

NO OLYMPICS ON STOLEN NATIVE LAND



ANTI-COLONIAL & ANTI-CAPITALIST RESISTANCE



VANCOUVER, 'CANADA', FEB 10-15, 2010

Coast Salish Territory

Anti-Olympic organizers in Vancouver, 'Canada' have called for a convergence of anti-colonial & anti-capitalist forces to confront the corporate Olympic industry and its 2010 Winter Games. For more info:

Email: OlympicResistance@riseup.net
Web: www.No2010.com



ANTI-2010

Information Against the Olympic Industry



No Olympics on Stolen Native Land

Introduction

Welcome to *Anti-2010; Information Against the Olympic Industry*, a special report by No2010.com based on over two years of research and maintenance of the No2010.com website. It is designed as a print publication to be distributed to those without access to the internet, or who prefer printed material to computer screens. Despite this, it is only a fraction of the information now available on the website (so check it out!). Some parts are designed as 2-4 page leaflets of their own for specialized distribution (or low budgets).

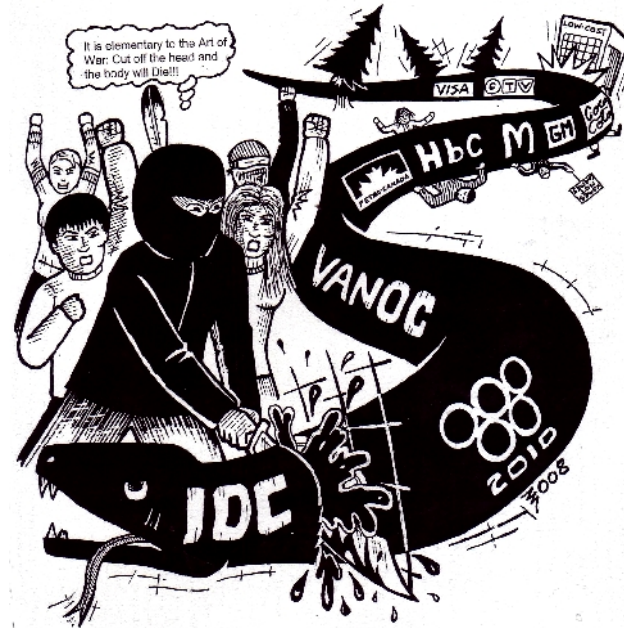
No2010.com was established in the spring of 2007 to provide information for anti-Olympic resistance, to educate and inspire others, and to post regular updates for the movement. It is maintained by Indigenous rebels in occupied Coast Salish Territory. Thanks to a comrade in Montreal, 100,000 stickers were printed with the slogan 'No Olympics on Stolen Native Land' & the website address. These stickers have been distributed across Canada. In addition, a 'Militant Merchandise' section has been added to the site, which has t-shirts, patches and stickers for sale. You can support No2010.com by purchasing these products (via Paypal).

On the website there are also PDFs that can be downloaded and copied that you can distribute in your area, including *SportsAction* (direct actions against 2010 chronology) and this publication. We are currently working on a special print edition/PDF focusing on the 2010 Torch Relay.

No2010.com is a member of the Olympic Resistance Network, the main coordinating group for anti-2010 opposition in Vancouver. Over the last two years, the anti-Olympic movement in Vancouver and across the country has carried out a successful campaign of protest & direct action. If you'd like to get involved, contact the ORN at email: OlympicResistance@riseup.net.

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For more info: WWW.No2010.com

Ignite A Flame of Resistance Against the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay



The Olympic Torch Relay is often presented as a tradition from the ancient Greek Olympics. In reality, the Greeks never had a torch relay! Instead, it was introduced by the Nazis during the 1936 Berlin Olympics as a propaganda tool to promote fascism throughout Western Europe and within Germany.

Today, it is a major part of the Olympic industry and serves to rally public support & nationalist fervor (just as the Nazis had intended). Along with the opening day ceremony, the torch relay is one of the most significant high profile Olympic events to occur. For these reasons it has been targeted by anti-Olympics movements.

In Italy 2006, in the two months leading up to Turin Winter Olympics, the relay was disrupted several times, with protesters briefly stealing the flame, dousing it with fire extinguishers, and blockading its route. Olympic organizers were forced to bypass towns and regions due to this resistance, despite thousands of police being deployed. Anti-Olympics groups targeted Coca Cola, a main sponsor of torch relays, due to its human rights

and environmental abuses. In Busselona, a radical mayor banned all Coke advertisements from the city, while other municipalities debated similar motions.

During the torch relay for the 2008 Beijing Summer Games, protesters denouncing China's occupation of Tibet (and other human rights abuses) successfully disrupted the relay in San Francisco, Paris, London, and other cities during the relay's 21 country international tour. Thousands of police were deployed to protect the torch in country after country. In Paris, the torch was extinguished 3-4 times by organizers as it was hustled onto a bus to drive by protesting crowds. The protests successfully tarnished the Beijing Games as the work of an authoritarian and repressive police state, and highlighted the cause of Tibetan independence.

These mobilizations showed the vulnerability of the Olympic torch relay to disruption, and the high profile nature of such disruptions.

For the 2010 Winter Games, Olympic organizers have planned an ambitious and extensive torch relay, beginning in Victoria on Oct. 30, 2009. It will spend five days on Vancouver Island before flying to the Yukon, crossing the northern region of the country to the Atlantic coast, then proceed westward across all provinces, to arrive in Vancouver for the opening ceremonies on Feb. 12, 2010.

The relay will last 106 days and cover 45,000 km. It will pass through 1,000 communities, with mid-day and evening celebrations each day in some 200. Through collaboration with the Assembly of First Nations, the torch relay will include some 115 Native communities. Altogether there will be 12,000 torch bearers. The cost of the entire spectacle is \$30 million, with two-thirds of this funded by the federal government. The main corporate sponsors are the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) and Coca Cola.

Join the movement: organize protests and disruptions in your area!

Anti-Olympic organizers in Vancouver have called for protests and disruptions of the torch relay as it crosses the country, transforming it into an opportunity to ignite anti-colonial and anti-capitalist resistance.

- To learn the route of the torch relay -- and if it passes through or near your location -- go to: www.vancouver2010.com and find *Torch Relays*, which will take you to maps and lists of towns and cities.
- Get in touch with the Olympic Resistance Network at: olympicresistance@riseup.net.
- Check out No2010.com for info and updates.

RESISTANCE 2010!

No Olympics on Stolen Native Land! Disrupt and Abolish the G8 and SPP!

In the year 2010, three major international events will be taking place in the Canadian state: the Winter Olympics in Vancouver (between February 12-28); the G8 Leader's Summit in Huntsville, Ontario (June 25-27, 2010); and the meeting of the NAFTA leaders as part of the so-called "Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP)" (date and location not yet known).

G8: the 8 leading industrialized states of the world: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, United States, and Russia, who plan and coordinate global economics in the interests of the global elite. Without Russia, it is known as the G7. **SPP:** a plan for the integration of economic and security systems between Canada, the US, and Mexico, in the interests of the ruling class and corporations.

2010 ANTI-COLONIAL/CAPITALIST CONVERGENCE



VANCOUVER, CANADA/COAST SALISH TERRITORY, FEB 10-15, 2010

A gathering of anti-colonial and anti-capitalist forces has been called by anti-Olympic organizers for Vancouver from Feb. 10-15, 2010, in order to confront and disrupt the 2010 Winter Olympics. These dates were chosen to coincide with the opening day ceremony of the Olympics, which begins Feb. 12 (to Feb. 28, 2010).

Email: olympicresistance@riseup.net **Web:** WWW.No2010.com

RESOURCES FOR ANTI-OLYMPIC RESISTANCE

BOOKS

Berlin Games; How Hitler Stole the Olympic Dream, by Guy Walters, John Murray Publishing, London 2006

Fair Play for Housing Rights; Olympic Games & Housing Rights, Centre on Housing Rights & Evictions, Geneva, Switzerland 2007, www.cohre.org

Reconciliation in Olympism: Indigenous culture in the Sydney Olympiad, M. Hanna, Walla Walla Press, Sydney 1999

Conquest; Sexual Violence & American Indian Genocide, by Andrea Smith, South End Press, Cambridge, MA 2005

Five Ring Circus: Myths & Realities of the Olympic Games, by Christopher A. Shaw, Vancouver 2008 (draft copy)

Hitler's Games; the 1936 Olympics, by Duff Hart-Davis, Harper & Row Publishers, New York 1986

Hitler's Olympics; the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games, by Christopher Hilton, Sutton Publishing, England 2006

Inside the Olympic Industry; Power, Politics and Activism, by Helen Jefferson Lenskyj, State University of New York Press, Albany NY 2000

Mexico Under Siege; Popular Resistance to Presidential Despotism, by Donald Hodges & Ross Gandy, Zed Books, New York 2002

Prostitution in Vancouver: Violence and the Colonization of First Nations Women, by Melissa Farley, Jacqueline Lynne, and Ann J. Cotton, Prostitution Research & Education, San Francisco, CA, 2005

Selling the Five Rings; the IOC and the Rise of Olympic Commercialism, by Robert K. Barney, Stephen R. Wenn, and Scott G. Martyn, University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City 2002

Sport, Culture and Ideology, Edited by Jennifer Hargreaves, Routledge, London 1982

Sutikalh and Skwel'kwel'welt 2002 Submission to the IOC, June 30, 2002 (see www.no2010.com)

The Best Olympics Ever? Social Impacts of Sydney 2000, by Helen Jefferson Lenskyj, State University of New York Press, Albany NY 2002

The Global Nexus Engaged, Sixth International Symposium for Olympic Research, 2002

The Natashas; the New Global Sex Trade, by Victor Malarek, Penguin, Toronto 2003

The New Lords of the Rings, by Andrew Jennings, Pocket Books, London 1996

The Olympic Crisis; Sports, Politics, and the Moral Order, by John Hoberman, Caratzas Publishing, Co., Inc., New York 1986

DOCUMENTARIES

5 Ring Circus: The True Cost of the Vancouver Olympics

Directed by Conrad Schmidt, Vancouver 2007

Documentary DVD/film on 2010. • www.thefiveringcircus.com

Olympiad

Directed by Cowboy Smith X, Vancouver 2008

Documentary on Native perspectives to 2010. Check www.No2010.com/videos

CONTACTS

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THE OLYMPIC INDUSTRY: MYTH AND REALITY

“The Olympic Games are the Great *Circus Maximus** of planet Earth. They are now mounted every 2 years, involve roughly 10,000 athletes from over 200 nations, and, in the 1990s, the price tag per Summer Games topped \$2 billion per city... The entire enterprise is swathed in tinsel layers of marketing and hype- by the International Olympic Commission (IOC), by the National Olympic Committees (NOCs), by the transnational corporations who pay tens of millions of dollars to sponsor the Games, by the TV networks that pay hundreds of millions of dollars to broadcast them, and by host cities and national governments who have invested hundreds of millions of taxpayers dollars.”

(*Inside the Olympic Industry*, Foreword, p. ix)

“The IOC is a multinational corporation that markets sports, and the local bid committees are basically real estate operations.”

Chris Shaw, 2010 Watch

Beyond the gold, silver and bronze glitter that bedazzles us through the corporate media (the myth), there is a dark & sinister shadow comprised of greed & destruction (the reality). This shadow is cast primarily over the poor and the natural world, who suffer the most from impacts of Olympic Games. While officials’ talk about the ideals of the ‘Olympic Spirit’, ‘Olympism’, & the ‘Olympic Movement’ (with vague references to the interrelation of sports, humanity, & universal ethics: myth), it would be more accurate to refer to it all as the Olympic Industry (reality). It can be defined as such because in spite of its ‘non-profit’ image as a champion of amateur sports, it is in fact a multi-billion dollar industry comprised of government & corporate elites working together to maximize their profits, status and power.

The Olympic Industry is today based mostly on advertising consumer products to as many as 3 billion TV viewers around the world. This has spawned a huge market for both television contracts and corporate sponsors, who pay tens of millions of dollars to associate their product/logo with the Olympic rings (one of the most recognized corporate logos in the world).

For host countries and cities, this ‘product’ also includes the site of the Olympic Games, which gain international publicity and exposure to global markets: “The factors that motivate a corporation to link its name and product to the Games exactly parallel the expectations of a city in hosting an Olympic festival: global awareness, economic gain, citizen morale...” (*Selling the Five Rings*, p. 13).

The ability of the Olympics to be such a global commodity relies on its image as a pure, clean, and even spiritual celebration of sports & culture, an image projected around the world and into the minds of billions of people through corporate media. It is this image that corporate sponsors seek to exploit, and to associate with their products.

Olympic Profits & Promoters

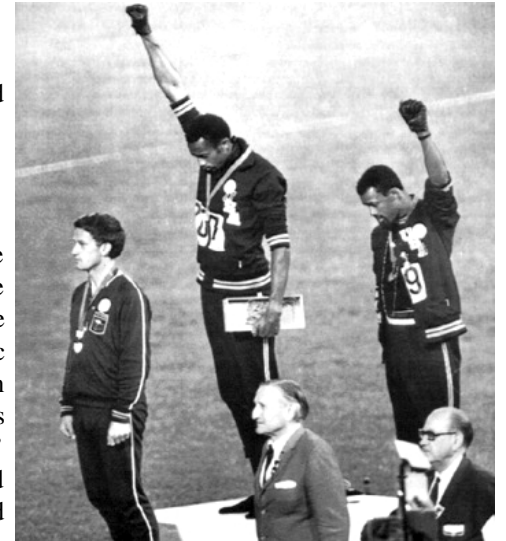
To better understand what the Olympic industry is, it is helpful to know who profits from them. It is a network of elite government and corporate officials, including members of the International Olympic Commission (IOC), Olympic organizing committees, land developers, construction companies, tourism and hotel owners, large property owners, TV corporations, and corporate sponsors. These can be seen in the membership of the Bid committee, Vanoc, the IOC, and the list of corporate sponsors.

Corporate Media & the Olympic Industry

Myths about the Olympic industry are promoted almost entirely through the corporate media, who create a common consensus that everyone will benefit from the Olympics, and therefore everyone supports them. Those who don’t are either ignored, marginalized as misguided misfits, or criminalized:

“[T]he main culprit in maintaining public ignorance about both Olympic corruption and the Games negative impacts are the mass media. It is impossible to escape the conclusion that the structural integration of the media into the Olympic industry has turned them into promoters—not journalists or critics—of all things Olympic... This integration resulted in systematic media censorship of opposition to the Games and of an analysis of their problems & negative consequences... This has taken place largely through the powerful act of pure omission, with a strong dose of distortion, ridicule, and minimization...” (*Inside the Olympic Industry*, p. Xii).

* *Circus Maximus*: a giant coliseum in ancient Rome, also referring to the use of mass sporting festivals (i.e., gladiator fights, football games, hockey, etc.) as a means of social control.



Black Power: 1968 Mexico City Olympics

COLONIALISM, FASCISM, AND THE MODERN OLYMPICS

Thanks to our indoctrination into Western European society, most people know that the ancient Olympics were held by the Greeks every four years, beginning in 776 BC until around the 3rd century AD.

The ancient Olympics were elite events even then, at which only the nobility, the wealthy, and professional athletes could attend. Slaves and women (other than prostitutes) were prohibited. These ancient games served important political and economic purposes for the ruling class, and were carried out under the pretext of religious ceremonies.

Considering their Greek origins, and the role of ancient Greece in the history of Western Civilization, the establishment of the Olympics as a global phenomenon should be seen as part of the overall process of European colonization. How else could a relatively obscure, ancient, European sport & religious festival become a global event-- except through colonization?

The much celebrated founder of the modern Olympics, **Baron Pierre de Coubertin**, a member of the French nobility, who established the IOC in 1894 (President of the IOC from 1894-1925), stated clearly his belief in colonialism:

“Colonies are like children: it is relatively easy to bring them into the world; the difficult thing is to raise them properly. They do not grow up by themselves, but need to be taken care of, coddled, and pampered by the mother country...” (*The Olympic Crisis; Sports, Politics, and the Moral Order*, p. 39, quotes from Coubertin’s *Pages d’histoire Contemporaine*, Paris 1901, p. 4)

“In 1912, Coubertin published his advice to colonial regimes on how they could best make sport an instrument of administration. It is a great mistake, he says, to assume that a victory by the ‘dominated race’ over the dominating one constitutes a dangerous temptation to rebellion. On the contrary, the example of British India shows that such incidents actually legitimize colonial rule in the eyes of the ‘winners’ [the colonized]” (*The Olympic Crisis*, p. 39, quotes from Coubertin’s *Essais de psychologie sportive*, Paris 1914).

Today’s modern Olympics are an affirmation of Western Civilization and the global empire it has constructed. They are a means to expand its ideology & culture. Coubertin himself was very clear about this. The clearest Olympic endorsement of racist & fascist white supremacy, however, was yet to come.

In 1929, the American industrialist & real estate businessman **Avery Brundage** became president of the US Olympic Committee (USOC). In 1932, the IOC awarded the 1936 Olympics to Germany. In 1933, the Nazis, under Adolf Hitler, were voted into power.

As the **1936 Berlin Olympics** approached, and as the oppressive, racist and brutal policies of the Nazi regime became well known, Jewish groups and others began to call for a boycott. In the USA, a vocal campaign to boycott the Games and to not send a US team, began.

Brundage, a well-known racist and fascist supporter, actively undermined the boycott campaign and succeeded in having the USOC reject it in a committee vote. He dismissed it all as a “Jewish-Communist conspiracy.”

While Jewish and anti-fascist groups continued to oppose the 1936 Games, the Nazis prepared for a massive celebration of German fascism using the Olympics as a propaganda platform. This was made all the more successful by new forms of mass communications then being perfected, such as films and radio. In order to do this, the most blatant aspects of Nazi terror and violence were temporarily concealed:

“In August 1936 the Nazis audaciously achieved a propaganda triumph by staging the Olympic Games. Massive efforts had been undertaken to camouflage the evil nature of the regime... anti-Semitic slogans were removed from walls and roadsides... Every sign of racial, religious or political persecution was temporarily hidden... even as the Olympics were taking place, the concentration camp at Oranienburg, *Avery Brundage; IOC President 1952-1972* scarcely half an hour’s journey from the splendid new Olympic Stadium, was jailed with Jews, socialists... and other anti-Nazis” (*Hitler’s Games*, jacket cover).

Yet, this ‘white-wash’ of the Nazi regime was merely a pretext under which Olympic officials could say there were really no problems in Hitler’s Germany. This helped undermine protests & boycotts, and cast doubts over the validity of reports condemning Nazi repression (just as the Nazis began to gather momentum in preparations for war). However, the Nazi’s racist & oppressive policies were well known, even at this time. IOC President at the time, the Belgian Count Henri de Baillet-Latour,

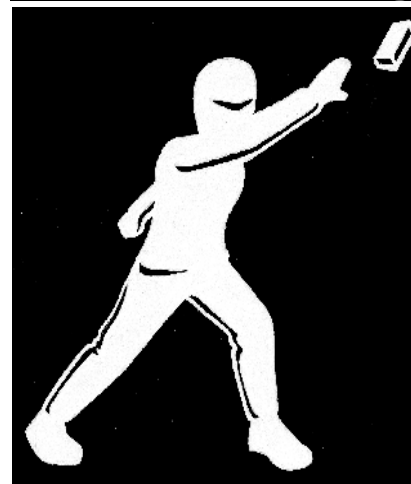


Berlin 1936 Olympics; Nazi flags fly alongside Olympic rings.



Avery Brundage; IOC President 1952-1972

Direct Action Against the 2010 Olympics



The first direct actions against the 2010 Winter Olympics occurred in 2006, starting with the blockade of Eagleridge Bluffs in April of that year to prevent expansion work on the Sea-to-Sky Highway. The next month, 24 protesters were arrested including Pacheedaht elder Harriet Nahanee (73 years old) and environmentalist Betty Krawczyk (78 years old). Less than a month later, vehicles and equipment used in the construction work were sabotaged, causing over \$50,000 in damages.

In the fall of 2006, the Anti-Poverty Committee (APC) began a campaign to raise the issue of increased homelessness as a result of 2010, carrying out a number of squats of abandoned buildings resulting in some 25 arrests. One squat near City Hall ended with the deployment of over 40 members of the Vancouver Police crowd-control unit wearing full riot gear.

On Feb. 12, 2007, Olympic organizers unveiled a large 'Countdown Clock' at the Vancouver Art Gallery. The event, attended by the BC premier, corporate executives from sponsors, and Vanoc officials, was successfully disrupted by 60 protesters, including 2 who managed to storm the stage and take the microphone from the MC, denouncing 2010. Seven persons were arrested with over 60 cops responding.

On Feb. 24/07, Harriet Nahanee passed away in a Vancouver hospital after serving her 2 week sentence for the Eagleridge Bluffs blockade. While in jail she had contracted pneumonia.

On March 6/07, the large Olympic flag flying outside Vancouver City Hall was stolen just as a delegation from the International Olympic Committee arrived to check on Vanoc's progress. Days later, as the IOC officials prepared to leave, the Native Warrior Society released a communique claiming responsibility for the theft and claiming the action in honour of Harriet Nahanee and in opposition to 2010.

On March 12/07, Vanoc held a 'flag illuminating' ceremony at City Hall, which was successfully disrupted by some 200 protesters using noise-makers such as foghorns and chanting. A large police operation with over 100 cops, including the crowd control unit, Emergency Response Team, horse-mounted police and a helicopter were deployed. They set up a cordon around the city hall grounds and searched all persons entering (not allowing megaphones & drums).

In April, a Vanoc recruiting and promotional event was disrupted in Halifax, Nova Scotia. In May, APC carried out an 'eviction' of Vanoc official & government advisor Ken Dobell's downtown Vancouver office. In August, a Bell Canada office had its windows smashed in Ottawa, and in late September a Royal Bank of Canada outlet had its windows smashed in Vancouver. These were just the first of many similar attacks.

Throughout 2007 and 2008, over 50 clandestine acts of vandalism and sabotage have been carried out against primarily corporate sponsors of the 2010 Olympics, ranging from graffiti, to window smashing, blocking of sewage systems, cutting of gas, and arsons. The 'Countdown Clock' in Vancouver, and another version of it in Ottawa, have also been vandalized. These attacks have occurred in Vancouver, Victoria, Ottawa, Toronto, Guelph, Montreal, Halifax, and Santa Cruz (California).

In December 2007, the first arsons occurred when two Bell vans were set on fire in Guelph, Ontario. In March 2008, a bank ATM in Montreal was set on fire. On May 7/08, a vehicle belonging to Peter Kiewit & Sons (the main contractors for the Sea-to-Sky Highway expansion) was set on fire in Vancouver. On June 24, an arson attack in Toronto destroyed 13 vehicles in a General Motors dealership. That same day, vehicles belonging to the Canadian Forces were firebombed in Vancouver (a communique claimed the action against the 2010 Police State). On July 22, another PKS vehicle was set on fire in Vancouver. In October, an arson attack was carried out against CP Rail's train yard in Toronto.

Beginning in September 2008, CP Rail's 'Spirit Train' was the focus of public direct actions as it crossed the country to promote the 2010 Games. It started in a Vancouver suburb (Port Moody) where anti-Olympic protesters were able to successfully disrupt it using noise-makers (including a small PA system) and banners blocking the main stage. Other protests and disruptions occurred in Edmonton (where two persons climbed on top of the train and placed an anti-Olympics banner next to the stage), Sudbury, Mississauga, and Montreal. Outside of Toronto, protesters blockaded the train tracks for a few hours.

As a result of this campaign of direct action, the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service (CSIS), along with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP, Canada's national police) began issuing 'threat assessments' focusing on anti-Olympic groups as potential security threats to the 2010 Games, beginning in 2007. While this seems to justify the massive security operation being planned for 2010, it should be noted that these plans were already made prior to any direct actions occurring.

Both CSIS and the RCMP have extended their surveillance of the anti-Olympic movement, including attempts to recruit informants and gather intelligence through 'interviews' with organizers & militants (just say no!). Between 2006-2008, there were over 60 arrests of people involved in public anti-Olympic direct actions (although no arrests have been made for any clandestine illegal ones).



This scandal was the most serious to hit the IOC and the Olympic Industry, with the first expulsions of members for bribery. Although the scapegoats were all minor players, there is little doubt that this corruption extends throughout the ranks of the IOC and up to its highest levels.

In 1999, John Coates, President of the Australian Olympic Committee, admitted he offered two African IOC members \$35,000 apiece to support Sydney's bid the night prior to the final decision. While denying it was a bribe, Coates claimed the payments were "within IOC guidelines and similar to plans used by bidding competitors from Beijing and Manchester" (BBC News, Jan. 23, 1999).

Also in 1999, following long-time IOC President Samaranch's retirement, the IOC 'opened its books' to reveal the lavish lifestyle Samaranch led. In 1998 alone, the IOC paid out over \$200,000 to cover Samaranch's living expenses for his stays at the Palace Hotel in Lausanne, Switzerland (where the IOC is based).

Fourteen years after the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympics, an investigation by a regional government found an "illegitimate & excessive level of hospitality" was used by the host city during the bid process, with over \$4.4 million being spent to entertain IOC members. This was despite the fact that boxes of records & files were burned by Nagano's Olympic committee shortly after the Games. The investigation's report was released in 2006.

In 2006, Beijing vice-mayor Liu Zhihua, in charge of 2008 Olympic Games construction, was fired for taking some \$1.4 million in bribes from construction companies, one of several allegations involving city officials.

Drugs, Cheating, and Other Olympic Scandals

The IOC claims that the Olympics are most important for the youth, who need positive examples to look up to and to emulate. For decades, however, the only thing positive associated with large numbers of Olympic athletes have been their drug tests. The Olympics, and professional sports in general, are well known for the use of drugs by athletes to increase their physical abilities (i.e., steroids). Olympic competition and the potential for lucrative careers by medal winners leads to a culture of corruption (as with the Olympic Industry itself).

One of the first known cases of drug use was that of Dutch cyclist Knuth Jensen, who took amphetamines, collapsed during the race, crashed, and fatally fractured his skull, during the 1960 Olympics. The first Olympic athlete to test positive for drug use was a Swedish pentathlete at the 1968 Summer Games in Mexico (he tested positive for excessive alcohol!).

Drug use by athletes became more frequent during the 1970s and '80s as new and better drugs became available. During the 1984 LA Games there were widespread allegations of drug use by athletes, although only 12 were officially caught: "At the end of the Games the IOC could have revealed that many more athletes had tested positive than the 12 it admitted to. Vital documents identifying the cheats were mysteriously shredded" (*The New Lords of the Rings*, p. 237).

In 1988, Ben Johnson tested positive for the steroid Stanozolol after winning the gold medal in the 100 meter race, beating US sprinter Carl Lewis. Johnson became infamous, but only due to the high profile nature of the event. During these same games, a S. Korean boxer was awarded a win over a US boxer, despite clearly being beaten. Three judges were eventually suspended and suspected of being bribed.

At the 1994 Winter Olympics, figure skater Tonya Harding and ex-husband Jeff Gillooly hired a thug to attack Harding's rival, Nancy Kerrigan, by hitting her knee with a baton. She went on to recover and win a silver medal, while Harding did poorly. Harding was tried & convicted for conspiring in the attack, and was banned from the Olympics for life.

In 1999, the IOC was compelled to establish the World Anti-Doping Agency, headed by former IOC vice-president Richard Pound, in response to the increasing use of drugs (and resulting scandals) by athletes. The WADA's mandate was to establish rules & guidelines to reduce drug use, administer tests, etc. It is today based in Montreal, Canada.

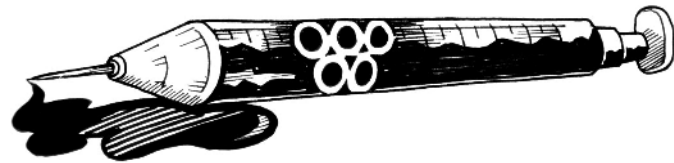
During the 2000 Sydney Games, Romanian gymnast Andrea Raducan became the first gymnast to be stripped of a medal after testing positive for pseudophedrine, a banned drug.

In 2002, during the Winter Games in Salt Lake City, dual gold medals were awarded to both the Canadian & Russian pairs figure skating teams after allegations of collusion among judges were made public. Three cross-country skiers were disqualified after testing positive for darbepoetin (two were stripped of their gold medals). The Austrian cross-country ski team's residence was also searched after cleaners found equipment for taking & treating blood. A Belarussian speed skater was also disqualified.

At the 2004 Summer Games in Greece, over 18 athletes and a horse tested positive for banned drugs, including boxers, baseball players, canoeists, cyclists, weightlifters, sprinters, etc.

At the 2006 Turino Winter Games, Italian police raided the Austrian ski team residences after a coach who had been suspended during the 2002 Games (the result of the blood equipment seizure) was found working with the team again. He was later arrested after trying to drive through police checkpoint and refusing a breathalyzer test.

In January 2007, former US Olympic medalist Marion Jones, who won 5 medals at the 2000 Summer Games in Sydney, Australia (3 gold & two bronze), was sentenced to 6 months in jail for lying to US federal investigators about her use of performance-enhancing drugs during the Games.



"...knew as well as anybody else, that by 1936 Nazi Germany had become a police state... They knew that Jews had fled from Germany in tens of thousands, and that hundreds of their less fortunate brethren had been rounded up into concentration camps, where they were being humiliated and tortured" (*Hitler's Games*, p. 10).

As it was, the 1936 Berlin Olympics were a huge propaganda victory for the Nazis. They served to legitimize the Nazi regime in the eyes of the world, and to mobilize German citizens even stronger behind the Nazis. The Olympic torch relay, running from Olympia, Greece, to Berlin, Germany, was another propaganda triumph, and was initiated by the Nazis themselves as a means to popularize fascism throughout Europe and within Germany.

Joseph Goebbels, the Nazi minister of propaganda, understood the significance of the success of the Berlin Games, stating: "[The Olympics are] a victory for the German cause... The result is a renaissance of national ambition I am so pleased about. One can once again be proud of Germany" (quoted in *Berlin Games*, quotes Goebbels *1936 Diaries*)

The Nazis commissioned Leni Riefenstahl, the German filmmaker who had made *Triumph of the Will* (at the time, a powerful propaganda film about the 6th Nuremberg Nazi Party Congress), to make a documentary on the 1936 Berlin Games (*Olympia*).

"That the success of the [Olympics] gave Hitler an enormous boost, both moral and political, nobody could deny... It is tempting to speculate on what might have happened if attempts to boycott the Games had succeeded. If... the IOC had moved the Festival to some less rebarbative country, Nazi prestige would have suffered a serious blow, and the rest of the world would have been made to think much harder about what was happening in Germany" (*Hitler's Games*, pp. 228-229).

"If the world had boycotted Hitler's Olympics, the course of history might have been different, asserts Rolf Pauls, the West German NATO representative..." (*The Olympic Crisis*, p. 16).

Former IOC President Coubertin, who had opposed any efforts to boycott the '36 Games, came out of retirement to endorse the Nazi Olympics, later rejecting the idea that they had somehow been used to promote fascism:

"The Olympic idea sacrificed to propaganda? That is entirely false. The imposing success of the Berlin Games has served the Olympic ideal magnificently" (*The Olympic Crisis*, p. 42).

In 1941, Brundage was expelled from the America First Committee for his Nazi sympathies, and he remained a staunch defender of Germany during and after World War 2. In 1945, he was elected a vice-president of the IOC, and in 1952 became President, a position he would hold until 1972.

Under Brundage's presidency, the student massacre in **Mexico City 1968**, and the Palestinian attack on Israeli athletes in Munich 1972, occurred. In both cases, he ordered the Games to continue. In Mexico '68, his response to the 'Black Power' salutes given by two African-Americans was to order their immediate expulsion from the Games and to strip them of their medals.

At the conclusion of the '72 Games, in his closing speech, he famously regretted "the lost battle for Rhodesia" (see *The Games Must Go On*, p. 74), at that time an African country fighting a fierce anti-colonial liberation struggle (now Zimbabwe).

Brundage was not the only fascist to be a member of the IOC, nor its only fascist president (in fact, a far more blatant fascist IOC president was yet to come). Other notable IOC members, including those on the executive board, included: German General Karl von Halt, who became an IOC member in 1929, who was an accused World War 2 war criminal, was elected to the IOC board in 1957; Marquise Melchior de Polignac, became an IOC member in 1914, served six months in a French prison as a Nazi collaborator during WW2, remained an IOC member until 1950; the Italian fascist Count Paolo Than di Revel, IOC member in 1932, member of the executive board in 1954; Count Albert Bonacossa, a supporter of the Italian fascist Mussolini, IOC member in 1925, voted to the board in 1952; General Giorgio Vaccaro, an Italian fascist and member of IOC after WW2, despite attempts by the Italian Olympic Committee to have him removed; the German Adolf Friedrich Mecklenburg, one of the closest assistants to top Nazi official Joseph Goebbels, remained in the IOC after WW2.

The most well-known and openly fascist member of the IOC was the Spaniard **Juan Antonio Samaranch**. He had been a long-time member of the IOC and President from 1980 to 2001. He is today an honorary lifetime president of the IOC, and in 2008 still actively involved with IOC activities. Besides being a long-time IOC member & President, Samaranch was also a long-time fascist, serving under the Franco regime in Spain as an official, and at one time governor of Catalonia. During this time, Samaranch publicly wore the fascist uniform. He was a strong supporter of Franco, who died in 1975 after maintaining power since 1936. During this period, Spain was an oppressive police state, in which torture, imprisonment, and executions were commonly used to counter political opposition.

More recently, IOC member Dick Pound caused controversy in 2008 when he referred to Canada as a land of 'savages' prior to European colonization. The IOC refused to take any measures against Pound and ruled out an inquiry into his comments.

Not surprisingly, the racist & fascist backgrounds of many IOC members are completely ignored by the IOC, official Olympic histories, and the corporate media, which maintain that the Olympics have nothing to do with politics. In reality, the modern Olympics have always had a strong association with pro-colonial and fascist elites.



Juan Antonio Samaranch (middle) giving fascist salute to fascist dictator Franco; Samaranch was president of the IOC from 1980 to 2001

1968 MEXICO CITY OLYMPICS MASSACRE

“The worst crime in Olympic history, the Tlatelcolco massacre of October 2, 1968, carried out by the Mexican government to guarantee ‘Olympic peace’, remains unknown to the vast majority of well-informed people.” (*The Olympic Crisis*, p. 1)

Mexico was the first (and only) ‘Third World’ country to have hosted the Olympic Games. On October 2, 1968 at the plaza of the 3 cultures in the Tlatelcolco apartment complex, over 10,000 mostly students filled the area. Some 300 tanks and armoured personnel carriers with some 5,000 soldiers surrounded them. Shortly after 6 PM, police & soldiers began firing on the unarmed protesters. Among the soldiers was the Olympia battalion, an elite force in charge of security for the Olympics.

The heaviest gunfire, from automatic weapons, rifles and pistols, lasted from 60 to 90 minutes, although shooting continued throughout the night as soldiers & cops hunted down protesters in the streets and apartments. In the end, as many as 1,000 may have been killed, hundreds more wounded, and hundreds arrested. Those arrested suffered harassment & torture in the jails. The government claimed ‘agitators’ in the crowd had first opened fire on soldiers, claiming they had returned fire in an act of ‘self-defense’.

The goal of this repression was to brutally control & intimidate a growing opposition movement in Mexico City, which had mobilized hundreds of thousands of people into the streets demanding democracy, freedom for political prisoners, an end to government corruption & oppression.

On July 26, 1968, a large student protest was attacked by police in Mexico City, with many arrested and two protesters killed. A National Strike Council was organized with some 70 schools & universities, in response. They organized forums, protests, and a student strike, demanding freedom for political prisoners, dismissal of police commanders, abolition of the Grenadiers (military riot police), compensation to the families of dead and wounded, and a determination of who was responsible for the repression.

In August, the movement continued to grow. On August 13, some 200,000 protesters took to the streets; on August 28 there were 400,000, and again on Sept. 13 there were 250,000. On Sept. 18, the autonomy of the National University (UNAM) was violated for the first time in 50 years when 5,000 soldiers invaded and arrested some 2,000 students, professors, and parents.

On Sept. 20-23, large protests turned into riots with barricaded streets, Molotovs, burning buses, tear gas, hundreds of wounded, and as many as 20 protesters killed. According to Octavio Paz, in his book *The Other Mexico: Critique of the Pyramid* (1972), on October 2, 1968,

“At the end of the meeting, when those attending it were about to leave, the plaza was surrounded by the army and the killing began. A few hours later it was all over. How many died? No newspaper in Mexico dared to print the number of deaths. Here is the figure that the English newspaper, *The Guardian*, after a careful investigation, considered the most probable: 325. Thousands must have been injured, thousands must have been arrested. The second of October, 1968, put an end to the student movement... (quoted in *The Olympic Crisis*, pp. 13-14).

“The massacre was an ambush. The government carried it out in a conscious and planned manner. The 5,000 soldiers with hundreds of tanks completely surrounded the plaza... the intense crossfire lasted 30 minutes... Old people, children, students and parents fell. Perhaps a 1,000 were killed or wounded” (*Mexico Under Siege; Popular Resistance to Presidential Despotism*, p. 100).

Students had expected global condemnation of the massacre and of the Mexican government, a cancellation of the Olympics, a boycott, but nothing came of it. Instead, the IOC’s only concern was that the Games go ahead without interruption:

“We have conferred with the Mexican authorities,” reported Avery Brundage, then the IOC’s president, ‘and have been assured that nothing will interfere with the peaceful entrance of the Olympic flame into the stadium nor with the competitions that follow’ (*The New Lords of the Rings*, p. 41).

Over 3 decades later, the extent of US involvement and participation in the massacre began to become more well known:

“In 2002, it emerged that America had played a key role in the massacre. Amidst fears the riots would disrupt the Olympic Games the CIA had been monitoring the student actions in Mexico daily. As a result they sent military radios, weapons, ammunition and riot control training material to Mexico before and during the crisis” (BBC News, www.bbc.co.uk).

On October 17, 1968, two Black athletes (John Carlos and Tommie Smith), representing the US, accepted their medals and then gave Black Power salutes while on the podium (clenched fists held in the air). Although nowhere near as intense as the massacre that had occurred two weeks earlier, the IOC was outraged and immediately expelled the two athletes.

An IOC statement on the Black Power salutes repeated the Olympic Industry’s mantra that the Games have nothing to do with politics: “The basic principle of the Olympic Games is that politics plays no part whatsoever in them. US athletes violated this universally accepted principle... to advertise domestic political views.”

Both athletes were expelled from the Olympic Village, stripped of their medals, suspended by the American Olympic Committee, and ordered to leave Mexico City. In contrast to the IOC’s response to the massacre the previous week, the Black Power salutes of Carlos & Smith drew the strongest punitive measures the IOC could take (against athletes), an act which itself reveals that the Olympic Industry is very much about political views (the racist fascist kind).



Olympic CORRUPTION

“The moral reputation of the Olympic movement is one of the public relations phenomena of this century.” (*The Olympic Crisis*, p. 29)

“The Olympic ideals of nonpolitical and amateur competition have long since been dishonored by ideological and commercial exploitation.” (*New York Times*, Jan. 17, 1980, quoted in *The Olympic Crisis*)

“Olympic bid campaigns are run increasingly by private corporations or government... and the bills, receipts, secret correspondence, records of deal-making and plain corruption are hidden forever. That suits the IOC, knowing as they do what many of their members get up to in bidding cities.” (*The New Lords of the Rings*, p. 116)

IOC Scandals: Money & Sex

During the bid process, host cities compete with each other in order to win the bid for a particular Olympic Games. Bid committees, backed up by land developers, construction companies, tourism, and government officials, spend millions on their campaigns. When IOC members visit host cities, they (often with their families) are treated like royalty. Kick-backs include all-expense paid vacations, meals, shopping trips, gifts, prostitutes, etc. costing tens of thousands—even hundreds of thousands of dollars—during IOC visits, all paid for by public money.

In the Berlin bid process, during a three day meeting of the IOC executive in that city, German citizens paid more than 1 million DM, including 300,000 DM for hotels and 100,000 DM for one dinner.

“62 IOC members visited Berlin and most violated the bidding rules. Only 12 of them stayed three days or less and many lingered up to seven. Some made a second visit. Many ran up unexpected bills, others left town with personal bills unpaid...”

“Evidence in the few documents that escaped the shredder suggest at least DM 120,000—and probably much more—may have gone on porcelain, coins and medallions... The bid committee kept a special file on its dealings with IOC members—and every document has disappeared” (*The New Lords of the Rings*, p. 195).

In 1988, there were widespread allegations of vote-buying by S. Korean officials in boxing. Three judges were later suspended as a result. In addition, Olympic officials were accused of accepting bribes in Seoul’s bid process, including sex, money and other gifts (*The New Lords of the Rings*, pp. 98-99).

Similar charges were made concerning the 1998 Nagano Olympics in Japan:

“Near the site of the future Olympic stadium, the official [a senior IOC member interviewed by Tokyo-based journalist Eric Aldin] disclosed, was a five-star hotel reserved for the committee. It offered a unique service: elegant prostitutes, at no charge to the Olympians and their friends in the press corps” (*The New Lords of the Rings*, pp. 39-40).

In 1991, Robert Helmick, a lawyer from Iowa and former manager of the US water polo team, was accused of embezzlement:

“In 1991, the American press caught Helmick taking hundreds of thousands of dollars in consultancy fees from companies wanting to do business with the Olympic movement. Helmick was investigated by the IOC, but he was not charged with using his position to influence anyone on the US Olympic committee... Nonetheless, he resigned his position.” (*The New Lords of the Rings*, p. 76).

As a result of their 1992 book, *The Lords of the Rings*, journalists Andrew Jennings & Vyv Simpson were charged by the IOC under Swiss law, for defamation. Samaranch, the fascist President of the IOC at the time, sought to have the book banned. The journalists didn’t attend the trial, believing it would be heavily against them (the IOC is based in Switzerland); they were tried in absentia and sentenced to 5 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine for court costs. This didn’t stop exposes of corruption in the ‘Olympic Family’ from breaking out, however, the largest of which was still yet to come.

In 1998, allegations of corruption within the IOC and the bid process awarding the 2002 Winter Olympics to Salt Lake City became public news, revealing bribery and personal benefits to IOC members through travel, accommodation, gifts, etc., all supplied by host cities. Among the most lavish gifts & entertainment were those supplied by the winning city (Salt Lake City). As part of the deal making, 13 children of IOC members were awarded scholarships at local Utah universities. Members also received free medical care. Altogether, over \$1 million was spent on 14 IOC members.

The allegations prompted 4 separate investigations by the IOC, USOC, SLOC, and the US Department of Justice. The IOC was forced to dismiss six members. The six dismissed, in an obvious attempt by the IOC to ‘clean house’, were all from Third World countries (Congo, Sudan, Mali, Kenya, Chile, & Ecuador). An additional three members also resigned (from Finland, Libya, and Swaziland).



PUBLIC DEBT AND 2010

“Not only does the IOC demand financial guarantees to cover the Olympic debts, which in the majority of cases are underwritten by city, state or national levels of government, but all recent Olympic Games have required major infrastructure projects—highway, airport, transit improvements—subsidized by state and national funds.”

(*Inside the Olympic Industry*, p. 105)

Olympic Games are notorious for leaving host cities with large public debts, the result of venue construction, expansion of infrastructure, and security costs:

- The 1976 Montreal Olympics acquired a debt of some \$1.2 billion (which was finally paid off in 2002)
- The 1988 Calgary Olympics left a debt of \$910 million
- Barcelona 1992 had a debt of \$1.4 billion
- The Sydney 2000 Olympics, portrayed as self-financing, in reality left a debt of some \$2.3 billion
- The 2004 Athens Olympics, originally estimated to cost \$1 billion, mushroomed to at least \$9 billion

‘Hidden’ Olympic Costs

VANOC and Olympic promoters claim the total costs of 2010 to be approximately \$2 billion, paid for largely through corporate sponsors, ticket, & merchandise sales. This estimate, however, does not include related infrastructure or security costs. Including these makes the total cost of 2010 closer to \$6 billion.

It is common for Vanoc & government to not include these ‘hidden’ costs, using the rationale that such work was going to be done anyway, and are therefore not Olympic costs. The venues & infrastructure projects, however, must be completed by 2010 and were part of the initial bid contract. The IOC sought & received assurances of completion by 2010 of these projects, without which Vancouver-Whistler would not have been awarded the Winter Games.

In December 2008, BC's auditor general refused to release an audit on the province's Olympic spending, citing the refusal of government to release information on Olympic-related costs (including contributions by BC Hydro & BC Lotto, both state-owned corporations & Olympic sponsors).

Olympic Venues:

- Richmond Indoor Speed Skating Oval (\$125 million)
- Whistler Sliding Center (\$43 million)
- Vancouver Olympic Athlete's Village (\$1 billion) >>
- Whistler Nordic Center (\$120 million)
- UBC Winter Sports Center (two rinks, \$32.9 million)
- Hillcrest Park Stadium (curling, \$23 million)
- Whistler Olympic Village (\$41 million)
- Upgrades to BC Place (\$65), General Motors Place (\$18 million), Pacific Coliseum (\$27 million), Trout Lake Center (\$15)

Total: \$1.5 billion

2010 Olympic Related Construction:

- Sea-to-Sky Highway expansion: \$600 million
- Canada Line/Richmond-Airport-Vancouver (RAV): \$1.7 billion >>
- Vancouver Convention Center: \$800 million (will house 2010 broadcast center)

Total: \$3.1 billion

Security Costs:

For years, the official cost for security was placed at \$175 million, despite widespread doubts that this was sufficient. In 2007, it was finally acknowledged that security costs would be far more. One estimate places the actual cost at half a billion dollars for the military alone (see “Fortress British Columbia,” by Jeff Lee & Miro Cernetig, *The Vancouver Sun*, August 4, 2007).

Total: (est.) \$500 million to \$1 billion

Total Olympic Costs (minimum): \$5 billion



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES & the 2010 Olympics

The impact of the 2010 Olympics on Indigenous peoples involves those affecting the general population (homelessness, police abuse, etc.), yet to a greater extent due to the over-representation of Indigenous peoples among the oppressed.

Background

Vancouver is a port city located in the province of ‘British Columbia’, one of the last regions of N. America to be colonized by the British (beginning in late 1770s). The city itself is named after a British naval officer who helped survey & recon the coast during this period (Capt. George Vancouver). At the time, the region was comprised of over 40 different Indigenous nations (coastal & interior).

Estimates of the pre-contact population in BC range as high as 250,000. Within a century, this number had declined to some 25,000 due to colonial expansion, warfare, and disease epidemics (biological warfare). Today, Indigenous people comprise some 5 % of the overall population in the province (approx. 170,000, approx. with half in urban areas).

One of the primary agents of colonialism was the Hudson’s Bay Company, which also formed the first colonial government in the mid-1800s (and is today a primary 2010 sponsor). The Hudson’s Bay Company, one of the oldest corporations in the world, established many of the first forts and trading posts in BC. Company ships were used to bombard Native villages, and HBC officials oversaw many executions of chiefs & warriors. In 1849, the HBC was contracted by the British to govern the new colony of Vancouver Island. The first governor of the colony was also the HBC's local boss: James Douglas.

By the 1850s, Royal Navy gunboats were also stationed on the coast; heavily armed with cannons, rockets and Royal Marines, the navy was used to punish any attacks on settlers, including bombing villages, destroying houses, canoes & food provisions. A common practise was to assemble the village, by force, and hang prisoners as an example to others.

In 1858, the Fraser Valley gold rush occurred, setting off an invasion of tens of thousands of settlers into the lower mainland which was then declared another colony (‘British Columbia’—in 1866 the two colonies would be united into one, known as BC). As a result of the gold rush and influx of settlers, fighting & massacres occurred against Indigenous peoples in the Fraser Valley and southern Interior. In 1862, a devastating Smallpox epidemic swept the coast and parts of the interior.

Beginning in Fort Victoria, colonial officials at first quarantined the Native population gathered around the fort, but soon forced them out at gunpoint. Hundreds of Natives then traveled up the coast back to their villages, spreading the disease (an effect that officials could not have been ignorant of at this time). An estimated 1 in 3 Natives died within a few years.

In 1871, BC was made a province within Canada. In 1874, the provincial government passed the *BC Lands Act* to open up more land to settlement. However, the next year, the federal government issued a Duty of Disallowance, striking down the act as illegal due to the failure of BC to gain the legal surrender of Indigenous land as outlined in the 1763 Royal Proclamation. BC threatened to withdraw from confederation.

In 1876, the federal government passed the *Indian Act*, imposing government control over all Indigenous peoples & lands. BC’s illegal occupation of Indigenous land was allowed to stand and continues to this day. In 1884, the Indian Act was amended to ban Potlaches, Sundances, and other ceremonies. It was also through the Indian Act that Native children were forced into Residential Schools run by churches on contract to the government. Generations of Native children were taken from their families and forced to learn European/British culture, language, religion, etc. Widespread mental, physical and sexual abuse occurred.

Current Conditions for Native Peoples

Through the Olympics, Canada seeks to portray itself as a just & egalitarian society, respectful & inclusive of Native peoples. A nation deserving of its top ranking as the best country in the world in regards to health, education, etc., according to the UN’s human development index. Or, as BC tourism’s official slogan states: “The best place on earth.”

While this may be true for some, the reality for Indigenous peoples is far different. Comparing living conditions between Natives & non-Natives, according to the same UN human development index, Natives in Canada ranked 47th, among peoples of the ‘Third World’.

- Overall, Indigenous peoples in Canada suffer from the highest rates of unemployment, poverty, homelessness, suicide, violent death, drug and alcohol addiction, imprisonment, HIV, cancer, tuberculosis, etc.
- Common conditions for Natives on reserves include poor housing, bad water, and high unemployment. Many face ongoing resource exploitation that destroys the local environment and has devastating social impacts (i.e., mining, oil and gas, logging). As a result, many are dislocated from their territories & forced into cities (over 50% of Natives live in urban areas).



No2010.com

- Across the country there are over 500 missing or murdered Native women; in Vancouver alone there are over 70 missing/murdered women, mostly Native. Along Highway 16 in the central interior region of the province, there are over 30 missing/murdered young women, mostly Native.
- In Vancouver, Natives represent 32% of the homeless (although just 5% of the total population in BC). Some 45 % of homeless women are Native, while over 40% of street youth are Native.
- In Vancouver, police violence and abuse against Natives is routine. Several police killings of Natives & deaths in custody over the last decade has caused controversy and led to public inquiries into police conduct (inc. the deaths of Frank Paul, Gerald Chenery, & 16-year old Kyle Tait).

Far from lessening these oppressed social conditions, events such as the 2010 Olympics and related corporate invasion are only making them worse. While some band members in the four host nations may profit, the overall effect is negative and harmful to Native peoples and territories, not only in Vancouver but across the province.

Anti-Colonial Resistance

As early as the 1880s, Indigenous peoples in BC began protesting the theft of land & resources. Unlike other regions in Canada, British (and later Canadian) officials failed to make treaties surrendering Native land and title to the Crown. With the exception of a few small treaties on Vancouver Island (the Douglas Treaties, 1850-54), and a portion of Treaty No. 8, BC remains unsurrendered, sovereign Indigenous territory. Consequently, Indigenous peoples in the province have shown a strong tendency to resist colonialism and the ongoing theft of land & resources. In 1927, the Indian Act was amended to outlaw lands claim organizing.

Today, anti-colonial resistance is frequently expressed through protests and direct actions, including road-blocks, occupations of government offices, etc. During the 1990 'Oka Crisis', Indigenous peoples in BC mounted the most solidarity actions with the Mohawks at that time, including road & railway blockades. Many of these solidarity actions emphasized sovereignty and local land struggles.



As a result of the Oka Crisis and the ongoing fight for land & rights in BC, the provincial and federal governments began a modern-day treaty process, in 1992 (under the New Democratic Party, NDP- a social-democratic party). The purpose of the BC Treaty Process is to legitimize the prior theft of land & resources, thereby creating greater economic certainty for government & corporations. It does this by extinguishing Native title & rights, using the state-funded Indian Act band councils to act as legal agents. One of its political functions, of course, is to undermine the grassroots Indigenous movement.

In 1995, a month-long armed standoff occurred at Gustafsen Lake/Ts'Peten in the southern interior region of BC (in Secwepemc territory). The siege saw some 450 heavily-armed RCMP, along with assistance from the Canadian Forces (inc. Bison armoured personnel carriers). Police attempted on several occasions to kill defenders using automatic weapons & sniper fire, as well as explosive devices. The police siege, the largest RCMP paramilitary operation in Canadian history, was overseen by the NDP.

In 1997, the Vancouver Native Youth Movement began direct actions against the BC treaty process, occupying its downtown offices that year and again in 1998. In 1999, NYM members acted as a security force for the Cheam band against harassment by fisheries officers. A Secwepemc chapter of NYM also helped organize protests & occupations against the Sun Peaks ski resort, beginning in 2001. These NYM chapters represented a (brief) re-emergence of militant resistance among Indigenous youth, and a reclamation of warrior culture.

At this time, a provincial election resulted in the BC Liberal Party taking power, with Gordon Campbell as Premier. The Liberals continued the neo-liberal policies established by the NDP, and expanded on them. They opened up resource industries to corporate investment, resulting in more mining, oil and gas, and ski resort projects.

Beginning in 2005, Indigenous nations in the northern region of the province began to be impacted by increased mining, oil & gas exploration. Some responded with legal challenges, roadblocks, occupations, and protests. This included the Tahltan, near Telegraph Creek, who opposed several large-scale mining & gas projects in their territory, including those in a headwater source for four major rivers. Among the proposed projects for the Tahltan's ancestral territory are copper, gold, and coal mines, as well as natural gas. As part of their campaign, the Tahltan occupied a band council office for several months to oppose deals they were making with the corporations. Several elders were also arrested at road blocks, which gained widespread media coverage of their struggle. In December 2008, a 2-year moratorium was set on Shell's proposed coalbed methane plant.

These and many other forms of legal, political, and direct action, throughout the province and over the years, have caused considerable economic uncertainty for corporations. This fact is publicly discussed by financial institutions, business think-tanks, and government officials in the province, and certainty is one of the stated purposes of the treaty process. There is no doubt these factors had to be taken into account by those promoting and organizing the 2010 Winter Olympics, a platform for increasing international corporate investment into the region.

Repression & Criminalization: anti-Olympic or oppositional groups are subjected to intensified surveillance & harassment by police & intelligence agencies. Corporate media are used to justify the large deployment of security forces and measures taken (i.e., threats of 'terrorist' attacks, social disorder, etc.). Anti-Olympic protests are subjected to heavy police controls including use of riot police, violent attacks on demonstrations, and enforcement of 'no-protest' zones around Olympic venues.

- Anti-2010 protests since 2007 have seen large deployments of police, inc. crowd control units and Emergency Response Teams. Over 50 arrests have occurred as a result. Protesters have been subject to searches at rallies and police raids (i.e., the DERA office in March 2007). One Native elder, Harriet Nahanee, died as a result of her 2 week imprisonment for blockading construction on the Sea-to-Sky Highway.
- The Canadian Security and Intelligence Service (CSIS) has issued 'threat assessment' reports highlighting the potential for violent protests and targeting in particular Indigenous and anti-poverty groups. These reports reveal that 'intelligence probes' are being conducted of groups.
- RCMP, Vancouver police and CSIS agents have approached members of the anti-Olympic movement seeking information and potential informants.
- Military, police and other emergency services have begun conducting 'anti-terrorist' training exercises.
- Project Civil City and new by-laws criminalize the poor & homeless by restricting their ability to survive (i.e., panhandle, sleep outdoors, collect recyclables, etc.).

Private Security: in addition to police & military, large numbers of private security guards are employed.

- In Vancouver, government and business associations have spent millions expanding private security forces in the downtown area as part of the criminalization of the poor (i.e., Project Civil City). It is expected that by 2010 there will be thousands of private security guards employed to assist police & military. Along with police, they also play an important role in harassment of the poor in a process of 'social cleansing' and gentrification.

CASE STUDIES

Beijing Olympic Police State

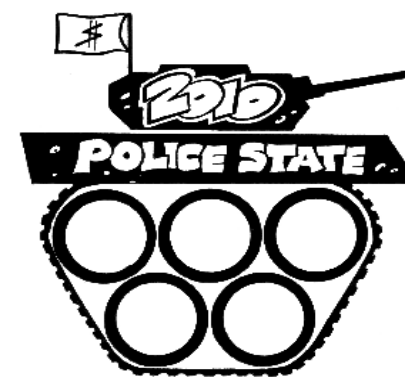
The Beijing 2008 Summer Games were to usher in a new era of 'freedom & democracy' for China, according to the International Olympic Committee and corporate backers. Instead, security preparations for the Games vastly strengthened the government's control. Some 100,000 police & soldiers were deployed, along with 300,000 CCTV cameras and some 400,000 informants:

"When the last gold medal has been awarded and the athletes have left, this network of informers – along with an estimated 300,000 surveillance cameras and a strengthened security apparatus – will remain as perhaps the biggest legacy of the historic Beijing Olympics..."

"So far, it seems clear that the Beijing Olympics have led to a deterioration of human rights and freedom in China. "It has reversed the clock," says Nicholas Bequelin, a China researcher for Human Rights Watch. "Over all, the Games are having a negative impact on human rights. It has stunted the growth of civil society and civil organizations.

("Beijing Lockdown," by Geofferey York, *Globe and Mail*, July 26, 2008)

During the Games, scores were arrested for protesting China's violent occupation of Tibet and over 50 human rights activists expelled from the country. Thousands more were forced to leave the city. Over 30 web sites critical of the government were closed down. Although 'protest zones' were set up, the government rejected virtually all applications made to hold rallies. Journalists were restricted in their activities and some were assaulted.



Australia 2000 Summer Games

During the lead up to the 2000 Sydney Summer Games, the Australian government passed new laws strengthening police powers of search and arrest, limiting civil liberties, and establishing no-go zones for protesters around Olympic venues. Those most affected were Aboriginals and the poor. It also authorized the use of the military in domestic security operations.

As the Games neared, anti-Olympic protest groups were subjected to violent attacks by riot police and increased surveillance. The corporate media collaborated with government and police to smear anti-Olympics protesters as 'unpatriotic' hooligans. The state also used funding of community, Aboriginal, labour, and arts groups to undermine anti-Games opposition.

2010 Police State

For the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics & Paralympic Games, some 12,500 cops & soldiers are to be deployed, in both Vancouver & Whistler, in what is described as the largest security operation in Canadian history. It is expected that the bulk of the security forces will be located in Vancouver (although they must also secure Whistler and the 129-km long Sea-to-Sky Highway).

RCMP VISU: The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) are in charge of overall security and have established the Vancouver 2010 Integrated Security Unit (VISU) to coordinate the efforts of other municipal police, military, coast guard, border control, intelligence, and emergency services. The RCMP strategy is to "Reduce the external focus on security measures so that Vanoc [Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympics] and the governments of Canada and B.C. may have more opportunity to highlight and promote their initiatives and plans" ("Fortress British Columbia..." by Jeff Lee & Miro Cernetig, *Vancouver Sun*, Aug. 4, 2007).

Military JTFG: The Canadian Forces have established Joint Task Force Games (JTFG) to oversee its own operations, including anti-terrorist units such as Joint Task Force 2 (JTF2) and the Canadian Special Operations Regiment. The North American Air Defense (NORAD) command, which is comprised of both Canadian and US forces, will be responsible for air security.

Olympic Police States: Key Points

Prior experiences with Olympics and police repression, for example in Sydney 2000 and Beijing 2008, show the following patterns, which can be compared with ongoing preparations for 2010:

Expansion of Police State: large amounts of resources are directed towards both police and military forces, including money, personnel, and equipment. This includes new weapons, vehicles, tools, & surveillance technology.

- The estimated security budget for 2010 is now as high as \$1 billion (*CBC News*, Oct. 10, 2008).
- Vancouver police will be adding over 100 new officers in preparation for 2010; provincially it will be nearly 1,000 new cops. Vancouver police are also seeking to purchase two armoured vehicles at a cost of nearly \$200,000 apiece.
- The RCMP have requested hundreds of new Closed-Circuit TV cameras (CCTV) to conduct surveillance in and around Olympic venues. These cameras are to have facial-recognition technology and other biometric features. They are also seeking 40 buses with radio, video and DVD capabilities to transport 'tactical troops' during 2010.
- The RCMP will use 2 luxury cruise ships to house officers during the 2010 Games at a cost of more than \$37 million.
- TransLink will spend some \$23 million to increase security on transit, inc. CCTV cameras and surveillance technology, anti-terrorist training for transit officers, and random screening of passengers.
- BC Ferries has already received \$3.9 million from the federal government for security and is requesting an additional \$20 million.
- New CCTV & surveillance systems have been set up at port facilities.
- In January 2008, a military CP-140 Aurora conducted low-level flights over Vancouver carrying out aerial mapping of the city. Other aerial mapping projects of the lower mainland region are also to occur in 2009.
- The Canadian Forces plans on establishing up to 10 camps in Pemberton and at other points along the Sea-to-Sky Highway (which links Vancouver to Whistler, site of skiing events) to base 1,800 troops at a cost of \$40 million.

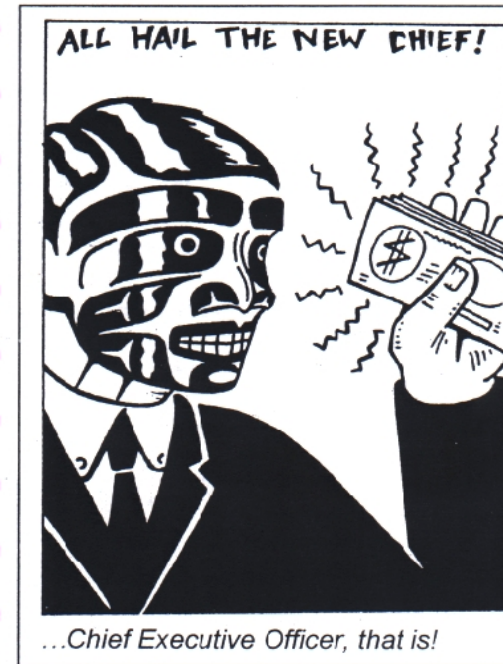
Security Zones: areas around Olympic venues are designated as special security zones, with access limited to holders of special ID passes (i.e., residents, Olympic officials, athletes, etc.).

- The RCMP have requested 40km of hi-tech security fencing with CCTV and motion detectors to set up security zones around Olympic venues.



Native Co-optation into 2010

"Vancouver 2010 recognized early in the bid phase for the 2010 Winter Games that having the support and active participation of these [Indigenous] nations would enrich the Bid and the Winter Games... This relationship was recognized by the IOC as an important factor in Vancouver's winning bid" (Fact Sheet, Vancouver2010.com).



Due to the history of Indigenous anti-colonial struggle in the province, and the great potential for disruption arising from this, 2010 Olympic organizers understood early on the need to co-opt Indigenous peoples (and to involve collaborators) in both the bid process as well as ongoing preparations. They also saw the benefits of exploiting Indigenous art & culture as part of 2010 promotion, as had occurred in the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

From the beginning there was a concerted effort by government and 2010 organizers to present Indigenous peoples as equal and active participants in the Games, as 'official partners'. Their main agents to accomplish this were the four local *Indian Act** band councils on the traditional territories where the 2010 Olympics are to occur. These are the Squamish, Musqueam, Tseil-Watuth, and Lil'wat (see 4 Host First Nations, below).

Part of the Vancouver Bid Corporation from the outset were Gibby Jacobs (then-Squamish band chief), and Lyle Leo, a Lil'wat band councilor and businessman.

Cash for Collaborating Chiefs and Councils

In early 2003, several months before the bid decision was made, the Squamish and Lil'wat band councils made a deal with the government & Bid corporation, including \$20 million in money & land, and a Squamish-Lil'wat Cultural Center to be built in nearby Whistler (which by 2007 had ballooned to a cost of over \$28 million, funded by the BC government, INAC, Bell Canada and other corporations). This deal committed the two band councils to participating in, and publicly supporting, the 2010 Olympics.

In May 2007, the BC government concluded an agreement with the Squamish and Mt. Currie bands, providing them with eight parcels of land in the Whistler area comprising 122 hectares in total. Corporate media reported the deal could make the two bands among the 'wealthiest' in the province because of property values in the Whistler resort area (with some of the most expensive homes in Canada). One parcel alone, zoned for residential development, "could be worth at least \$90 million, depending on how many homes, and what kind, are built there. On average, a single-family home in Whistler costs \$1.2 million" ("Olympic-sized land deal 'a winner'," by Clare Ogilvie, *The Province*, May 11, 2007).

In March, 2008, the BC government made an out of court settlement with the Musqueam for over \$20 million, ending three court cases over land at the UBC golf course and River Rock casino. In June 2008, the federal government provided \$17 million each to the Musqueam and Tseil-Watuth. These payments made the Musqueam one of the wealthiest in Canada.

Four Host First Nations (FHFN)

In 2004, the four area band councils (along with government & VANOC) established the Four Host First Nations (FHFN) as an official Indigenous Olympic organization, comprised of the Lil'wat, Squamish, Musqueam, and Tseil-Watuth. The FHFN has enabled the government to promote the image of a healthy & harmonious relationship between Natives & Canada, while in reality conditions for Indigenous peoples have declined as a result of the Olympics. The FHFN is presented as the only legitimate Indigenous voice in regards to 2010 and the lands directly impacted. Their financial and monetary gains from 2010 are presented as if to the benefit of all Indigenous peoples. Neither of these views is correct.

In exchange for their collaboration, the FHFN have received tens of millions of dollars, including land & money from the government, contracts for some construction and material supplies, as well as timber from some of the logging that has occurred in Whistler and on the Sea-to-Sky Highway expansion. With the exception of the Lil'wat, however, these bands were already among the most affluent and well off in BC. According to the government's Community Well Being Index, which rates communities on income levels, employment, health, housing, education, etc., the average rating for Native communities was 70, and for non-Natives 85. The Musqueam were rated at 87; the Squamish at 84; and the Tseil-Watuth at 92.

Combined, the FHFN have a total population of some 5,000 to 6,000 members. In contrast, the estimated Native population in metro Vancouver is some 60,000, most of whom are being negatively impacted by the Olympics. As well, the extent of corporate invasion associated with the Olympic industry will also have social and ecological impacts far beyond the territories of the FHFN (including more mining, oil and gas, and ski resorts).

AFN Endorses 2010 Winter Olympics

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is a national organization comprised of *Indian Act* band council chiefs and is funded by the Canadian government. At its July 2007 Annual General Meeting, held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, the AFN signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Four Host First Nations. AFN 'grand chief' Phil Fontaine stated,

"The 2010 Olympics will provide a unique opportunity for First Nations and Canadians to work side-by-side, to share in the long-term social & economic legacy that these historic Games will provide."

The memorandum formalized a working relationship between the two groups, with a commitment and partnership in 2010 related activities. A VANOC official was a signing witness. Despite this, and other pro-Olympic events, the AFN has occasionally threatened protests against the Olympics unless government responds to the poverty of Indigenous people (the poverty of the chief's wallets, that is). In Sydney 2000, state-funded Aboriginal groups used similar rhetoric & undermined grassroots Native actions.

Government Funding & 2010

Besides the tens of millions provided to the FHFN and Aboriginal business elite, co-optation has also involved a broad-range of (state-funded) Aboriginal groups in Vancouver. Some are directly involved in Olympic-related events, or at the very least remain silent on the human & social impacts of 2010. This includes political organizations, youth associations, service providers, etc.

The dependence on state-funding is a main contributing factor to the lack of opposition (and even consciousness) among these groups in regards to 2010. This is so even when some participate in 'safe' campaigns such as those against police violence, the missing & murdered women, closure of services for Natives, etc. This itself reveals the close interrelation between the state and corporations in promoting the Olympic industry. Consequently, the main Native resistance to 2010 has arisen from the grassroots Indigenous movement.

Indigenous Resistance to 2010

No Olympics on Stolen Native Land

A main slogan used by the anti-Olympics movement has been "No Olympics on Stolen Native Land," which emphasizes the history of colonization in the province. It also reveals the fact that government and corporations are involved in theft (of land & resources), and therefore lack moral and legal authority to govern or conduct business. This helps raise the anti-colonial consciousness of both Indigenous people and other social movements. In addition, the unresolved legal and political status of Indigenous lands and sovereignty can create economic uncertainty for corporations.

Secwepemc & St'at'imc

In June 2002, grassroots representatives of the St'at'imc (which includes the Lil'wat) & Secwepemc made an official submission to the International Olympic Commission outlining the human rights abuses occurring in Canada and within their territories, in regards to the campaigns at Sutikalh (a proposed ski resort north of Mt. Currie) & Skwelkwew'welt (Sun Peaks ski resort expansion). They stated their opposition to the 2010 bid process and requested the IOC to not award the bid to Vancouver-Whistler:

"Although Canada prides itself as one of the countries with the highest living standards in the world according to the UN Human Development Index, when the same indicators were applied to aboriginal people by the federal department of Indian and Northern Affairs, we only ranked 47th. The same is true for Vancouver being declared the city with the best living standard in the world, our people are the poorest in town, many living on the East side under deplorable social and economic conditions. This is what happens when we as aboriginal people lose our link to the land, alcoholism and youth suicides are only indicators for underlying problems... As indigenous peoples we have to oppose the Vancouver-Whistler Olympic bid as long as regressive and destructive environmental practices & policies that undermine and do not recognize indigenous rights are in place" (*Sutikalh and Skwelkwew'welt 2002 Submission to the IOC*, June 30, 2002).

In March 2003, a Secwepemc elder & youth traveled to IOC headquarters in Switzerland and again made a formal presentation, requesting that Vancouver-Whistler not be awarded the 2010 Winter Olympics. Although the IOC has an official policy to not hold Olympics in countries where human rights abuses occur, those committed by the BC & Canadian governments were ignored (as they were for Beijing's 2008 Olympics).

Harriet Nahanee

In May 2006, two dozen protesters were arrested at Eagleridge Bluffs in N. Vancouver for blocking expansion of the Sea-to-Sky Highway. While most were middle-class non-Natives, the first to be arrested was 73-year old Pacheedaht elder Harriet Nahanee, who had married into the Squamish. She was a long-time activist and fighter for Indigenous sovereignty.

Although Sullivan claims Civil City has nothing to do with the Olympics, previous statements have contradicted this:

"There is no question that we must act swiftly & decisively to solve the public disorder problems that affect our city. I believe we have a tremendous opportunity to use the upcoming 2010 Olympic & Paralympic Games as a catalyst to do just that" (Mayor Sam Sullivan, www.mayorsamsullivan.ca/project-civil-city-letter.html)

Project Civil City includes as advisors provincial and federal ministers such as the federal Public Safety minister, and BC Attorney-General Wally Oppal.

Geoff Plante- Law & Order 'Czar'

If the focus on 'law and order' wasn't clear enough, in May 2007, former BC Attorney-General Geoff Plante was appointed as Vancouver's Civil City Commissioner. Plante was Attorney-General from 2001-2005, when he was also the minister responsible for Treaty Negotiations. He was formerly part of the government defense team that fought against the Delgamuukw title case. As a member of the opposition, he fought against the Nisga'a treaty. As minister for treaty negotiations, he led the controversial Treaty Referendum in 2002. He also eliminated the BC Human Rights Commission, once part of the Attorney-General's office.

Plante is also a board member of West Pac LNG, an Alberta-based energy corporation seeking to build a \$2 billion liquefied natural gas plant on Texada Island (off of Vancouver Island). Although he had no previous experience with the DTES, Plante has been given the mandate to impose a 'law & order' solution on a social crisis arising from homelessness, addiction, and mental health problems.

In November 2007, Plante's position as Civil City commissioner came under attack by city councilors, who criticized the \$300,000 paid for his post as well as his lack of progress. In his first progress report issued in the Fall of 2007, Plante stated there was no way to measure the amount of aggressive panhandling or open drug use, and therefore no way to quantify a 50 per cent reduction in these activities.

In response to both the Safe Streets Act and Civil City, community groups have held forums, protests, and direct actions. In the summer of 2007, members of the APC began holding film nights in East Vancouver parks, violating curfew laws (under the banner 'Parks are for People Not Pigs!'). This included over-night occupations of parks.

Urban Control & Architecture

Other initiatives launched by Vancouver City Council and the Downtown Business Improvement Association have been to construct new benches with arm rests preventing persons from laying down, new trash bins on city streets that make it more difficult to retrieve recyclables from, as well as the removal of all garbage dumpsters from downtown alleys (a major source of income for many poor, who remove recyclables and items for re-sale).

Fly-Back of Prisoners

In Canada, many lesser offenses are classified as non-returnable warrants, meaning they aren't worth transporting prisoners to stand trial if they're stopped in another province by police. In the Fall of 2007, new Vancouver Police chief Jim Chu announced a plan to fly suspects wanted on criminal charges in other provinces back to stand trial. Chu stated that local businesses were willing to 'donate' their air miles in order to help make it happen.

Darcy Rezac of the Vancouver Board of Trade claims they had raised 1,025,000 flyer points just from the board of directors. Police estimated the cost of escorting a prisoner back to Toronto as being \$2,500. Solicitor-General John Les stated that his ministry will pay the cost of the sheriff or constable who accompanies the suspect. Police claimed there are an "estimated 2,500 people wanted in other provinces on criminal charges and causing all kinds of trouble in Vancouver..." ("Cops target 2,500 not wanted here," *The Province*, January 18, 2008).

Corporate Media Propaganda

Along with these measures to impose control and carry out 'social cleansing' of the downtown area has been the efforts of corporate media to generate support for such policies. This includes sensational stories about the homeless & their association with crime, debauchery, drugs, and general depravity (often accompanied by graphic photos).

Criminalization of Resistance

Another aspect of criminalization is the efforts by police to undermine social movements by constantly portraying them as common criminals, without any political ideas or motivations. Although this relies on corporate media to publicize, it also involves actual arrests & charges as proof of criminal activity in itself. In regards to anti-Olympics protesters, this has included labeling them as 'hooligans', violent thugs, etc. After the Feb. 12, 2007 Countdown Clock protest, police began using an old favourite, saying "these people aren't protesters, they're criminals!" just in case the public didn't get the message.

In January 2007, a heavily-censored version of a Canadian Security and Intelligence Service (CSIS) annual report obtained by journalists highlighted the agencies surveillance of anti-Olympic protest groups and concerns that anti-Olympic protests in 2010 could be 'violent' (see "CSIS monitoring risk of violence at Olympics," by Jim Bronskill, *Globe & Mail*, January 21, 2008).

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Harriet Nahanee with Warrior Unity flag, under arrest, Eagleridge Bluffs May 2006

CRIMINALIZATION OF THE POOR

“The desire to show off a city & make it an attractive tourist destination is often accompanied by a process of sanitation- clean-ups of public areas facilitated by criminalization of homelessness & increases in police powers... to make it more attractive for the local, national and international elites.”

(*Fair Play for Housing Rights*, p. 22)

“Although the IOC rule demanded a protest-free zone, it did not specifically require the street sweeps that by the late 1980s had become a standard feature of most hallmark events. On these occasions, homeless people, sex trade workers, and beggars were harassed by police, evicted from downtown neighborhoods, and often arrested. Such sweeps have been documented during all Summer Olympics since 1984—Los Angeles, Seoul, Barcelona, and Atlanta...”

(*Inside the Olympic Industry*, pp. 108-109)

Criminalization refers to the portrayal of social groups, or movements, as primarily criminal matters with no political ideals or motivations. This involves public statements, smear campaigns, passing of special laws, as well as the actual arrest, charge, & imprisonment of group members. Criminalising a group therefore involves various state and corporate institutions, including government, courts, police, jails, and media.

In the context of Olympic Games and other mega-events, criminalization is a means by which the poor and other undesirable elements can be controlled and forced out of areas, the goal of which is to create a sanitary environment for wealthy tourists and businessmen, primarily in downtown areas. In situations where there may be resistance to gentrification or redevelopment, criminalization also works to undermine social movements & marginalize them. Criminalization creates the context for repression, and yet is an essential part of the process at the same time. Once a group is portrayed as mostly criminal, the pretext is thereby created for some form of police action (i.e., investigation, surveillance, harassment, arrest, charge, etc.).

Safe Streets Act

BC passed the *Safe Streets Act* in 2004 to prohibit panhandling “in an aggressive manner,” such as obstructing the path of a person, using abusive language, or following behind, alongside or ahead of a person being solicited for spare change. The act included persons in motor vehicles being solicited, such as by ‘squeegee cleaners’ who wait at traffic lights to ‘clean’ driver’s windows. Police are authorized to arrest persons violating the act without warrant.

Although a provincial act, the legislation is directed primarily at downtown areas of cities, and in particular Vancouver. A coalition of business groups (downtown hotels, banks and corporations), including the Vancouver Downtown Business Improvement Association and the Vancouver Board of Trade, were the main promoters of the Safe Street Act (SSA). The act has been severely criticized by civil liberties and anti-poverty groups.

Dave Jones- Capitalist’s Cop

A main contributor to the SSA was Dave Jones, who now serves as Security Consultant & head of crime prevention for the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association (DVBIA). Under Jones, the DVBIA hired a private security force from Genesis Security, the ‘Downtown Ambassadors’, to patrol city streets. The DVBIA pays \$680,000 a year to maintain it. Jones’ was also the main promoter of removing garbage dumpsters from downtown alleys, saying they are a “source of criminal activity.”

Jones is a former Inspector with the Vancouver Police Department (VPD), having retired in 2004. In 1997, he was commander of the downtown district. He is a well-known advisor on crowd control methods, and was present at several large protests, including Genoa & Quebec City. In 1998, he was field commander responsible for deploying the VPD Crowd Control Unit during the ‘Riot at the Hyatt’, when then-Prime Minister Jean Chretien was attending a Liberal Party fundraising dinner. The CCU assault on protesters caused several serious injuries from baton strikes.

Jones was also commander of district 1 when the Woodward’s Squat was underway (2002), a long siege-like process that ended with a platoon of CCU cops moving in to assault & arrest scores of protester-squatters. The squat was, in some ways, the opening round of the fight for social housing in the Downtown Eastside, which would inevitably transition to anti-Olympics resistance.

Project Civil City

In 2006, Vancouver City Hall launched ‘Project Civil City’, a broad-ranging initiative focusing on homelessness, panhandling, policing and public disorder. According to Mayor Sam Sullivan, it seeks to reduce by 50 % homelessness, aggressive panhandling, open drug use, and excessive drinking & fighting in the downtown area (all by 2010). Along with a proposal to hire more by-law officers & prosecutors, there are also recommendations to increase CCTV video surveillance of streets and the city’s anti-graffiti campaign. To accomplish these tasks, the city allocated some \$1 million from the 2007 Olympic Legacy Fund budget to expand policing and by-law enforcement, and \$300,000 to directly fund Project Civil City. The corporate media has assisted the government in this process by running sensationalist stories on street crime, aggressive panhandlers, and drunken partiers in the downtown area.

On January 23, 2007, Nahanee was sentenced to 14 days in jail, although her lawyer and supporters warned the judge, Brenda Brown, that she suffered from serious health problems. Other non-Natives convicted received fines and community service. Nahanee served her sentence at the Surrey Pre-Trial Center. Shortly after her release, she was admitted to Vancouver’s St. Paul Hospital, suffering from pneumonia. Rallies were held in support of Nahanee outside the hospital. She died on Feb. 24, 2007.

Indigenous Direct Action

On Feb. 12, 2007, anti-Olympics protesters disrupted a hi-profile public VANOC ceremony in downtown Vancouver. As part of its 3-year countdown to 2010, VANOC, government and corporate officials unveiled a ‘Countdown Clock’ at the downtown Vancouver Art Gallery, provided by Omega (sponsor and official time-keeper for Olympic Games). The event was broadcast live by CTV (another corporate sponsor).

Just as the event began, a masked Native stormed the stage and grabbed the mic, shouting “Fuck 2010! Fuck your corporate circus!” before being arrested. A member of APC also jumped on stage, yelling “Homes not Games!” before he too was arrested. After this, scuffles broke out between protesters (numbering about 60) and police, who made an emergency call for assistance. In the end, over 60 police officers were deployed and 7 people arrested (3 Natives, four members of APC).

This was the first direct attack on a VANOC event and the 2010 Olympics, and it caught organizers and police off guard, both of whom stated their intentions to tighten up security for future events. Consequently, VANOC public events have been characterized by heavy policing involving riot police, crowd-control fencing, dog teams, and helicopters (costing hundreds of thousands of dollars).

On March 6, 2007, just as an IOC evaluation committee arrived to check on VANOC’s progress, the massive Olympic flag flying outside City Hall was stolen. Three days later, as the IOC tour ended, members of the Native Warrior Society released a communiqué featuring a photograph of 3 masked persons standing in front of the Olympic flag.

In their communiqué dated March 7, 2007, the warriors stated:

“In the early morning hours of Tuesday, March 6, 2007, we removed the Olympic flag from its flag-pole at Vancouver City Hall. We pried open the access panel on the pole with a crowbar and, using a bolt-cutter, cut the metal cable/lanyard inside, causing the flag to fall to the ground.

“We claim this action in honour of Harriet Nahanee, our elder-warrior, who was given a death sentence for her courageous stand in defending Mother Earth. We stand in solidarity with all those fighting against the destruction caused by the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. No Olympics on Stolen Native Land! Native Warrior Society.”

In October 2007, Natives from ‘BC’ attended the 515 Years of Indigenous Resistance gathering in Vicam, Sonora, Mexico, co-hosted by the Zapatistas and National Indigenous Congress. At this time, an Indigenous intercontinental anti-2010 movement was established, with official sanction from the gathering’s organizers.

In November 2007, members of the Secwepemc protested the arrival of the Austrian ski team for training at Sun Peaks, part of their ongoing preparations for 2010 competition.

In December 2007, Native Anti-2010 Resistance was established as a grassroots Indigenous group to organize Native opposition to the 2010 Winter Games. Along with No 2010 Network, the group organized a rally on February 11, 2008 against an Olympic corporate luncheon in downtown Vancouver. Later that month, Native 2010 Resistance members disrupted a media conference during which AFN ‘grand chief’ Phil Fontaine—along with FHFN officials—promoted Native volunteers for 2010. During Fontaine’s speech, a bag of red apples was dumped on the podium in front of him (signifying he was a sell-out, red on the outside but white on the inside).

In June 2008, when federal Minister of Indian & Northern Affairs Chuck Strahl announced the payment of \$17 each million to the Musqueam & Tseil-Watuth band councils, he “acknowledged there was no guarantee that the [agreement] can quiet the voices of aboriginal dissent” (First Nations to Get Millions in Olympic Funds,” Canadian Press/CTV News, June 13, 2008).



Native Warrior Society with Olympic Flag, March 2007



• *Indian Act*: an act first passed in 1876 imposing federal control over all Indigenous peoples, establishing the reserve system, band councils, and band membership (status). A separate set of laws, rules & regulations for Indigenous peoples (i.e., apartheid).

Know Your Enemy: OLYMPIC ORGANIZATIONS

International Olympic Commission (IOC)

“The international Olympic movement is designed to centralize all authority in the hands of the IOC. The hundred-odd members are not accountable to the athletes, the sports federations, the fans or the national Olympic committees world-wide. They are not elected by their own countries so they can’t be held responsible, anywhere, for their arbitrary decisions... What do they say at their annual convention? We’re not allowed to know. All IOC meetings are private, followed by a stone-walling press conference” (*The New Lords of the Rings*, p. 56).



Current IOC President Jacques Rogge

The IOC is the decision-making authority of the Olympic Industry. Its main functions are to select host cities, oversee preparations for Games, establish rules & policies of Olympic events, attract corporate sponsors, and negotiate licensing deals (inc. TV broadcasts). It is today comprised of some 114 members, overwhelmingly male, most of whom are wealthy businessmen, members of royal families, former military officers, and professionals. They are selected by the IOC executive board, which is made up of the IOC President, four vice-presidents, and ten others (all elected by secret ballot). The IOC meets once a year and is based in Lausanne, Switzerland.

The IOC President is elected by IOC members for an initial term of 8 years, renewable once for 4 additional years. These limits on presidency were enacted after former presidents held onto their positions for decades at a time. The current president is Jacques Rogge, from Belgium.

Within the IOC is the evaluation committee, made up of IOC members with expertise in various areas. Delegates routinely travel to host cities & countries to inspect plans for finances, transportation, accommodation, Olympic venues, security, etc.

Despite their pseudo-official status, acting as de facto national & international representatives, none of the IOC members are in fact authorized by their countries of origin and are accountable to no one but the IOC. Although the IOC describes itself as a “non-profit, non-governmental organization,” it is the head office of a multi-billion dollar industry whose main purpose is profit, in collaboration with governments and corporations.

The IOC exercises control over national Olympic committees and sports federations through funding, including the distribution of money raised from sponsorships & TV deals. In a host city also, the IOC and organizing committee are powerful forces in that they control large amounts of money that will be invested in various industries.

International Olympic Committee

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National Olympic Committees (NOC)

NOC’s are national representatives of the IOC that work to promote the Olympics and to organize the industry at a national level. This includes securing corporate sponsors, lobbying for Olympic athletes, training facilities, sports programs, etc. When a city enters the bid process, it does so in close collaboration with the NOC. If successful, the NOC continues to play an important role in the preparatory phase for a host city and during the Games themselves. Members of a National Olympic Committee may be members of the IOC and/or a local organizing committee (i.e., VANOC). They are most often businessmen, former athletes/Olympians, professionals, etc. There are some 200 NOC’s in the world. In Canada, the Canadian Olympic Committee is the country’s NOC. Its current president is Michael A. Chambers, and is based in Ottawa.

Canadian Olympic Committee

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Organizing Committees (OCOG)

Local organizing committees are formed out of successful Bid Corporations (cities that win competitions to host Olympics). Examples include the Sydney Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG), Salt Lake Organizing Committee (SLOC), and



result of the rapid expansion in imported illegal drugs into the DTES during the 1990s (heroin & cocaine), and the proliferation of methamphetamine, a large number of prostitutes in the area are also drug addicted.

According to one study, over 50 % of women involved in street prostitution in Vancouver are Native, although Natives comprise only some 7 per cent of the urban population. Most of these had a history of sexual abuse as children, and over 90 % reported being physically assaulted during their time as sex trade workers. 86 % reported current or past homelessness, with housing as one of their most urgent needs. 86 % also expressed a need for treatment for drug or alcohol addictions (see *Prostitution in Vancouver: Violence and the Colonization of First Nations Women*).

The high ratio of Native women involved in prostitution results from colonization and the socio-economic conditions it imposes on Indigenous peoples. This includes the impact of Residential Schools & resulting patterns of inter-generational abuse, compounded by poverty, alcoholism, racism, etc.

Along with the socio-economic oppression suffered by Native women, conditions which force some into the sex trade, there is also a long history of racialized and sexualized violence against Indigenous women. This violence is perpetrated by non-Native and mostly white Canadians (i.e., Robert Pickton, Gilbert Paul Jordan, John Martin Crawford, all recent serial killers of Native women).

In BC, along with the 68 or more women missing/murdered from Vancouver, there are over 30 missing/murdered women from along Highway 16, between Prince Rupert and Prince George (the Highway of Tears). As in Vancouver, most of these young women are also Native.

According to the Native Women’s Association of Canada, over 500 Native women are officially listed as missing or murdered across the country, beginning in the 1970s. In major cities such as Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton, and Vancouver, these lists include dozens of Native women, many believed to have been involved in the sex trade.

Vancouver and 2010

Today, as a major port city and with close connections to Asian markets, Vancouver remains an active center for not only importing illegal drugs but also trafficked women. According to University of BC law professor, Ben Perrin,

“Vancouver is considered to be a hub for Pacific human trafficking... Traffickers will view the 2010 Olympics as the biggest opportunity for them in decades. Any time you have an influx of foreign tourists and money, you’ll see a huge demand for the sex trade” (“Human Trafficking in Vancouver,” by Magda Ibrahim, *WestEnder*, Sept. 20-26, 2007)

In November 2007, a report by the Calgary-based Future Group, entitled *Faster, Higher, Stronger: Preventing Human Trafficking at the 2010 Olympics*, highlighted the potential dangers 2010 had for trafficking and forced prostitution.

Sabrina Sullivan, managing director of the Futures Group, which works with trafficked women in Asia, Africa and S. America, stated,

“There is a real risk that traffickers will seek to profit from the 2010 Olympics... This event could create an increased demand for prostitution, and also give an easy cover story for victims to be presented as ‘visitors’ by traffickers” (“Pimps could profit from 2010 Olympics,” CTV News/Associated Press, Nov. 1, 2007).

Sullivan also referred to the 2004 Athens Summer Olympics: “At the Athens Olympics, where prevention efforts were poor, researchers found a 95 % increase in the number of human trafficking victims identified by the Greek Ministry of Public Safety in 2004.”

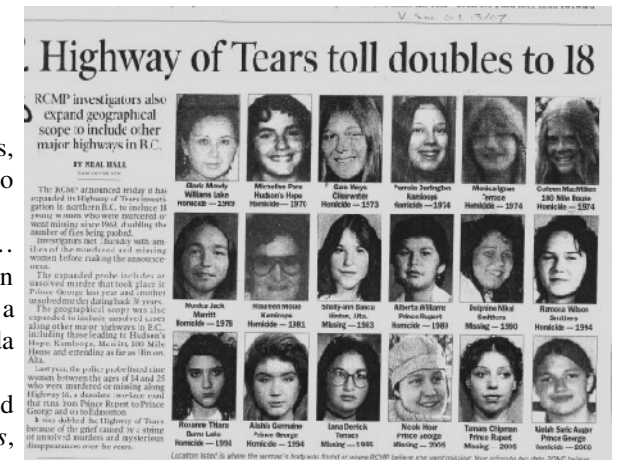
At the same time as the Future Group’s report was released (Fall 2007), 42-year old Zhe Nai Xu (‘Pinky’) pleaded guilty to 1 count of living off the avails of prostitution. Her case involved 10 Korean women, who may have testified against Xu but were deported before they could be given a chance. Crown attorneys are reportedly seeking 18 months house arrest and the forfeiture of one of two homes, although the maximum penalty is 10 years in prison. Xu is reported to have made more than \$2 million from the exploitation of trafficked women.

Also at this time, US border cops detained a Canadian citizen and eight Koreans who had crossed the border into Washington state. The Canadian, Harry Harrison of Surrey, BC, was being charged with smuggling while 3 of the Koreans were being charged with entering the US illegally. In addition,

“Police are investigating whether this case is part of the sex-slave trade between South Korea and California—through Canada—uncovered in a prostitution bust in San Francisco two years ago. More than 100 suspected prostitutes, many of them Korean women working off smuggling debts in sordid brothels, were discovered when authorities busted 10 ‘massage parlours’ in 2005” (“BC ‘pipeline’ smuggling South Koreans into US,” by Andy Ivens, *The Province*, December 6, 2007)

Considering the weak enforcement of trafficking & prostitution laws in Canada, as well as the poor record of police in investigating violence against sex trade workers & Native women, it is unlikely government, police or VANOC officials will pursue any serious effort to suppress these activities during 2010. Nevertheless, a rapidly expanding prostitution market for 2010, increased tourism, more capital investment, more criminal organizations, etc., will inevitably lead to greater trafficking, sexual exploitation, and violence against women and children throughout the region, during and after the 2010 Olympics.

No2010.com



2010 OLYMPICS: IMPACT ON WOMEN

“Hosting the [Seoul 1988] Olympic Games was part of what came to be described as the ‘3S’ policy of promoting ‘sex, sports, and [TV] screens’ to distract the public from the bloody political and economic struggles taking place... Censorship restrictions on lewd cinema were relaxed, ‘love’ motels proliferated along sight-seeing routes, and colour TV was introduced from the end of 1980” (*Fair Play for Housing Rights*, p. 82).



Prostitution and the sexual exploitation of women and children during mega-event such as the Olympics have been, until recently, a largely unacknowledged phenomenon. In 2006, however, as Germany prepared to host the FIFA World Cup (soccer), concerns about the proliferation of trafficking & forced prostitution of women sparked public debate about the problem. Trafficking has expanded in Europe due to widespread poverty & corruption in eastern European countries (i.e., Romania, Moldova, Ukraine, Russia, etc.), where most victims are taken from.

On March 8, 2006, (International Women’s Day) the European Parliamentary Committee on Women’s Rights & Gender Equality issued a resolution and began a campaign against the forced trafficking of women, in particular during large sporting events. Reporting on the committee’s activities, the European Parliament’s web-site stated:

“The demand for prostitution and sexual services is said to increase dramatically during events such as the Olympic Games, other international sports events, exhibitions, and major congresses. Many of the women involved have been deceived by false promises of legitimate work in a richer country, for example as waitresses, dancers or domestic workers, and find themselves forced to work as sex slaves” (“MEPs call for action to combat forced prostitution,” www.europarl.europa.eu).

According to Victor Malarek, author of the book *The Natasha’s: Inside the New Global Sex Trade*, more than 40,000 women and girls were trafficked to Athens during the 2004 Olympics. For the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany, more than 20,000 are estimated to have been trafficked. During the 2000 Sydney Olympics, an estimated 10,000 women were imported.

The ‘global sex trade’ is estimated to be a multi-billion dollar a year industry, facilitated largely through international organized crime networks. The UN estimates it be more than \$12 billion a year, ranking only below illegal weapons and drugs as among the most profitable businesses existing today (*The Natashas*, p. 4). These interrelated criminal networks are closely linked to business & government elites.

In Europe, an estimated 100,000 women are victims of traffickers each year. Markets for trafficked east European women (the ‘Natashas’) include Europe, the Middle-East, the US, and Canada. As many as 800,000 women and girls are estimated to be trafficked globally each year, with up to 50 % being minors. This vast illegal market flourishes and remains largely untouched by governments & police, who tolerate it and/or are directly implicated in it.

Vancouver, Trafficking & Prostitution

Although the scale of trafficking in women in Canada is difficult to determine, it must range in the thousands each year (far more than RCMP estimates of 600-800 per year). In just one case, RCMP in March 2001 infiltrated a smuggling ring in Ontario: “Investigators estimated that this ring, which had been in operation since the early ‘90s, had moved as many as 1,200 Korean and Chinese women & immigrants who had been smuggled into the US in 2000” (*Asian Organized Crime & Terrorist Activity in Canada, 1999-2002*, p. 19).

In October 2001, police uncovered a prostitution trafficking ring that was transporting women from Malaysia to Vancouver. After their arrest, however, none of the 11 women involved would testify (fearing reprisals against themselves or families). Several months before, in February 2001, US police raided 20 brothels in San Francisco & Los Angeles, dismantling a sex slave ring run by Asian gangs. The investigation determined that Toronto was a main transit point into N. America.

Despite a long history of trafficking in Canada, it was not until the 2001 Immigration Act that it was made illegal, with fines up to \$1 million and life imprisonment. And it was not until 2004 that the first trafficking charges were ever laid: “Canada’s very first human trafficking charges were laid against a Vancouver man in 2004—Michael Ng, who ran an East Vancouver massage parlour—they were dismissed by BC Provincial Court Judge Malcolm MacLean earlier this summer after a year of testimony from two women who claimed Ng lured them to Canada from China with the promise of jobs as waitresses...” (“Human Trafficking in Vancouver,” by Magda Ibrahim, *WestEnder*, Sept. 20-26, 2007).

Street prostitution is largely concentrated in downtown Vancouver, the Downtown Eastside (DTES), and an adjoining industrial area. This occurred as prostitutes were forced out of neighboring areas during the 1980s (i.e., Vancouver’s West End, and Burnaby). As a

VANOC (Vancouver Organizing Committee). They are comprised of selected civic officials, businessmen, accountants, lawyers, and former Olympians (celebrities).

The Organizing committees are responsible for the planning, preparation and execution of Olympic Games in their respective cities. They handle multi-billion dollar contracts and sponsorships, and have influence over political and economic policies. Despite this, they are neither elected by the population nor are they accountable to them. Like the IOC, organizing committees are renowned for their secrecy and back-room deals.

Federal Government

In October 2008, Stockwell Day was named the federal minister responsible for International Trade, (inc. the 2010 Olympics). He is also minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway project.

BC Provincial Government

In 2008, Bill Bennett was the BC provincial minister responsible for Tourism, inc. the 2010 Olympics.

VANOC (Vancouver Organizing Committee)

The idea of Vancouver-Whistler hosting the 2010 Winter Olympics was first initiated under the New Democratic Party (NDP) in the late 1990s. In 1998, the **Vancouver-Whistler Bid Society** was incorporated, and received \$50,000 from the NDP provincial government. The Bid Society later had its incorporated status revoked for failing to file financial reports. In 1999, it was re-established as the **Vancouver-Whistler 2010 Bid Corporation** (a more accurate title, at least).

Most of the original members of the Bid Society/Bid Corp. were comprised of representatives & owners of major real estate, construction, skiing, tourism, and hotel companies (and even labour bureaucrats); all those that would profit most from the 2010 Games. These included:

- **Stanley Kwok and Caleb Chan**, both of whom are closely connected with Li Ka Shing, a multi-billionaire Hong Kong businessman & real estate mogul, with huge interests in the 2008 Beijing Summer Games. Caleb Chan is also a condominium developer inc. the Furry Creek resort along the Sea-to-Sky Highway.
- **Dave Bental**, former President and CEO of Dominion Construction.
- **Jim Gibbons**, President of Intrawest Resort Club group (owners of Whistler-Blackcomb ski resorts)
- **Arthur Griffiths**, former owner of Vancouver Canucks NHL hockey team.
- **Rick Antonson**, President & CEO of Tourism Vancouver, also member of the Convention Centre Expansion Task Force (the convention center is a massive, nearly \$1 billion center being built in downtown Vancouver).
- **John Johnston**, Chairman of Delta Hotels.
- **Ken Georgetti**, President, Canadian Labour Federal, also on board of directors for Concert Properties.

The Vancouver Organizing Committee (VANOC) was established in September 2003, a couple of months after Vancouver-Whistler was announced as the successful host city. VANOC replaced the Vancouver 2010 Bid Corporation, and many members of the Bid Corp. transitioned into VANOC.

VANOC is responsible for planning, organizing, financing and staging the 2010 Winter Olympics. VANOC has two main offices, one in Vancouver’s east side industrial district, the other in Whistler.

VANOC Structure

VANOC President & Chief Executive Officer: John Furlong.

VANOC Management Team: There is a ten-member management team comprised of the CEO and several vice-presidents. The VP’s are responsible for the following main departments:

- Construction
- Revenue, Marketing & Communications
- Sport, Paralympic Games and Venue management
- Service Operations & Ceremonies
- Technology & Systems
- Human Resources
- Sustainability & International Client Services
- Finance
- Legal
- CEO’s office



Jack Poole and John Furlong, Vanoc talking heads

VANOC Board of Directors: There is a 20-member VANOC Board of Directors nominated by various Games partners, including the Canadian Olympic Committee, the City of Vancouver, the Resort Municipality of Whistler, the Province of BC, Canada, and local Indian Act band councils (of the Four Host First Nations). The Board meets six times a year.

Members of both the VANOC board & management team represent a (narrow) variety of professions and backgrounds; most are corporate executives, some are former Olympic athletes, former government officials, and several are members of either the IOC and/or the Canadian Olympic Committee. Four are involved in the real estate industry, three are financial advisors, three have close ties to Bell Canada (one of the sponsors), two represent the IOC, three are from large corporations involved in the forestry & pulp industries (Canfor, Quebecor and Kruger), and two are former athletes. The board & management are assisted by staff employees.

Total Number VANOC:

- 1,400 VANOC employees (by 2010)
- 20 VANOC board members
- 10 VANOC executive members/management
- 1 VANOC president/CEO

VANOC Management

As of 2008

1. **John Furlong**, President and CEO, formerly president of Vancouver 2010 Bid Corporation, a long time member of COC.
2. **Ken Bagshaw**, VANOC Chief legal officer, corporate lawyer.
3. **Ward Chapin**, VANOC Chief information officer, executive with HSBC Bank, formerly oversaw information systems with CitiBank & Toronto Dominion Bank.
4. **Dave Cobb**, Executive vice-president Revenue, Marketing and Communications, VANOC. Former senior manager with Vancouver Canucks, chartered accountant.
5. **Dan Doyle**, Executive vice-president Construction, VANOC. 35 years with BC Ministry of Transportation with work on rehabilitation of Lions Gate Bridge, Sea-to-Sky Highway.
6. **David Guscott**, Executive vice-president Corporate Strategy and Government Relations, VANOC. Over 30 years in government, provincial and federal, including deputy minister of communication and special projects.
7. **John McLaughlin**, VANOC chief financial officer, chartered accountant, worked on Expo 86, and '94 Commonwealth Games in Victoria, BC.
8. **Cathy Priestner Allinger**, Executive vice-president Sport, Paralympic Games & Venue Management, VANOC, previous work on 2002 Salt Lake City and 2006 Torino Olympics. Occasional CBC TV sports commentator.
9. **Donna Wilson**, Executive vice-president Human Resources, Sustainability and International Client Services. Former executive with BC Hydro.
10. **Terry Wright**, Executive vice-president Service Operations and Ceremonies, VANOC, previous vice-pres. with Vancouver 2010 Bid Corp., also worked on Commonwealth and Pan American Games.

VANOC Board of Directors

1. Jack Poole, Chairman

Also chairman of Board of Concert Properties, one of the largest construction companies in Western Canada. Between 1989-1999 Concert built over 80 % of rental housing construction in Vancouver. It is today responsible for some 30 condominium projects in Vancouver. Poole is a founder of Daon Development Corporation --now BCE Development Corporation—a key player in real estate development in N. America. At its peak, Daon was the second largest real estate development corporation in N. America. Today, BCE Development Corp. is a subsidiary of Bell Canada (one of the Olympic sponsors). Poole recently claimed Metis heritage & was soon selected by Aboriginal Achievement Foundation for award in 2007 (how convenient!).

2. Michael Chambers

President of Canadian Olympic Committee, member of IOC working group for 2014 Winter Olympics, commerce lawyer, owner of law firm.

3. Chermaine Crooks

Former Olympic athlete, member of COC executive board, IOC Press Commission, on advisory board to AIM/Trimark Mutual Funds. Crooks is also a consultant to Bell Canada (Olympic sponsor).

4. Peter Brown

Chair & founder of Canaccord Capital Corp., one of the largest independent investment corporation in Canada, raising capital for investors in resources, life sciences and real estate. Brown is the director of investment for Industry Association of Canada, director of the Olympic-related Convention & Exhibition Center in Vancouver, a former Expo 86 Finance Committee member, vice chair of Expo 86 Corporation, and member of board of trustees for Fraser Institute (right-wing think tank).

5. Ken Dobell

Deputy member to BC Premier, cabinet secretary to Office of Premier. On May 22, 2007, members of the Anti-Poverty 'evicted' Dobell from his office in downtown Vancouver (also Office of Premier).



The Investment to 2010 Strategy and Asia Pacific Gateway Strategy are interrelated plans to greatly expand economic trade with Asia, especially the export of resources, using 2010 as leverage to build new infrastructure and to attract investment.

The Asia Pacific Gateway Strategy involves both federal and provincial funding (between \$7-10 billion) to expand or build new port facilities in both Vancouver & Prince Rupert, rail-lines, highways, roads, bridges, and oil & gas pipelines. It includes the \$3-billion 'Gateway Project' in Vancouver's lower mainland, which involves twinning of the Port Mann Bridge, expansion of Highway 1 and Delta Port facilities & access routes.

The primary resources for export to Asian markets (primarily China) include coal, potash, sulfur, grain, lumber, pulp, oil and gas. These resources are transported by container truck and railway to ports in either Vancouver or Prince Rupert, where they are placed on cargo ships for transport.

A significant part of these plans is the Enbridge Gateway Pipeline, a proposed \$4 billion pipeline to bring oil and gas from Alberta's tar sands to the port at Prince Rupert, for export to the US and China.

Since the early 2000's, the BC Liberal government has changed legislation and permit requirements for a number of industries, in particular mining, oil and gas, and ski resorts. For some industries, the government also introduced tax deductions. These changes have made it easier—and more profitable-- for companies to gain access to natural resources, to gain permits and licenses, etc. This has resulted in huge increases in all 3 sectors:

- In 2006, exploratory investment in BC mining set a new record of \$265 million. In 1999, BC had attracted only \$25 million in exploratory investment.
- From 2001 to 2004, oil & gas production in BC increased by 25 per cent. The number of oil wells increased from 750 to 1,144.
- During the same time period, the number of ski resort expansions and new resorts also increased (see above).

Anti-Gateway Opposition

In Vancouver & the lower mainland, several community groups have formed to oppose the Gateway Project (not the entire Asia-Pacific Gateway Strategy, of which it forms a part). Their main concerns are:

- increased air pollution & impact on air quality from increased CO2 emissions.
- More traffic congestion (not less)
- Public transit (inefficient)
- Escalating costs of project
- Loss of farm land

More Info:

North Coast Enviro Watch:

www.northcoastenvirowatch.org

Mining Watch: www.miningwatch.ca

Society Promoting Environmental Conservation (SPEC): www.spec.bc.ca

Alberta Oil Sands: www.oilsandstruth.org

Eagle Ridge Bluffs: www.eagleridgebluffs.ca

Gateway Program: www.gatewaysucks.org

Stop Gateway: www.stopgateway.ca

Livable Region Coalition: www.livableregion.ca

Citizens Concerned with Highway Expansion (CCHE): www.cche.vcn.bc.ca



No2010.com

After studying 30 years of data, the David Suzuki Foundation found shocking salmon declines. Since 1990, stocks plummeted by 70 to 93 per cent among ten representative BC populations” (“If it’s salmon or money, the salmon lose every time,” Stephen Hume, *Vancouver Sun*, January 30, 2008). Humes links DFO’s mismanagement as a major reason BC salmon stocks are in such decline, including the department’s subservience to industry.

Ski Resort Expansion & 2010

“The mountains, pure & undisturbed, are essential to the survival of all people. Mountain ecosystems provide us Indian people with all of our physical, cultural and spiritual needs... the mountains are our shelter and protection... The most powerful medicines are collected in the mountains. The source of all water comes from the mountains. The mountains are the most spiritual place for us” (Elder quoted in “Our Elders Tell Us,” *Our Mountain Worlds & Traditional Knowledge*, 2002).

Since 2000, the main Native struggles in the BC southern interior have been against the construction, or expansion, of mountain ski resorts.

At Sun Peaks (Skwelkek’welt) ski resort near Kamloops, over 70 arrests have been made of mostly Secwepemc youth & elders.

They’ve blocked roads, occupied buildings, established protection camps and sent delegations to Europe, Japan, and across N. America. This is all part of their campaign against a massive \$294-million expansion of Sun Peaks, including new hotels & condominiums, more ski hills and golf courses, all of which involve large-scale destruction of mountain habitat.

At Melvin Creek, just north of Mt. Currie, the St’at’imc have established the Sutikalh camp to stop a planned \$530-million ski resort. The camp was first set up in May 2000, and continues to be occupied to this day. It has served as a rallying point for community resistance to the resort, which also forced many chiefs & councilors to publicly oppose it as well.

In Cheam, 2003, several Pilalt were arrested after blockading a train during protests over logging on Mt. Cheam, the site of a proposed ski resort by Resorts West. Plans include 20 ski lifts on 8 different peaks, three resort villages, a golf course, and as many as 500,000 visitors a year.

Two resorts are planned for Merritt (Nlaka’Pamux territory), along the Coquihala Highway.

At Valemount, Revelstoke & Blue River, new resorts have also been approved, while the Jumbo Glacier Alpine Resort (near Invermere), has been approved for a \$450-million expansion (all of these are in Secwepemc territory). Near Kelowna (Okanagan), Big White and Crystal Mountain were both approved for over \$100 million in expansion. And there are more.

This sharp increase in resort development is largely due to government promotion of the industry, which included the establishment of a Ski Resort Task Force in 2004. The task force was largely comprised of members of the resort industry (inc. Darcy Alexander, Vice-President of Sun Peaks), and their primary goal was to increase ski resort development in the province. The group released a *Resort Strategy & Action Plan* in 2004, which made clear the connection between the industry’s rapid growth and 2010:

“The Resort Strategy links to the *Spirit of 2010 Tourism Strategy & the International Trade & Investment to 2010 Strategy*. All these strategies are designed to grow tourism throughout the province, maximize opportunities created by hosting 2010... and attract national & international investment.”

Expansion of the ski resort industry was accomplished largely through Land & Water BC, Inc., a government agency that sells & leases ‘Crown’ land. The LWBC streamlined the application process and made other changes to increase certainty for investors, improve transportation infrastructure, etc. In 2008, Nancy Greene-Raine, a former Olympic skier and a big promoter of the ski resort industry, was named to the Canadian senate by Prime Minister Harper, an appointment sure to enhance her profile as an industry proponent.

Investment to 2010 Strategy and Gateway

“As Canada’s trade focus shifts to the rapidly growing economies in the Asia-Pacific region, BC’s prominence as the Pacific Gateway is increasing both nationally and internationally. Booming trade between N. America and the Asia-Pacific gives BC an opportunity to capitalize on its geographic advantage...”

“Collaboration is key for Canada’s Pacific Gateway,” Port of Vancouver Special Advertising Report to *The Vancouver Sun*, November 2007)

According to a 2007 Statistics Canada report:

“Canada’s merchandise exports to China in the first seven months of 2007 have grown at more than twice the pace of its imports on the strength of the Asian giant’s demand for Canada’s natural resources... Canadian exports to China surged 43 % from a year earlier... Exports to China nearly doubled to almost \$8 billion between 2002 and 2006, the report said” (Eric Beauchesne, “Benefit for Canada in China’s appetite,” *The Province*, Nov. 9, 2007).

6. Barret Fisher

President of Tourism Whistler, oversees TELUS Whistler Conference Center & Whistler Golf Club, former journalist and also occasional editor at North Shore News.

7. Jacques Gauthier

Lawyer, senior vice president & CEO of Kruger Inc., an energy corporation, previous president of Boralex Inc., another energy corporation.

8. Jim Godfrey

Executive director of 2010 Games in Whistler, Tourism Whistler and Whistler Housing Authority. Winner of Fraser Institute ‘Economy in Government Competition’.

9. Rusty Goepel

Senior vice-president of Raymond James Ltd. (investment firm), executive committee of BC Business Council, director with various firms Amerigo Resources, Baytex Energy, TELUS, and Vancouver Airport Authority. Former governor of COC.

10. Gibby Jacob

Claims to be hereditary chief of Squamish, Indian Act band councilor since 1981, director of Squamish Nation Land Claims Department, founder & chair of EAGLE (law firm).

11. Patrick Jarvis

Paralympic athlete, member of COC, owner of Amarak Training Services (employee management, corporate consulting, training services).

12. Jeff Mooney

Executive chairman and controlling shareholder in A & W Food Restaurants of Canada Inc. (more than 650), member of Board of Directors of the Cadillac Fairview group and Finning International.

13. Michael Pheips

Chairman of Dornoch Capital Inc., (private investment company), former chair & CEO of Westcoast Energy Inc., former Manitoba Crown attorney, special advisor to federal Minister of Justice, senior advisor to Deutsche Bank, member of boards of Canfor Corp., Canadian Pacific Railway, Duke Energy.

14. Richard Pound

IOC member since 1978, chairman of World Anti-Doping Agency since 1999, vice president of IOC in charge of TV negotiations, marketing & sponsorships, member of COC, former Olympic athlete, lawyer and chartered accountant by profession. In 2008 calls for Pound’s resignation began after he referred to Natives as ‘savages’ in a media interview; the IOC refused to take action.

15. Judy Rogers

City manager for Vancouver, chair of board of 2010 Legacies Now.

16. Chris Rudge

Former senior executive with Quebecor World Inc., one of world’s largest commercial printers, on board of Merrill Lynch, Canada.

17. Beckie Scott

Former Olympic athlete, member of IOC World Anti-Doping Agency, IOC Athlete’s Commission.

18. Walter Sieber

Vice-president of COC, member of IOC’s Olympic Games Program Commission, extensive experience in previous Olympic Games (Moscow, Seoul, Calgary) and managed many FIFA (international football/soccer association).

19. Carol Stephenson

Former executive at Bell Canada, president & CEO BCE Media, president & CEO Lucent Technologies, member of General Motors of Canada advisory board.

20. Richard Turner

President & CEO of TitanStar Investment Group, former CEO International Aviation Terminals Inc., chair & director of ICBC since 2003, former chair & director of BC Lottery Corp., current governor of Vancouver Board of Trade, governor for Business Council of BC, former member of Vancouver Police Foundation Board.

VANOC Contact Information

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2010 Information Center

4365 Blackcomb Way, Whistler, daily 11 AM – 5 PM

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CORPORATE SPONSORS of 2010

“As an event that commands the focus of the media and the attention of the entire world for 2 weeks every other year, the Olympic Games are one of the most effective international marketing platforms in the world, reaching billions of people in over 200 countries” (www.olympic.org, official website)

“This isn’t charity. We’ve entered into a business transaction. We will make money. That’s what it’s all about.” (Hugh McColl, chairman NationsBank, prime sponsor of ’96 Atlanta Games, quoted in *The New Lords of the Rings*, p. 289).

Corporate sponsorship has long been a part of the modern Olympics. The oldest continuous sponsor is Coca-Cola, beginning in 1928. The Olympics of 1900 & 1904 were attached to World Trade Fairs. It was not until the development of mass media & consumerism after WW2, however, and in particular television, that corporate sponsorship really became an integral part of the Olympic industry as we now know it: “The rise of the mass media... contributed more to the global popularity of the [Olympics] than any other single factor. Captive audiences proved enticing to commercial interests seeking to promote products to consumers” (*Selling the 5 Rings*, p. 51).

“During the 1980s and 1990s IOC members witnessed a meteoric rise in the power of the [Olympics] to raise vast amounts of revenue for the sale of TV rights worldwide and the marriage of the five-ring symbol to the products and marketing activities of various multinational corporate giants. For example, [between 1997-2000] the IOC... reported an estimated gross income of close to 4 billion US dollars” (*Selling the 5 Rings*, p. x).

TOP Corporate Sponsors

Beginning in 1985, the IOC designated top-level corporate sponsors as The Olympic Partners (TOP), corporations who pay tens of millions of dollars to have their products and/or services associated with the Games. These corporations gain exclusive world-wide marketing rights to both the Summer & Winter Olympics for a specified term. Along with paying sponsorship fees, these corporations also supply products & services to Games as part of their contracts with the IOC. As of 2008, the TOP (The Olympic Partners) corporate sponsors were:

1. Coca-Cola

World’s largest beverage & soft-drink company. Bottled drinks, inc. Coke, Sprite, Fanta, Powerade, Minute Maid, 5-Alive, Dasani water, etc. Coca-Cola factories in Central & South America, & India, have been involved in hiring paramilitary groups to violently repress union organizers, using kidnapping, torture and assassinations. Coke factories also deplete ground water and cause environmental destruction. Main sponsor for torch relay.

2. General Electric

One of the world’s largest manufacturers of electrical goods & appliances, security system technologies, police/prison/military contracts, weapons systems (inc. nuclear weapons). Involved in secret nuclear tests exposing thousands to radiation, experiments on prisoners, dumping of toxic waste, supplying military equipment to Israel.

3. Atos Origin

European based information technology/communications corporation, provides video, computer IT systems for Olympic Games.

4. Johnson & Johnson

One of the world’s largest pharmaceutical corporations, also supplier of medical devices, healthcare products and biotechnology services. Part of maquiladora factory system in Mexico. *Update:* J & J withdrew its sponsorship in 2008.

5. Kodak

One of the world’s oldest, and largest, manufacturers & suppliers of cameras, printers, graphic communications systems, etc. Longtime supplier to Olympic Games. Large-scale environmental polluter. *Update:* Kodak dropped sponsorship in 2008.

6. Lenovo

The largest manufacturer of Personal Computers (PCs) in China. *Update:* dropped sponsorship in 2008.

7. McDonalds

One of the largest fast food restaurants in world, target of protests & attacks the world over for its exploitation of workers, its contribution to poor health, destruction of tropical forests for cattle industry, human rights violations, and because it is a renowned symbol of capitalist greed & consumerism.

8. Manulife

The world’s fifth largest insurance corporation. *Update:* dropped sponsorship in 2008.

9. Omega

A division of Swatch, maker of watches, official timekeepers for Olympics for several decades.

10. Panasonic

One of the world’s largest makers of electrical goods, TVs, video cameras, DVD players, etc.

11. Samsung

Third largest manufacturer of mobile phones, also DVD players, video recorders, computers, washer & dryers, fridges, etc. Supplier of wireless telecommunications equipment to Olympics.

12. Visa

World’s largest credit card company.

Cypress Mountain Clear-Cuts

Cypress Mountain, located near North Vancouver, had a small ski resort established by the 1980s but was designated as the venue location for freestyle & snowboard events for the 2010 Games. As a result, a large-scale expansion was undertaken with 9 new ski runs being cut into the mountain side, three new chair lifts being built, a new lodge, and a “state of the art snow making system.” Despite this ecological destruction, developers continue to claim it is one of the most “environmentally sustainable” resort expansions to occur!

Concrete City: Gravel Mining & Fish Kills

Construction for Olympic venues and related infrastructure (including highway expansion, the RAV/Canada Line, etc.) is based on concrete, requiring massive amounts of gravel & sand, which comprise up to 80 % of concrete and over 90 % of asphalt.

The Canada Line, a transit system from downtown Vancouver to the airport, will alone require some 400,000 tonnes of gravel & sand for concrete production. The \$105 million Sliding Centre at Whistler, used for bobsleigh, luge and skeleton tracks, used 350 tonnes of concrete (“Whistler’s 2010 Olympic venues officially complete,” by Clare Ogilvie, *The Province*, December 14, 2007).

In March 2006 near Chilliwack, BC (a rural area near Vancouver), a construction company built a road into the Fraser River to access a small island known as Big Bar. The company was extracting large quantities of sand & gravel from the river, which the island provided access to. The result of the road-building, authorized by the Department of Fisheries & Oceans (DFO), resulted in the deaths of some 2 million Salmon (www.thetyee.ca).

According to a January 2006 press release by Mosquito Consolidated Gold Mines, Ltd.,

“The demand for high quality gravel and sand products is at an all-time high and is expected to continue beyond the 2010 Olympics. Local supplies have been or are being depleted and new supplies are desperately required” (Mosquito Consolidated, Press Release, January 2006).

Gravel and sand, referred to as ‘aggregate’, is mined from pits, blasted and crushed from hard rock quarries, or removed from rivers. The Fraser River alone accounts for some 20 % of all gravel & sand acquired from the Georgia Basin (the lower mainland region of rivers & deltas).

In recent years (beginning in 2004 when DFO & Land & Water BC greatly expanded quarry operations), this has been done under the pretext of flood control—removing large amounts of gravel that result from extremely high spring run-offs of mountain snow packs. Despite this, many of the gravel/sand removals have occurred in areas that do little to remove the dangers of flooding.

However, “An operation on the Fraser two years ago erupted in controversy after fisheries students at BC Institute of Technology found that a temporary causeway installed at another gravel bar had rerouted the river way from spawning beds, leading to the death of millions of infant salmon...”

“A federal study last year found negligible flood protection benefits to gravel mining in the river, compared to the potential threat to infant pink salmon and other salmon species that are nested within the river’s gravel bed in late winter and early spring...” (Scott Simpson, “Gravel mining on Fraser River called threat to fish,” *Vancouver Sun*, January 12, 2008).

According to John Werring, a salmon conservation biologist with the Suzuki Foundation, in some parts of the river lowering the stream bed through excavation could reduce the risk of flooding, although only in a minor way, stating

“But that’s not where they’re mining. They’re just taking easily accessible gravel. Scalping gravel bars won’t have any benefit against flooding... Meanwhile there is a huge impact on the fish” (*Vancouver Sun*, January 12, 2008)

Frank Kwak, president of the Fraser Valley Salmon Society, who studied the impact of gravel mining in 2006 on Salmon spawning, said the impact then was “huge”:

“At the moment this 400,000 [cubic-meter removal] is going to be the biggest that’s ever occurred on the Fraser in one shot... I’m also concerned that they [the government] continue to argue that this is for flood protection when in reality there is all kinds of science out there that shows it’s not going to help” (*Vancouver Sun*, January 12, 2008).

BCIT instructor Marvin Rosenau, who was on-site during the 2006 fish kill, said “there is the potential for a major de-watering of the river again. It looks remarkably like the 2006 project” (*Vancouver Sun*, January 12, 2008).

Vancouver Sun columnist Stephen Hume noted that “every year since 1993 the Fraser has been prominent on the annual list of endangered rivers. Threats include gravel extraction, logging, farming and suburban sprawl So it’s no surprise that, even as we get more grim news about the prospects for wild salmon survival, another huge gravel mining operation prepares to scalp salmon spawning habitat.



ECOLOGICAL DESTRUCTION & 2010

“The principal motivation behind South Korea’s bid to host the 1988 Olympics was economic: to enhance the national image in order to attract foreign investment and develop business ties for exporting.” (*Fair Play for Housing Rights*, p. 82)

Despite rhetoric about ‘sustainability’ and ‘green Games’, the Olympic industry is by its very nature ecologically destructive. This is due to large-scale construction of venues, expanded infrastructure, the large numbers of tourism, and increased levels of consumerism. Winter Olympics are more ecologically destructive than Summer ones, since many events must occur outside the city in rural areas (i.e., mountain areas, ski resorts, etc.). According to Chris Shaw (2010 Games Watch), the 2010 Olympics will be one of the most environmentally destructive games ever held! In addition, the goal of increasing corporate investment in certain resource industries such as mining, oil & gas, and ski resorts, also leads to greater environmental destruction.

Sea-to-Sky Highway and Eagleridge Bluffs

Expansion of the Sea-to-Sky Highway was the first Olympic-related construction to be the target of protests & direct action, beginning in April 2006 when the Eagleridge Bluffs Coalition began blockading work on the highway in N. Vancouver. Protesters claimed the government failed to consider alternate measures, including a tunnel, that would have reduced the impact of the expansion. On May 26, 2006, twenty-four protesters were arrested & removed by West Vancouver Police to allow construction work to begin.

Since that time, the Eagleridge Bluffs area has seen extensive logging and blasting, as has the entire Sea-to-Sky leading up to the Whistler ski resort. This has resulted in the destruction of environmental habitats used by many animals and birds.



Eagleridge Bluffs, October 2008, after logging and dynamite blasts.
Foto: DP

Clear-Cut City: Callaghan Valley

The Whistler Olympic Center is a large complex being built in the Callaghan Valley, near Whistler. (It was originally called the Nordic Center, but perhaps this was too obvious). Although there was some logging in the area, it still contained large amounts of old growth forest and was largely untouched.

Construction of the Nordic Center has resulted in large-scale ecological destruction, with between 89,000 to 126,000 trees cut down (according to Chris Shaw, *Five Ring Circus*). For comparison, some 10,000 trees were knocked down during severe wind storms in 2007 in Stanley Park (which caused a public outpouring of grief).

This mass deforestation will result from some 50 km of new cross-country ski trails, along with parking lots, 3 stadiums, 2 ski jumps, a biathlon route, a Nordic day lodge, as well as maintenance facilities inc. sewage, water, & power. The entire area of the Whistler (Nordic) Olympic Center itself is to be 260 hectares in size. Construction for this venue has included building a 9 km access road.

In the summer of 2007, a record number of black bears were hit by vehicles on the Sea-to-Sky Highway, about twice the usual number. At least 11 died, while the remainder dragged themselves into the forest, to recover or to die later. In addition, conservation officers in the area responded to a much larger number of complaints regarding bear-human interactions. According to conservation officer Chris Doyle,

“It has been probably the busiest July and August for the conservation office in Whistler since records have been kept” (“Conflict deadly for bears,” by Clare Ogilvie, *The Province*, September 18, 2007).

According to Sylvia Dolson of Whistler’s Get Bear Smart Society,

“This valley bottom is an important habitat for bears... Now we are continuing to develop and clearcut areas like the site of the [2010 Winter Olympics] Athletes Village, which is in prime bear habitat. We have to ask ourselves, ‘Where else are they supposed to feed?’” (*The Province*, September 18, 2007)

Defend the Earth

National Corporate Sponsors- Canada

1. **Bell Canada** (telecommunications, controls CTV & other media; \$200 million)
2. **Hudsons Bay Company** (old fur trade company, also early colonial government, owner of The Bay, Zellers, & Fields department stores, supplier of uniforms and clothing to 2010 & Canadian Olympic team, a \$100 million sponsor)
3. **Royal Bank of Canada** (RBC Financial Group, \$110 million)
4. **General Motors of Canada** (car/truck manufacturer, largest military contractor in Canada, inc. Light Armoured Vehicles; \$53 million)
5. **Petro-Canada** (one of largest Canadian oil & gas corporations, exploiting and destroying Indigenous lands inc. tar sands in Alberta, \$62.5 million)
6. **Rona** (hardware store/corporation, official building supplier, \$68 million)

Official supporters:

1. **Air Canada** (official airline of 2010)
2. **BC Lottery Corporation** (lottery games, government-owned corporation)
3. **BC Hydro** (electrical power producer)
4. **Canadian Pacific Railway** (cargo rail, resources taken from Indigenous lands, factor in colonization)
5. **Insurance Corporation of BC** (government-owned corporation, official auto insurance)
6. **Jet Set Sports** (corporate hospitality)
7. **Ricoh** (print communications & services)
8. **Royal Canadian Mint** (makes souvenir coins, medals, etc.)
9. **Teck Cominco** (mining corporation, exploiting & destroying Indigenous lands, environmental destruction)
10. **Bombardier** (2nd largest military contractor in Canada, makes trains and planes, provides support & training for military forces around the world, as well as transit security systems. Based in Montreal & Berlin)

Official suppliers:

1. **3M**
2. **Birks** (diamonds, including ‘blood-diamonds’ mined in war-torn African countries)
3. **Dow** (one of the largest chemical corporations in world, responsible for widespread ecological destruction. Maker of Agent Orange for US chemical warfare in Vietnam. As current owner of Union Carbide, refuses to compensate victims of 1984 Bhopal disaster)
4. **Epcor** (oil & gas corporation exploiting and destroying Indigenous lands, including Tar Sands in northern Alberta)
5. **Haworth** (modular furniture & interior design)
6. **Nortel** (telecommunications)
7. **Transcanada** (large oil, gas & energy corporation w/more than 59,000 km of pipelines in Canada & into US, inc. Tar Sands)
8. **Vincor Canada** (wine supplier)
9. **Weston** (bread & baked goods)
10. **Workopolis** (employment center, 2010 recruiting)
11. **Moving Products, Inc.**, provides custom apparel, uniforms, gifts etc. for Olympics. Has been contracted for 10 consecutive Olympic Games (including Atlanta ’96, Sydney 2000, Salt Lake City 2002, etc. Has outfitted over 250,000 individuals with over 2,500,000 pieces of custom apparel. Showroom located at 495 Railway St., Vancouver, BC, Tel: 778-785-2010
12. **Acklands Grainger** (distributor of industrial parts and security equipment)
13. **Aggreko** (air conditioners & compressors, generators)
14. **Aquilini Investment Group**
15. **Britco** (modular buildings)
16. **Canada Post** (government owned postal service)
17. **Deloitte** (management of personnel)
18. **Garrett** (metal detectors & security)
19. **General Mills** (food)
20. **Purolator** (courier)
21. **Sleep Country** (mattresses)
22. **Saputo** (dairy products)
23. **Sun Microsystems** (computers)
24. **Tickets.com** (ticket supplier)
25. **Wrigley Canada** (chewing gum, etc.)

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HOMELESSNESS and the 2010 OLYMPICS

"The Olympic Games have displaced more than 2 million people in the last 20 years, disproportionately affecting minorities such as the homeless, the poor, Roma and African-Americans."

(Centre on Housing Rights & Evictions, www.cohre.org)

In a 2007 report on the impact of 'hallmark' events, and Olympic Games in particular, the Centre on Housing Rights & Evictions (COHRE) stated:

"Hosting of the Olympic Games requires host cities to develop important infrastructure. This requirement, along with gentrification processes... usually result in drastic changes in a city's urban plan, and lead to people losing their homes, facing increased poverty, the loss of community, and even violence" (*Fair Play for Housing Rights*, p. 15).

Major examples of Olympic displacement and evictions include Seoul 1988 and Atlanta in '96. In Seoul, South Korea:

"Preparations for the 1988 Olympic Games involved large-scale forced evictions from urban areas, Olympic sites and torch relay routes. During the 5 years preceding the Olympic Games, 48,000 buildings housing 720,000 people were destroyed for redevelopment... The practice of forced evictions became more frequent and more violent as a direct result of the city's preparations to host the Olympic Games" (*Fair Play for Housing Rights*, p. 79).

Most forced evictions were carried out by private security personnel and hired thugs. Large protests and sometimes battles erupted, at times resulting in fatalities, as tenants resisted evictions. The peak of these evictions occurred in 1986.

In Atlanta 1996, an estimated 35,000 people were displaced. Thousands of homeless, mostly Blacks, were arrested and jailed during the Summer Games, while some nine thousand more were given one-way bus tickets out of the city (dubbed 'Project Homeward Bound').

Other recent Olympics with large-scale evictions & displacement of poor include Barcelona 1992, Sydney 2000, and Athens 2006. Those most affected were minority groups, such as Roma and Indigenous. The largest Olympic displacement has occurred in Beijing, China, site of the 2008 Summer Olympics:

"In the lead up to the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, COHRE estimates that over 1.25 million people already have been displaced due to Olympic-related urban redevelopment, with at least another quarter of a million displacements expected in the year prior to the staging of the event" (*Fair Play for Housing Rights*, p. 11).

VANCOUVER'S DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE

Conditions

The struggle over housing rights & homelessness, which expanded into a larger anti-Olympics opposition in 2003 and after, is centered largely on the Downtown Eastside (DTES) of Vancouver. It has involved hundreds of forums, protests, and direct action by community groups and residents over the years.

The area is often referred to as the 'poorest postal code' in Canada, and has one of the highest poverty rates in N. America. Nearly 75% of residents live below the poverty line, compared to the Vancouver average of 25%. Approximately 15,000 people live here, with an estimated 30 % being Indigenous. Thousands of those living in the DTES have mental health and/or addiction problems. Many of these are among the city's 2,500 homeless people. The population of the DTES is largely concentrated into ten square city blocks. The DTES is internationally renowned for its poverty and social dysfunction. There is also a large number of bars and low-income hotels.



2010 & Homelessness

Since Vancouver-Whistler was announced as host city for the 2010 Winter Olympics in 2003, Vancouver has experienced large-scale evictions and dislocation of urban poor. This has dramatically increased homelessness.

According to PIVOT Legal Society, the number of homeless in 2002 was just over 620. This nearly doubled to 1,291 by 2005 (estimates on the numbers of homeless are generally considered low). At the same time, hundreds of low-income Single Room Occupancy (SRO) units have been lost in the Downtown Eastside (DTES). Most were hotels forced to close either by owners seeking to demolish or renovate them into upscale hotels for the Olympic/tourist industry, or by City council forcing the closure of buildings that violated fire, health or safety codes (which serves the purpose of opening up these buildings to renovations or demolition).

According to PIVOT, over 800 people lost their low-income SRO units between June 2003 and June 2006 (Mathew Burrows, "Low-wage housing squeezed," *The Georgia Straight*, July 13, 2006). These figures do not include those evicted due to rent increases. At the same time, there has been an increase in the number of homeless women:

"According to the 2005 GVRD [Greater Vancouver Regional District] Homelessness Count, there has been an increase of 60 % in the number of homeless women since the 2002 count" ("Women's Center shelter extended to July," *Carnegie Community Action Project (CCAP Newsletter)*, Apr 1, 2007).

In September 2008, the Greater Vancouver regional steering committee on homelessness found a 'stunning' increase in the numbers of homeless. According to their report, there had been a 373 percent increase since 2002, with the number of homeless people approaching 3,000. Of this, 32% were Native

(although only 5 percent of the population). Close to 45 % of homeless women were Native, while 41% of youth were Native.

Government and city officials have been developing various plans on how to deal with the homeless crisis for 2010. In June 2007, BC Housing Minister Rich Coleman warned the people of the DTES of impending changes, stating:

"The downtown Eastside is going to have to change. Over time, it frankly needs to disperse its problems out of that one particular area of the city" (John Bermingham, "Coleman touts new strategy for eastside," *The Province*, June 24, 2007)

Coleman is also reported to have said: "The eventual answer for the homeless of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside is relocation—to another BC community. Towns in the Fraser Valley and the Interior offer a better chance at an escape from the addiction cycle that leads to homeless..." (*The Province*, June 24, 2007).

Along these lines, the government has been publicly contemplating the use of former military bases & camps in the BC interior as 'detox' centers, collecting Air Miles donations to fly convicted persons back to their province of origin (similar to Atlanta's 'Homeward Bound' relocation effort of homeless during the '96 Olympics), and using temporary warehouses to provide shelter during 2010.



APC 'North Star Squat', DTES Vancouver, October 2006

As a result of high profile public campaigns involving protests & direct actions (including several squats by the Anti-poverty Committee beginning in the fall of 2006), the government has been forced to make concessions as part of their propaganda efforts against the movement. In October 2007, Coleman announced government plans to build 1,200 low-income units, estimated to cost \$300 million (Salt Lake City also said it would build some 2,500 low-income units but in the end only built 150). At the same time, BC premier Gordon Campbell announced a new \$41 million housing program, including provisions to keep emergency shelters open 24-hours a day. In 2008, Vanoc announced with much fanfare its plan to provide 154 units of low-income housing to six BC communities, none of them in Vancouver, comprised of refurbished shipping containers to be used by workers at Whistler during the Olympics. Many of these announcements are viewed with growing cynicism.

As a result of the 2008 city elections, which saw a new party and mayor take power in Vancouver, there was a renewed emphasis on housing. New mayor Gregor Robertson based much of his campaign on ending homelessness, showing how much of an issue it had become in the city. It remains to be seen how much of his campaign rhetoric will turn into reality.

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