



## **PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **THE 2<sup>nd</sup> WORLD DEAF ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS AWARDED TO TORONTO**

September 7, 2009 – Taipei, Taiwan - The World Deaf Track & Field Championships have been awarded to Toronto, Ontario by the International Committee for the Deaf Sports. The event will be held from July 14-22, 2012

The successful bid Committee of Rohan Smith, Katya Gorodetska and Christina Macatangay from Toronto worked diligently to prepare for the bid of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Deaf Athletics Championships. At the ICSD congress in Taipei, Taiwan, a presentation was given to the membership and Toronto was accepted as the host city of this prestigious event.

The preparation and plans for the bid took hundreds hours and dedicated work. Mr. Smith and his team had meetings involving the Provinces of Ontario, City of Toronto, University of Toronto and Ontario Track & Field Association, to ensure their support for this event.

Part of the successful bid for Toronto surely has to do with Rohan Smith's impressive credentials. Rohan Smith graduated from Gallaudet University in 1991 with an accounting degree. Rohan was the President of the Ontario Deaf Sports Association and is an accomplished deaf Athletics star. Rohan broke the record at the 1988 Deaflympics and 1989 Commonwealth Games. Smith won Silver medals in the 100 m at the Deaflympics in 1985 and 1989 with a Personal best of 10.40 seconds. In 1993, Rohan was the relay team mate of Donovan Bailey and was the Assistant Coach for Team Canada for the 2001 Deaflympics in Rome.

Mark Dunn, Vice –President of the CDSA and ICSD Canadian Congress delegate says, *“Rohan has proven to us he is dedicated to developing grass-roots sports at the provincial level. Now, he is taking all of his experiences and bringing this World event to his hometown. What an accomplishment.”*

One of Rohan's beliefs is the following: *“Winning this is not only about offering competitive sports to Deaf athletes on an International level, but about providing opportunities to build upon their skills, develop friendships, network and take pride in themselves as well as in the worldwide Deaf community. Deaf athletes are distinguished from all others in their special communication needs on the sports field, as well as in the social interaction that is an equally vital part of the games”.*

Now that is a success story!

Mark this in your calendar:

**2<sup>nd</sup> World Deaf Athletics Championships**  
**Toronto, Ontario, Canada**  
**July 14-22, 2012**

**The goal is to be host to 60 countries and 700 athletes**

The Canadian Deaf Sports Association (ASSC-CDSA) is a non-profit, private corporation programs that will bring awareness to Canadians, elite athletes including send teams to with hearing loss of 55 db in each of both ears at all levels of sports. The ASSC-CDSA is the governing body for Team Canada participating to the Deaflympics, Pan American Games for the Deaf and various World Deaf Championships.

For more information on the 2012 2<sup>nd</sup> World Deaf Athletics Championships, please contact:

Rohan Smith  
Chairperson – 2012 WDAC, Toronto, ON

For more information or to send a message to Team Canada, please contact:

Kim Rizzi  
Executive Director  
Team Canada/Canadian Deaf Sports Association  
[kim.rizzi@assc-cdsa.com](mailto:kim.rizzi@assc-cdsa.com)  
[kimrizzi@rogers.blackberry.net](mailto:kimrizzi@rogers.blackberry.net)

*Ce communiqué est aussi disponible en français.*