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NEWS RELEASE

PEI'S FIRST INDOOR SOCCER COMPLEX KICKS OFF OFFICIAL OPENING

STRATFORD (PE) – June 19, 2009 – Island soccer players now can hone their skills in any weather conditions as the province's first indoor soccer facility has officially opened in Stratford.

Thanks to investments from the Government of Canada, the Province of Prince Edward Island, the Town of Stratford and the PEI Soccer Association, the new 46,500 square foot regional complex now provides an ideal location for competitions and high-performance training for players, coaches and referees.

“Our government is committed to working with our provincial and community partners to build the necessary infrastructure for Islanders and encourage participation in sport,” said the Honourable Keith Ashfield, Minister of State (Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency). “This project will create the potential for sports governing bodies to spur growth in soccer while also producing economic benefits through the hosting of regional events.”

The nearly \$4 million facility, which is conveniently located adjacent to four existing outdoor soccer fields, is a clear span, self-supporting insulated steel structure, providing an obstruction-free interior and featuring an artificial turf playing surface.

Soccer has grown by leaps and bounds in recent years on Prince Edward Island. Demand for access to the complex is expected to be high as there are currently 6,000 soccer players on PEI, and that number is expected to continue growing in the next few years.

“I am sure many Prince Edward Island soccer players will be looking forward to the opportunity to play indoors year-round on this beautiful artificial turf surface,” said Honourable Carolyn Bertram, Minister of Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour. “This new PEI Regional Indoor Soccer Facility is an investment in the health and well being of Islanders and will serve residents of our One Island Community for many years to come.”

The Government of Canada, the Province of Prince Edward Island and the PEI Soccer Association each contributed \$1,328,600 to the project. The Town of Stratford contributed the land and will provide \$150,000 and municipal tax relief to the Soccer Association over the next five years.