



CALGARY SOCCER FEDERATION



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PRESS CONTACT:**

**Wednesday October 11, 2006**

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*Calgary, AB* – At an event held at the Calgary Soccer Centre attended by players, coaches and fans of all ages, 8 teams from the Calgary area who have competed for national and regional titles were honoured on Wednesday evening. The celebration of the latest successes of Calgary soccer players followed a meeting of the combined boards of all major soccer associations in Calgary held last week which was attended by special guest Mayor Dave Bronconnier. At that meeting the idea of unifying the four existing organizations into one governing body was discussed. Mayor Bronconnier stressed the advantages to having one unified voice representing the sport of soccer in the city, a sport that is “growing at a tremendous pace”.

Speaking at the outset of the meeting on behalf of all four association Presidents, Jeff du Berger, who heads up the Calgary Soccer Federation’s unity efforts, noted that:

*“The time to focus on the future of soccer in Calgary has come. If we speak with one voice about the needs of all soccer players and their families in Calgary, it will help strengthen the sport and improve facilities for all players.”*

Currently there are 4 organizations with a combined membership of over 35,000 participants.

- Calgary Women’s Soccer Association,
- Calgary United Soccer Association,
- Calgary Minor Soccer Association,
- Calgary Commercial Men’s Soccer Association

“A great indicator of the quality of soccer in Calgary today is the fact that 8 teams from various age groups are now competing for National titles,” said Jeff du Berger.

Representatives from each of the boards approved a motion to pursue the idea of creating one unified soccer organization in Calgary, agreeing to proceed to phase 2 of the project: to work out operational, logistical and financial issues that need to be addressed to make such an effort successful. That phase begins this Friday when the Steering Committee meets for the first time. The Steering Committee will be seeking input from members of each organization and other key stakeholders, to complete a report by early 2007.

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