

Federal financial support for the 2026 FIFA Men's World Cup

In response to parliamentary interest, this note provides analysis of the federal commitments and costs associated with co-hosting the 2026 FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) Men's World Cup.

Key Findings

Based on the most recent information, PBO estimates total government support to co-host the 2026 FIFA Men's World Cup to be \$1,066 million, of which federal support will be \$473 million, with the remainder of \$593 million funded by other levels of government.

Because Canada will be hosting 13 games, the estimated cost per game is \$82 million. This amount is aligned to past public spending to host World Cup events.

Total cost of hosting and federal support

This year from June 11 to July 19, Canada will co-host the FIFA Men's World Cup with the United States and Mexico. The World Cup will include 104 games with 7 games to be played in Vancouver and 6 games to be played in Toronto.

Across all levels of government, Canadian spending on the 2026 FIFA Men's World Cup is expected to be \$1,066 million, with \$473 million in funding coming from the federal government and the remainder being provided by other levels of government.

Prior to Budget 2025, federal government spending on the World Cup included an initial grant of \$3.6 million to Canada Soccer to support preparation for the event and \$220 million in grants provided to the City of Toronto (\$104 million) and the Government of British Columbia (\$116 million) to assist with city-level hosting duties (announced in 2024).¹ Budget 2025 and the 2026 Spring Economic Update (SEU) allocated an additional \$100 million and \$146 million, respectively, in funding to provide

essential federal services during the World Cup. Of the funding in the SEU, \$145 million is expected to be transferred to other levels of government to assist the host cities with security-related costs (\$100 million for the Province of British Columbia and \$45 million for the City of Toronto) with the final \$1 million expected to go towards Invest in Canada for investment promotion.² Finally, Public Safety Canada also allocated \$3.6 million from its existing operating budget for expenses related to the FIFA World Cup. Table 1 provides a breakdown of total spending by item and level of government. Finance Canada does not expect there to be any additional federal expenditure items.

Table 1

Total planned spending for the 2026 FIFA Men's World Cup, millions of dollars

Item	Federal support (including SEU allocations)	Other levels of government (net)	Total cost
Toronto – budgeted hosting cost	149.3	230.6	380.0
Vancouver – budgeted hosting cost	215.7	362.3	578.0
Preparation for FIFA Men's World Cup (Canada Soccer)	3.6		3.6
Budget 2025	100.0		100.0
Public Safety Canada (internal reallocation)	3.6		3.6
Spring Economic Update - Invest in Canada	1.0		1.0
Total	473.2	593.0	1,066.1

Source:

City of Toronto, Government of British Columbia, Finance Canada, Canadian Heritage, Public Safety Canada, and the Parliamentary Budget Office.

Note:

Totals may not add due to rounding. The midpoint of upper- and lower-bound estimates are used for all Government of British Columbia figures. Funds under Preparation for FIFA Men's World Cup (Canada Soccer)" were spent in the 2018-19 and 2019-20 fiscal years. Of the funds under "Public Safety Canada (internal reallocation)", \$3.1 million was spent between 2022-23 and January 2026. Of the remaining federal funding \$46.0 million was spent in 2024-25 with the rest being spent between 2025-26 and 2027-28.

As of April 2026, the most recent municipal and provincial budgets had indicated that, including federal grants, the City of Toronto intended to spend a total of \$380 million on its city-level hosting costs while the Province of British Columbia intended to spend a total of \$578 million.³ Any city-level hosting costs exceeding the grants provided by the federal government are expected to be paid for by other levels of government.

It is currently unclear whether the federal contributions to the host cities announced in the SEU are covering additional city-level expenses that were not previously announced or whether the federal government is covering a larger share of existing planned spending for the cities. This note assumes no increase in the overall city-level hosting costs compared to the amounts in the most recent budget announcements as of April 2026.

Net of the \$220 million and \$145 million federal transfers, this would imply a remaining cost of approximately \$231 million for Toronto and \$362 million for Vancouver. However, updates to municipal and provincial spending plans may be announced in the coming weeks, implying changes to the expected costs for other levels of government. Of the \$473 million in planned federal expenditures, \$96 million had been spent as of January 2026.⁴

Both host cities signed agreements with FIFA outlining detailed expectations and hosting responsibilities. In response to information request [IR0878](#), the federal government confirmed it had not signed any contracts or agreements with FIFA in relation to the 2026 Men's World Cup. However, letters of guarantee were provided to FIFA by federal ministers as part of the 2018 World Cup bid. These letters made commitments to providing essential federal services including facilitating the entry of FIFA players and staff into Canada, issuing temporary visas and permits, ensuring compliance with federal labour laws, enhancing safety and security including security for internationally protected persons, and protecting FIFA commercial rights in Canada.⁵ The majority of funding allocated to the FIFA World Cup under Budget 2025 and the 2026 Spring Economic Update is for security-related items. Table 2 provides a provisional breakdown of funding by department or agency.

Table 2

Provisional breakdown of federal support by department and purpose, millions of dollars

Department	Purpose	Total
Canadian Heritage	Transfers to other levels of government – support event delivery costs (operations and infrastructure)	220.0
Public Safety Canada	Transfers to other levels of government – support security activities	145.0
Royal Canadian Mounted Police	Security costs	79.0
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada	Visitor visas	6.4
Canadian Heritage – Budget 2025	Multiple uses	5.8
Canada Border Security Agency	Border security	4.3
Canadian Heritage	Preparation for FIFA Men's World Cup	3.6
Public Safety Canada – internal reallocation	Multiple uses	3.6
Canadian Air Transport Security Authority	Security screening	3.4
Canadian Food Inspection Agency	Border food safety	1.2
Invest In Canada	Investment promotion	1.0
Total		473.2

Source:

Finance Canada, Canadian Heritage, Public Safety Canada, and the Parliamentary Budget Office.

Note:

Totals may not add due to rounding. Budget 2025 spending by Canadian Heritage includes funding for Indigenous Engagement, Sports Infrastructure and Sports Diplomacy.

Based on federal budgets and documents, we estimate the amount of support for the 2026 FIFA Men's World Cup that would be classified as capital expenditure under the new federal Capital Budgeting Framework used to calculate the government's fiscal anchor respecting operational spending.⁶ Most of these capital expenditures are for

stadium improvements and the creation of FIFA training sites. We estimate that capital expenditures provided by the federal government total \$128.1 million. Of note, this amount will not be included in federal capital expenditures, as presented in the Public Accounts.

Table 3

Federal government's capital expenditures related to the 2026 FIFA Men's World Cup, millions of dollars

Item	Federal contribution
Budgeted hosting costs: BMO Field, FIFA training sites and BC Place Vancouver (Canadian Heritage)	126.1
Budget 2025: sport infrastructure (Canadian Heritage)	0.2
Budget 2025: sport diplomacy (Canadian Heritage)	1.8
Total	128.1

Source:

City of Toronto, Government of British Columbia, Finance Canada, Canadian Heritage and the Parliamentary Budget Office. Capital spending under "Budgeted hosting costs" obtained from Heritage Canada response to Order Paper Q-644.

Note:

Totals may not add due to rounding.

Comparative cost analysis

Table 4 compares per-game spending across previous World Cups, drawing heavily on past analysis by Müller et al. (2022). Based on the most recent estimates of costs across all levels of government, Canada is expected to spend \$82.0 million per game (or 59.6 USD). Using this frame, it appears Canada's costs are roughly in line with what was spent per game on previous tournaments.

Table 4

Per game hosting costs by FIFA Men's World Cup, in nominal USD

World Cup	Per game hosting cost (nominal USD, millions)
France (1998)	16.0
Japan/South Korea (2002)	81.5
Germany (2006)	36.8
South Africa (2010)	73.7
Brazil (2014)	90.9
Russia (2018)	79.6
Canada (2026)	59.6

Source:

Müller et al. (2022), World Bank, Federal Reserve Board, Haver Analytics and the Parliamentary Budget Office.

Note:

Costs for past World Cups obtained from Müller et al. (2022) should be interpreted as lower bound estimates as they only include organization costs and sports venue costs. Costs are converted to nominal US dollars.

Canada's cost per game is \$82 million in Canadian dollars. The per-game cost in Table 4 was converted to US dollars using the April 2026 exchange rate obtained from the Federal Reserve board and Haver Analytics.

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Data Sources

City of Toronto Hosting Costs

[City of Toronto Budget, 2025 Program Summary, FIFA World Cup 2026 Toronto](#)

Province of British Columbia hosting costs

[Province of British Columbia News, Provincial FIFA Cost Update Backgrounder 1](#)

Hosting costs by previous FIFA World Cup

Müller, Martin, David Gogishvili, and Sven Daniel Wolfe. "[The structural deficit of the Olympics and the World Cup: Comparing costs against revenues over time.](#)" *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space* 54.6 (2022): 1200-1218.

Exchange rates by country

Federal Reserve Board and Haver Analytics

Notes

¹ For more information, see [Question Period Notes](#).

² The table at the end of Chapter 2 of the Spring Economic Update indicates \$146 million proposed spending for Public Safety Canada and Invest in Canada "to support security activities at the FIFA Men's World Cup 2026 and to leverage the event for investment promotion." On April 29, 2026, Public Safety Canada issued a [news release](#) highlighting that \$145 million would be used to "help reduce cost pressures on provinces and municipalities". PBO expects the remaining \$1 million to be allocated to Invest in Canada, but Finance Canada has not yet provided a reconciliation of these amounts. Media appearances by the Minister of Public Safety and Premier of British Columbia indicate that \$100 million will be allocated to Province of British Columbia while the remaining \$45 million will be allocated to the City of Toronto.

³ Hosting cost estimates for Vancouver are based on the midpoint of upper- and lower-bound estimates from BC government figures.

⁴ Based on response to [Q-644](#) and PBO calculations.

⁵ The Government of Canada has also put in place a remission order waiving taxes on some goods imported temporarily into Canada to be used exclusively in connection to

the 2026 World Cup. This is not expected to result in any significant economic impacts. For more information, see [Customs Notice 25-30: Administration of FIFA Men's World Cup 2026 Remission Order](#).

⁶ For the purposes of the Public Accounts, this federal contribution to other levels of government would not be considered a capital expenditure since the federal government will not have a corresponding asset on its balance sheet. However, for the City of Toronto, who owns BMO Stadium, and the province of British Columbia, who owns BC Place through a crown corporation, the amounts they invest in these infrastructures would be considered capital spending. Therefore, under the federal government's new fiscal anchor framework to capture capital expenditures, it will stimulate public sector capital investment and be considered capital spending.

