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CONTACT:

Jake Stafford
Witeck • Combs Communications
P: 202-887-0500, ext. 16
F: 202-887-5633
jstafford@witeckcombs.com



**FEDERATION
OF GAY GAMES**
www.gaygames.org

*Updated 15 November 2003
to include messages below in
Afrikaans, French, German,
Norwegian and Spanish*

THE GAY GAMES MOVE FORWARD

Federation of Gay Games undaunted by Montréal 2006's attempt to divide the Gay Games movement

CHICAGO, 13 November 2003 — The Federation of Gay Games, as the founding and official licensing body of the Gay Games movement, assures the global GLBT community that it is committed to providing a Gay Games that will remain a profound expression of and vehicle for the unity of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons across the world. Despite the disappointing results of the negotiations, Federation Directors have continued the important committee work this week that enables the Gay Games to move forward. The Federation's annual meeting is scheduled to end tomorrow, Friday, 14 November 2003.

The Federation of Gay Games is saddened and bewildered by Montréal 2006's aggressive offensive to promote its position at the cost of dividing the GLBT community in general and the Gay Games movement in particular. Seeking to put to rest these divisions, the Federation is compelled to answer the inaccuracies of Rendez-Vous Montréal 2006's 11 November 2003 press release.

Accusations are untrue that the Federation of Gay Games demands full financial control

Rendez-Vous Montréal 2006's 11 November 2003 press release states that the Federation demands "full financial control of the 2006 Games." The reality is that Federation sought not full financial control but, rather, robust budgetary oversight. After a fourth consecutive Gay Games budget deficit at the Sydney Gay Games in 2002—this time largely due to overspeculation in the amount of attendees—the Federation felt stronger than ever that it is the Federation's responsibility to monitor the financial undertakings of a host city to ensure that participants at future Gay Games, including Gay Games VII, need not doubt the future of the event due to overspending.

The Federation does indeed represent more than itself

Rendez-Vous Montréal 2006 has also issued divisive remarks that the Federation "represents little more than itself, with only 21 of the 1000 sports teams around the world being FGG members." This remarkably misleading statement is shown errant by even a cursory look at the Federation roster, which reveals the following voting Director Organizations:

- European Gay and Lesbian Sports Federation -- representing thousands of athletes and multiple sports throughout Europe
- Gay and Lesbian Rowing Federation -- representing 21 teams on three continents
- International Association of Gay and Lesbian Martial Artists -- representing martial artists from Australia, Canada, China, England, France, Italy, Germany, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Russia, Thailand, Turkey, United States, and western Africa
- International Front Runners -- representing more than 100 running clubs and thousands of runners worldwide
- International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics -- representing more than 50 swim clubs and thousands of swimmers worldwide

- International Gay and Lesbian Football Association -- representing an emerging league of football (soccer) players worldwide with delegates from Argentina, Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, Venezuela, and the United States
- International Gay and Lesbian Ice Hockey Association -- representing 59 teams and nearly 2,000 athletes and officials, with 17 member organizations
- International Gay Bowling Organization, Inc. -- representing thousands of bowlers and many teams worldwide
- International Gay Figure Skating Union -- representing figure skaters worldwide
- Numerous umbrella sport organizing committees in cities including Vancouver, Seattle, Toronto, Sydney, Berlin, Paris, Johannesburg, Chicago, and Cologne, to name a few -- all of which, collectively, represent tens of thousands of gay and lesbian athletes and scores of established and emerging gay and lesbian sport opportunities on at least four continents.

The Federation represents far more than itself. It is literally composed of directorships that attempt the difficult task of effectively representing the global GLBT sport community on a largely voluntary and unpaid basis. In contrast, Rendez-Vous Montréal 2006 was organized to represent itself only.

Rendez-Vous Montréal 2006's proclaiming itself to be more representative of the global gay and lesbian sport community than the Federation of Gay Games is simply not founded on any accurate data or member organizations to the degree of the Federation of Gay Games.

What really happened in the negotiation between the Federation of Gay Games and Rendez-Vous Montréal 2006

After almost two years of negotiations (which had resulted in a "Draft 12" of a proposed License Agreement between Rendez-Vous Montréal 2006 and the Federation), Rendez-Vous Montréal 2006 submitted a "Draft 13" that unilaterally proposed new terms and departed significantly from the two years of work that had gone into developing Draft 12. Draft 13 also included significant changes from their original bid documents as submitted to the Federation in 2001 (the basis for their selection as potential host for Gay Games VII), such as a 22% increase in participant registration fees.

Commencing on Saturday, 8 November, both parties spent 15 hours negotiating differences in Chicago. However, by 3:00 a.m. CST on Sunday (while the Federation team was busy drafting into "Draft 13.5" the agreements that they thought had been reached during the negotiating session), the Rendez-Vous Montréal 2006 legal counsel Marie-Laure Leclercq informed the FGG that Rendez-Vous Montréal 2006 was ending negotiations.

Following a full day of deliberation by the Federation's Board of Directors on Monday, 10 November, the Federation offered a final version of Draft 13.5 that the Federation believed addressed all of Rendez-Vous Montréal 2006's concerns, including even further concessions.

However, by Tuesday morning, the Federation's logo and the words "Gay Games" had been removed from the entire Rendez-Vous Montréal 2006 website and Montréal 2006 had posted a press release that continued to contain blatant inaccuracies.

During the course of the Federation's annual meeting, Rendez-Vous Montréal 2006 was given 30 minutes to answer nine questions from the Federation's Board, approximately three minutes each. After spokesperson Mark Tewksbury said, "We won't need three minutes for each," the Montréal delegates used a total of only 12 minutes, ending with an ultimatum to accept Montréal's version 13 within one and a half hours or Montréal was walking. Montréal has since claimed that they were given only 12 minutes, which is patently false.

The Federation of Gay Games board did not vote on Draft 13 because negotiations on Saturday had generated Draft 13.5. With the exception of segments that the lawyers for both sides were to meet to resolve early Sunday morning when Leclercq delivered the word that Montréal 2006 was walking away, the version of Draft 13.5 offered by the Federation on Monday addressed all clauses that Montréal 2006 had found objectionable.

The Federation of Gay Games was not seeking to put a ceiling on the amount of participants

The Federation's request for a financial model that could support 12,000 athletes was not a ceiling or a cap, but rather a foundational starting point on which to build the games as large as Montréal desired. Indeed, Draft 13.5 accepted Montréal 2006's initial target of 16,000 participants and a budget of \$16M CDN as a base.

Draft 13.5 included mechanisms that would have allowed increases to the size and scope of Rendez-Vous Montréal 2006 upon achievement of financial targets. Objections cited by Montréal 2006 on Monday--in response to questions from the Federation Board--were removed from the final version of Draft 13.5.

Accusations that the Federation offers no support to host cities is false

The Federation has traditionally provided direct support to host cities in the form of cooperative marketing, promotion, and sponsorships (i.e., "fundraising"). In support of Sydney 2002, the Federation authorized over US\$100,000 for a global marketing campaign to augment Sydney's regional efforts. Had S2002 not encountered financial difficulties, this cooperative expenditure alone would have accounted for more than 15% of the Federation's license fee.

MESSAGE FROM FEDERATION CO-PRESIDENT KATHLEEN WEBSTER

(Adapted from a speech delivered Wednesday, 12 November 2003)

Over twenty years ago, when faced with incredible challenge, a group of lesbians and gay men and supporters joined together as a team to create a positive force for change.

The result is the Gay Games.

Just last year we gathered together and – despite yet again many challenges – we played great sports and celebrated our stories and diversity in art and culture at Gay Games VI in Sydney, Australia.

That is what the Federation and the Gay Games are all about.

Today, we have yet another challenge. But that is nothing new to any of us as LGBT people – to any of our friends around the world. We will face that challenge together, together with the support of our friends. Together we will prevail and keep the Gay Games movement alive and successful.

This is the legacy to us from Tom Waddell and the founders of the Gay Games movement.

This is the legacy we will pass on to those who come after us – to preserve the Gay Games mission, vision and celebration to hand over to future generations.

Today, with our supporters around the world, we open the door to our new future.

Federasie mede-president Kathleen Webster se boodskap.

(Vertaal van 'n toespraak wat Woensdag 12 November 2003 gelewer was)

Meer as twintig jaar gelede, toe ongelooflike uitdagings ons in die gesig gestaar het, het 'n groep van lesbians en gay mans en hulle ondersteuners as 'n span vergader om 'n positiewe mag vir verandering te ontwikkel.

Die resultaat was die 'Gay Games'.

Net verlede jaar het ons weer saam vergader – weereens ongeag baie uitdagings – om by die 'Gay Games VI' in Sydney, Australia deel te neem aan sport en ons stories en diversiteit in kuns en kultuur te fier.

Dit is wat die 'Federation of Gay Games' verteenwoordig.

Vandag het ons weer 'n uitdaging, maar dit is niks nuut vir ons LGBT mense of enige van ons vriende wêreld wyd nie. Met die ondersteuning van ons vriende sal ons saam hierdie uitdaging weerstaan. Saam sal ons oorleef en die 'Gay Games' beweging lewendig en suksesvol hou.

Dit is ons erfenis van Tom Waddell en die skeppers van die 'Gay Games' beweging.

Dit is die erfenis wat ons gaan nalaat vir daardie mense wat na ons gaan kom – om die ‘Gay Games’ missie en visie te preserveer en aan toekomstige generasies te oorhandig.

Vandag, met ons ondersteuners wêreld wyd, maak ons die deur na ons nuwe toekoms toe oop.

Vertaal by Eurika Otto (eurikao@hotmail.com)

Message de Kathleen Webster co-présidente de la Fédération des Jeux Gais
(adapté du message délivré mercredi 12 novembre 2003)

Il y a plus de vingt ans, confronté à d’incroyables défis, un groupe de lesbiennes, de gais et de leurs amis a constitué une équipe pour créer ensemble une force positive pour le changement.

Le résultat fut la création des Jeux Gais.

Encore l’an dernier, nous nous sommes rassemblés – malgré une nouvelle fois de nombreuses difficultés – pour pratiquer nos sports et célébrer nos histoires et notre diversité culturelle et artistique aux sixièmes Jeux Gais à Sydney, Australie.

C’est de cela qu’il s’agit à la Fédération et aux Jeux Gais.

Aujourd’hui, nous avons néanmoins un nouveau défi. Mais cela n’a rien de nouveau pour aucun d’entre nous, membres de la communauté GLBT, pour aucun de nos amis du monde entier. Nous affronterons ce défi ensemble, ensemble avec le soutien de nos amis. Ensemble, nous allons faire prévaloir, vivre et réussir le mouvement des Jeux Gais.

C’est l’héritage de Tom Waddell et des fondateurs du mouvements des Jeux Gais.

C’est l’héritage que nous transférerons à nos successeurs – pour pérenniser la mission, la vision et la célébration des Jeux Gais et les transmettre aux générations futures.

Aujourd’hui, avec tous nos soutiens du monde entier, nous ouvrons la porte d’un nouveau futur.

Traduit par Manuel F. Picaud (mjpan@aol.com)

Information der Co-Praesidentin der Federation of Gay Games
(Mittwoch, 12. November 2003)

Vor mehr als 20 Jahren bildete eine Gruppe von Lesben und Schwulen zusammen mit Gleichgesinnten eine Gemeinschaft, um den immer staerker werdenden Herausforderungen gerecht zu werden.

Das Ergebnis sind die Gay Games.

Erst letztes Jahr konnten wir trotz einiger Schwierigkeiten mit einem grossen Sport- und Kulturprogramm unser Anliegen und unsere Vielschichtigkeit im Rahmen der Gay Games VI in Sydney/Australien feiern.

Das ist die Federation und die Gay Games.

Heute stehen wir einer neuen Herausforderung gegenueber. Fuer uns als lesbische, schwule, bisexuele und transgender-Gemeinschaft sowie unsere Freunde in der ganzen Welt ist dies nicht Neues. Mit der Unterstuetzung unserer Freunde sind wir dieser Herausforderung gewachsen. Alle zusammen werden wir die Gay Games- Bewegung lebendig halten und erfolgreich gestalten.

Das ist unsere Aufgabe, die uns Tom Wadell, der Begründer der Gay Games, mit auf den Weg gegeben hat.

Das ist die Aufgabe, die wir denen, die nach uns kommen, weitergeben werden, um Mission und Vision der Gay Games auch in zukünftigen Generationen wach zu halten.

Mit all unseren Unterstützern werden wir die Zukunft gestalten.

Übersetzung: Karl-Heinz Schmitz (karlheinzschmitz@t-online.de)

**Erklärung fra "Federation of Gay Games" co-president Kathleen Webster
(utdrag fra en tale holdt i Chicago på Onsdag, 12. November, 2003)**

For over 20 år siden, og mot utrolige utfordringer, en gruppe lesbiske kvinner, homofile menn, og deres støttespillere sluttet seg sammen for å skape positiv og sterk forandring.

Resultatet ble de "Homofile (Olympiske) Leker", eller "Gay Games".

Så sent som ifjor kom bevegelsen sammen nok en gang, til tross for mange utfordringer, og konkurrerte i sportsgrener og feiret våre historier og seire i kunst og kultur under "Gay Games VI" i Sydney, Australia.

Det er det som teller når vi snakker om "The Federation of Gay Games" (Føderasjonen av Homofile Leker).

Idag har vi nok en utfordring. Men det er ikke noe nytt for oss, eller for våre venner over hele verden. Vi møter slike utfordringer sammen, og forént, med støtte fra våre venner. Vi vil lykkes gjennom samarbeid, og de Homofile Leker (Gay Games) vil leve videre med styrke og suksess.

Dét er den arven fra Dr. Tom Waddell og grunnleggerne av de Homofile Leker vi vil videreføre. Arven om å forévide de Homofile Lekers misjon, visjon, og feiring er det vi vil videreføre til de som kommer etter oss.

Idag, og med hjelp av våre støttespillere over hele verden, åpner vi døren mot vår nye framtid.

Oversatt av Arve Kristian Nergaard (nergaard@comcast.net)

Mensaje de la Co-Presidenta de la Federación: Kathleen Webster

Hace más de veinte años nos enfrentamos a un reto increíble: un grupo de lesbianas y gays, con el apoyo de sus amigos, se unieron, con ánimo positivo, para juntos tratar de cambiar la vida y el mundo.

El resultado son los Gay Games.

El año pasado, por estas mismas fechas, nos volvimos a reunir y, pese a vernos otra vez frente a nuevos retos, disfrutamos de una gran experiencia deportiva y celebramos nuestra historia y diversidad, en el arte y la cultura, en los VI Gay Games, en Sydney, Australia. En eso consisten el quehacer de la Federación y la celebración de los Gay Games.

Hoy, una vez más, nos vemos ante otro desafío. Nada nuevo para nosotros, lesbianas, gays, bisexuales y transexuales, ni para nuestros amigos en todo el mundo. Juntos haremos frente a ese desafío. Juntos, con la ayuda de nuestros amigos. Juntos lo conseguiremos y mantendremos vivos y con éxito el movimiento de los Gay Games.

Esta es la herencia que nos legaron Tom Wadell y los fundadores del movimiento de los Gay Games.

Y esta es la herencia que dejaremos a los que nos sucedan: perpetuar la misión, visión y celebración de los Gay Games y transmitirla a las generaciones futuras.

En el día de hoy, con el apoyo de nuestros amigos en todo el mundo, abrimos las puertas de un nuevo futuro.

Traducción: Pepe Garcia Vazquez (pepegv7@hotmail.com)



*Wednesday, 12 November 2003
Chicago Cultural Center, Preston Bradley Hall*

Back row: Alderman Tom Tunney, Rob Hunden, Kevin Boyer, Christopher Pries, Mark Cihlar,
Front row: Dennis Sneyers, Federation Co-Presidents Roberto Mantaci and Kathleen Webster, Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, LGBT Chicago Liaison William Greaves, Suzanne Arnold

About The Federation of Gay Games:

The Federation of Gay Games is the international governing body that perpetuates the quadrennial Gay Games and promotes the event's founding principles of inclusion, participation and personal best. The Gay Games was conceived by Dr. Tom Waddell, an Olympic decathlete, and was first held in San Francisco in 1982 with 1,350 participants. Subsequent Gay Games were held in San Francisco (1986; 3,500 participants), Vancouver (1990; 7,300 participants), New York (1994; 12,500 participants), Amsterdam (1998; 13,000 participants), and Sydney (2002; 11,000 participants).