Olympic Q&A

CITY OF VANCOUVER
January 2003

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Questions and answers about the City of Vancouver and the 2010 Winter Games

On February 22, 2003, City of Vancouver residents will have the chance to say whether they support or oppose Vancouver's participation in hosting the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Here are some of the answers to basic questions about Vancouver's Bid and the City of Vancouver's involvement.

Q What are the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games?

The 2010 Olympic Winter Games are an international sporting and cultural event that will take place February 5 to 21, 2010 in whichever city is chosen as host by the International Olympic Committee. The Paralympic Winter Games for athletes with disabilities will run from March 5 to 14, 2010 in the same host city or area.

Q How is the City of Vancouver involved?

In February 1998, a group of local citizens formed the Olympic Bid Society and began collecting petitions in support of a Vancouver/Whistler bid for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. Council approved a recommendation to support the concept in principle.

To address concerns about potential costs and liabilities involved in hosting the Games, the City of Vancouver and the Province of British Columbia entered into the Participation Agreement in November 1998. The Participation Agreement provides the City of Vancouver with protection against any costs, losses, and liabilities related to the Bid and the Winter Olympics other than those agreed to by the City. On the basis of the Participation Agreement, the City agreed to act as Host City and proceed with the Bid.

In December 1998, the Vancouver Bid was selected by the Canadian Olympic Association (now the Canadian Olympic Committee) to represent Canada in the international bidding competition for the 2010 Games. In May 1999, the COA and the Bid group signed the Bid City Agreement. The Bid City Agreement authorizes the City to present the Bid to the International Olympic Committee and sets out the roles and responsibilities of the parties. The terms of agreement require the City to work with the COC to ensure that all aspects of the Bid are handled in the best possible manner and in compliance with the provisions of the Olympic Charter and the IOC directions issued to candidate cities.

On March 26, 2002, the Vancouver City Council endorsed the City's involvement in the 2010 Games Bid.

Vancouver was named as a shortlisted candidate for the 2010 Games in August 2002.

On November 14, 2002, The City of Vancouver, the Resort Municipality of Whistler, the Government of Canada, the Province of B.C., the Canadian Olympic Committee, and the Canadian Paralympic Committee entered into the Multi-Party Agreement that sets out the rights, responsibilities and financial contributions of each party if the Vancouver Bid is successful.

Q Who is running the Bid?

In June 1999, the Vancouver 2010 Bid Corporation, a not-for-profit corporation, was formed to organize and develop plans to win the right to host the Games.

A new company would be incorporated as the Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (VOCOG) to plan and present the Games if Vancouver is selected as the host.

Q Who is represented on the Vancouver 2010 Bid Corporation?

The Bid Corporation was formed by the Government of Canada, the Province of British Columbia, the City of Vancouver, the Resort Municipality of Whistler, and the Canadian Olympic Committee. The board of directors includes representatives from all levels of government, the COC, First Nations groups, the business community and sports groups. The Bid Corporation is also supported by more than 90 companies, corporations and organizations.

Q What Olympic events would take place in Vancouver?

Ice hockey, figure skating, curling and short track speed skating along with the opening and closing ceremonies would take place in the City of Vancouver. The University of B.C. would also host some hockey events. Simon Fraser University would host curling and speed skating events, and Cypress Mountain would hold snowboarding and freestyle skiing. For Whistler, the events proposed are alpine skiing, biathlon, cross country skiing, Nordic combined, ski jumping, bobsleigh, luge, and skeleton, as well as all the Paralympic events. Athletes' villages and media centres would be in both locations.

Q How many people would attend?

Estimates are:
5,000 athletes and officials
10,000 media members
14,000 volunteers
2.3 million attendees

Q What other cities are bidding on the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games?

The three finalists chosen by the International Olympic Committee to bid on the 2010 Games are Vancouver, Pyeonchang, South Korea, and Salzburg, Austria.

Q How much does the Bid cost and how is it being funded?

The Bid Corporation's budget for the Bid is $34 million Cdn. Of the $34 million budget, the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia have each provided $9.1 million Cdn in financing.

When the fundraising target is achieved, government and public corporations will finance 54 per cent of the Bid, and private companies will provide 46 per cent of the funding. Corporate and other supporters include Telus, Molson, Canadian Tourism Commission, B.C. Lottery Corporation, CBC, Rogers, Canadian Pacific Railway, National Post, The Province, Meritek Newspapers, Vancouver Sun, and Viacom Outdoor. Other contributors are listed at this Web site: www.vanoc2010.com/AboutTheBid/SupportersMedia.htm

The City's Support

The City of Vancouver provided $300,000 Cdn to the Bid Corporation in 2000. In July 2002, Vancouver City Council approved another $450,000 Cdn in funding from the City's contingency reserve to support the City's participation in the Bid process to be used for security planning, cultural initiatives, and staffing and administration.

Q What Olympic venues and facilities would be located in Vancouver?

The following venues and facilities would be in the City of Vancouver:

Main Press Centre: in new trade and convention centre
Hockey venue # 1: in General Motors Place
Hockey practice facilities: in renovated ice arenas at Britannia and Killarney Community Centre
Curling venue: in new curling facility, community centre at Hillcrest Park.
Figure skating and short track speed skating venue: in renovated Pacific Coliseum at Hastings Park
Figure skating practice facility: in renovated Agrodome at Hastings Park
Short track speed skating practice facility: in temporary ice arena at Hastings Park
Vancouver athletes' village: at Southeast False Creek.

Q What venues and facilities would be outside the City of Vancouver?

Curling practice facility: located at the existing Richmond Curling Club.
Freestyle skiing and snowboarding: at renovated facilities on Cypress Mountain
Hockey venue #2: new facility at the University of B.C. with competition and practice rinks
Long track speed skating: in new facility at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby
Nordic skiing: (biathlon, cross country, ski jumping, Nordic combined): at new Whistler Nordic Centre facility to be constructed in the Callaghan Valley.
Bobsleigh, luge, skeleton: at new Whistler Sliding Centre to be located on Blackcomb Mountain
International Broadcasting Centre: to be located in proposed Richmond Trade and Convention Centre
Whistler athletes' village: located in Callaghan Valley.

Q How would City-owned sites be involved in presenting the Games?

Vancouver Athletes' Village: The City of Vancouver owns approximately 19 hectares (47 acres) of undeveloped, formerly industrial land along the southeast shore of False Creek. For a number of years now, the City has been involved in a planning process for the long-term development of the site. The City plans to sell the land for development into a model sustainable residential community with a mix of non-market and market housing, commercial development, and an approximately 10.5 hectare (26 acre) waterfront park and seawall.

For the Games, the City has agreed to allow a portion of the site to be used for an athletes' village, with apartments and townhouses for athletes and coaches during the Games which would be sold or rented to the public afterward. The City would be responsible for the development of the permanent facilities on site, including services, roads and residential and commercial buildings.

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Look for the Olympic Q&A, an information sheet that answers some of the frequently asked questions about hosting the Games, at your local library, community centre and at City Hall (453 West 12th Avenue). The Olympic Q&A includes information on background, costs and use of City facilities in relation to the Games.

The Q&A is also available online at www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/olympics