



Winterball Fact Sheet

Description

- *Winterball* is a Canadian school-based program that is incorporated as part of the physical education curriculum for schools throughout all 10 Canadian provinces.
- The program's objective is to introduce the basic fundamentals of baseball in a fun, non-competitive manner, while providing a positive learning experience for participants.
- Students in grades 3-6 (ages 8-12) participate in the nine-week sessions that run throughout the winter and spring months.
- *Winterball*, created by Baseball Ontario in conjunction with Baseball Canada and Sport Canada in the 2002-2003 school year, has been supported by Major League Baseball since 2004.

Reach

- During its first three years, the *Winterball* Program has helped to introduce baseball in more than 1,100 schools, reaching more than 200,000 students.
- In 2007, *Winterball* continued to be a success across Canada, with 340 kits distributed to schools and over 80,000 students participating in the program.
- In 2008, Baseball Canada and Major League Baseball will deliver the program to approximately 430 new schools across Canada reaching an estimated 80,000 students.

MLB Participation

- Beginning in October 2004, Major League Baseball agreed to support Baseball Canada's *Winterball* program and has been on board ever since.
- As part of its commitment to grow the game internationally, MLB partnered with Baseball Canada to help ensure the continued development of baseball within Canadian schools and to introduce the world's premier baseball league to students throughout the country.
- As part of their annual support to the program, MLB helps to supply an array of materials, including equipment packs, MLB Fan Guides for students, in-class worksheets, and a DVD explaining the rules of the game.
- MLB and Baseball Canada believe the *Winterball* Program will allow both organizations to better achieve the goal of developing widespread youth participation and awareness for baseball in Canada.