



April 20, 2013

**An open letter to our runners,
sponsors, suppliers, and other supporters.**

Dear friends,

It has been a sad and heartfelt week for all of us. We've watched the tragic events in Boston and send our deepest sympathies to the victims, their families, runners, race organizers, supporters, first responders, and others affected by this tragedy.

With the BMO Vancouver Marathon just over two weeks away, we wanted to reach out to reassure each of our runners and our extended running community, including family, friends and sponsors, that safety is our top priority.

We have met with senior officials from the City of Vancouver, the Vancouver Police Department, Ambulance Services, Emergency Services, medical providers and other stakeholders to review our Emergency Response Plan and are pleased to announce that it has been supported by Officials and offers the necessary levels of safety and security for runners, volunteers, spectators and other supporters.

To pay tribute to those affected by the Boston tragedy, we will hold a minute of silence at the start of the Marathon, Half Marathon, 8km, and Kids 1-mile Fun Run events. In addition, we will give runners a yellow ribbon at Package Pick-up to wear on race day. Participants and supporters can also sign a commemorative book at the Health, Sports and Lifestyle Expo that will be presented to the Boston Athletic Commission.

We will also donate \$10 from every walk-up registration, received at the Health, Sports and Lifestyle Expo for the 8km, Half Marathon and Marathon events from May 2 – 4, to the One Fund Boston charity.

As runners, we know that our sport is not only about running; it is about overcoming challenges, about camaraderie, about passion and about community. Let's unite on May 5th to protect what we value and stand up against such senseless acts.

Again, we want to reassure you of our commitment to safety and look forward to seeing you on race weekend. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to ask – email info@bmoanmarathon.ca, call (604) 872-2928 or Tweet us @BmoVanMarathon.

Sincerely,

David Diebolt
Board Chair
Vancouver International Marathon Society

Charlene Krepiakevich
Executive Director
Vancouver International Marathon Society