

Worlds Martial Arts Championship Canadian Open Announcement

Wednesday, February 20

[AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY]

Good afternoon everyone. It is a pleasure to be with you here for the official announcement of this International martial arts tournament that is coming to our city next year.

I would like to recognize Ian McMillan from Tourism Sault Ste. Marie, Tracy Cornacchio, the tournament director and Grandmaster Peter Cornacchio Junior of Soo Dan Hap Ki Do, who was recently inducted into the World Martial Arts Hall of Fame.

The 2019 Worlds Martial Arts Championship Canadian Open will bring more than 1,000 delegates from across the world to Sault Ste. Marie.

Our city has a rich tradition of excellence in sports. We have produced world renowned athletes in all sports including Olympic Gold athletes and professional athletes in a variety of different leagues. We boast several sporting clubs that have hosted many national sporting events.

This tournament will be a significant addition to the proud history that our city has already established in the sports world.

I want to give credit to the team at Tourism Sault Ste. Marie for helping bring this event to our city. Several years ago, the organization purchased martial arts mats and the investment allowed the city to host the 2011 International Hap Ki Do Canadian Open, and now the 2019 Worlds Martial Arts Championship Canadian Open.

I also want to recognize our city's active and enthusiastic martial arts community. For the members of this community, and our local citizens, this event will be a chance to watch world-class competition up close.

I encourage people to support this event next summer, and I want to thank everyone here for attending today's announcement.