will be the best.

Performance success of our athletes and teams:

- Canadian fencing results have improved systematically over the last 8 years culminating in a best ever Olympic Games with 1 top 8, and 4 top 16 results in 2008.
- 2 bronze at Senior Worlds (WE-05, ME-06)
- 2 bronze at Junior Worlds (MS-07, MS-08)
- 1 bronze at Cadet Worlds (MS-07)
- 1 World Cup Champion (5 victories in same season, an FIE record for a single season in WE)
- 7 gold, 5 silver, 14 bronze on World Cup circuit during 05-08 quadrennial (43% of the 60 World Cup medals Canada has won in its history were won in the last 4 years!)
- 12 best ever results a Worlds/Olympics between 2005 and 2008
- Canadian fencers have shown consistent performances at the Cadet/Junior World Championships with a steady improvement of results at World Championships and on the FIE World Rankings over the last 8 years.
- On the final 07-08 FIE Team World Rankings each weapon is ranked in the top 12 in the world for the first time ever and Canada was 11th in the 2008 Nations Cup (at Olympics).

Funding success: winning on the international stage benefits the CFF community

- The above results – as well as the capacity to improve on these results – are what allowed CFF to receive greater Own the Podium (OTP) funding for Olympians and future Olympians.
- When high performance athletes win, grassroots development funding wins. One of the reasons that Sport Canada has increased core funding for CFF by 12%, is because Canadian fencers have achieved more podium, top 8 and top 16 results at worlds and Olympics in last 4 years. This means that CFF improved its Excellence funding score on Sport Canada's *Sport Funding and Accountability Framework (SFAF)* evaluation (now increased from \$380,000 augmented to \$424,000).

- High-performance athlete success at Olympic Games and World Championships impacts grassroots development. One example: when there is success at an Olympic Games, there is an increased visibility of our sport in the media stimulating interest and numbers of people who want to learn about, or participate in, fencing.
- Success on the international stage makes sport more attractive to sponsors and can translate into significant sponsorship dollars.
- International results impact provincial and territorial funding success. High performance success over the last quadrennial also played a role in the reintegration of Fencing into the 2013 Canada Summer Games. This has a positive funding impact on each of the Provincial branches to support developmental Canada Games (Team) programs. These are funds that would not otherwise be going to fencing and impact strongly on the development of our sport.

The CFF realizes that although the gap between Canadian teams/athletes and the top countries in the world has been reduced over the last four years, there are still major areas where Canada is lagging. However, this gap can be significantly reduced over the next four years with a strategic investment from OTP to assist the CFF in building the optimal high performance delivery system. By creating optimal training and support conditions for our fencers, and with the support of the entire fencing community, **Canada can be in a position to win its first Olympic medal in 2012, while reinforcing the entire high performance program for systematic podium success in 2016 and beyond.**

Own the Podium (OTP) is a collaborative summer sport technical initiative of the Canadian Olympic Committee, the Canadian Paralympic Committee, and Sport Canada. OTP is designed to provide technical support and assistance to targeted summer National Sport Organizations to prepare athletes for future Olympic and Paralympic Games. The goal for Canada is to place among the top 12 nations at the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

OTP is responsible for assessing the performance potential of Canadian high performance sport (both individual and team), for determining Canadian podium targets for Olympic and Paralympic Games based on this assessment and for making investment recommendations for the allocation of excellence dollars provided by the national funding parties. Accordingly, OTP is in the business of recommending the list of sports / events / teams / athletes to be targeted and the investment strategies to permit them to contribute to the medal targets endorsed by the National Funding Parties.