



PRESS RELEASE
***** For Immediate Release *****
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Little League Baseball Canada
Alberta District 2 / Edmonton

www.2012champions.ca

“Over 59 Years of Little League in Edmonton”

Road to the 2012 Canadian Little League Championships Begins

Teams from Four Local Leagues to Compete to be Host Team **at the 2012 Canadian Little League Championships**

Four teams will be playing in a tournament to determine the Host Team in the upcoming 2012 Canadian Little League Championships taking place this August in Edmonton. Teams from Community Park, Confederation Park, East Park and Mill Woods will compete in a tournament beginning Saturday June 23 through to Thursday June 28 at John Fry Park. Games will also be played at Empire Park and at Mill Woods Park.

The 2012 Canadian Little League Championship Tournament will begin on Saturday August 4th and will conclude with the Championship Final on Saturday August 11th with the winner moving on to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA beginning August 16th. The tournament will consist of six (6) teams from the five Little League regions in Canada plus a host team. The five regions are from British Columbia, the Prairies, Ontario, Quebec and the Atlantic Region. Players from the five Little League regions will arrive in Edmonton on Thursday August 2nd, and in keeping with Little League tradition, the plan is to have the players billeted with families throughout the four local leagues that currently make up the Edmonton District. Edmonton last hosted its only other Canadian Championship Tournament successfully in 1989 with a team from Confederation Park in Edmonton making it to the Championship final.

The Canadian Little League Championships will be held at a refurbished John Fry Park. Current estimates by the organizing committee are approximating attendance figures for the Championship Final to be up to 3,000 to 5,000 people. There are three (3) games per day as part of the round robin schedule, with one day being held open in case of games that may have to be re-scheduled due to inclement weather. Preparations are well underway to secure volunteers to assist in putting on this tournament, as well as the task of funding the event through initiatives that will include approaching the business community in Edmonton as well as other partners interested in being a part of this memorable experience. Up to date information about both tournaments is available on the main tournament web page at www.2012champions.ca.

In addition to representing Edmonton at the Canadian Championships, the winning Host Team will also attend the Toronto Blue Jays Honda Super Camp being held at Telus Field from July 2-4. Players at the Edmonton camp will learn skills and techniques from former Major League All-Stars such as Lloyd Moseby, Duane Ward, Sandy Alomar, Homer Bush and Rance Mulliniks.

In conjunction with the Canadian Little League Championships, Edmonton District 2 Little League will also be holding a game for its Challenger Division prior to the Championship Final, which is designed for special needs youth to be able to play and enjoy the game of baseball. By having the game on the same stage as the national tournament, it is hoped that more special needs player will be exposed to the game, and to give these athletes an opportunity to enjoy the excitement of participating in an event at the Canadian Championships.

With over 59 years of Little League Baseball in Edmonton, the four current leagues continue to provide baseball programs for players from the age of 5 to 18 years, with recent enrolment in the Edmonton District at approximately 1,000 players. With exposure to these Canadian Little League Championships, Edmonton District 2 along with the help of the Edmonton Capitals hopes that more young athletes will consider playing a game with deep roots in the community and lasting memories of fun on the diamond playing the game of baseball.

This is an excellent opportunity for the public to watch the highest calibre of baseball at this level played by excellent young athletes. Millions have played Little League baseball worldwide for over 50 years, and many of today's major leaguers began their careers in Little League. Please take this opportunity to lend your support for the teams that will go on to represent Canada at the Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA in 2012.

To obtain further information, please get in touch with the following contacts, or access the Championship web page;

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Complete Host Tournament and 2012 Canadian Little League Championship information available at
www.2012champions.ca

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