

Minister
of Canadian Heritage



Ministre
du Patrimoine canadien

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0M5



Welcome to the 2017 Vancouver International Soccer Festival.

Diversity is one of Canada's greatest strengths, and all of us benefit from our country's spirit of inclusion. Canadians are united by a shared passion: sport. Sport helps shape our national and cultural identity; it increases social connections and helps build a more inclusive society. Sport is also one of the best ways for new Canadians to get involved in their communities.

This is why the Government of Canada is pleased to salute the Vancouver International Soccer Festival, Canada's largest multicultural soccer event. By bringing together players of all backgrounds to enjoy the world's most popular game, the tournament celebrates diversity and helps promote cross-cultural understanding.

As Minister of Canadian Heritage, I wish all of the athletes competing the very best of luck, and I thank the organizers and volunteers who have made this event possible.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mélanie Joly".

The Honourable Mélanie Joly

Canada

