



2010 Provincial Host Society  
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## Host Society passes muster

### Portage la Prairie on track in its preparations to host the 2010 Power Smart Manitoba Winter Games

**PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, Man.** — The 2010 Power Smart Manitoba Winter Games are only four months away, but the Portage la Prairie Host Society is well on its way to being ready to host the province's top winter athletes March 7-13.

The Host Society was under a friendly microscope on Nov. 6 and 7 as it was visited by representatives from Sport Manitoba and its regional mission staff, the Manitoba Games Council and the many sponsors of the Games. Tours were given of the various venues that will be used during the Games, including the new Portage Credit Union Centre, which is currently under construction. And each committee of the Host Society presented a report on its progress to date, accepting suggestions on how to make the Portage la Prairie Games the best Winter Games yet.

Host Society Co-Chair Jim Malenchak called the two-day Host Tour "highly productive and very successful."

"We're headed in the right direction. We have some details to work on, but we knew that," Malenchak said as the event wrapped up. "I really feel proud of what our volunteers have done to this point. We should put on a good show for the athletes, their coaches and supporters."

Sport Manitoba's Director of Sports Programs, Ted Bigelow, is quite impressed with Portage la Prairie's venues and their proximity to one another.

"I think Portage la Prairie will be definitely ready. Portage is well-endowed with facilities, so that's not an issue at all. There are lots of enthusiastic volunteers and very poised presentations. It was really great to see the ideas and exchange of information, which is important," said Bigelow. "It's going to be really exciting and I hope the people of Portage take advantage of it and get involved."

The tour also included a visit by Canadian Women's Hockey Olympic Gold Medalist Sami Jo Small, who inspired her audience by sharing her experiences at past Manitoba Games, and how that aided her on her road to the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City in 2002.

Between March 7-13, 2010, the Power Smart Manitoba Winter Games will attract 1,600 participants between the ages of 10 and 21 from across the province to Portage la Prairie, to compete in 12 events: badminton, five-pin bowling, figure skating, gymnastics, male and female hockey, male and female volleyball, Special Olympics bowling, cross-country skiing, curling and ringette.

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