

FOUR HOST FIRST NATIONS

LIL'WAT | MUSQUEAM | SQUAMISH | TSLEIL-WAUTUTH

Re: Vancouver 2010 Indigenous Youth Gathering

Dear Chief and Council:

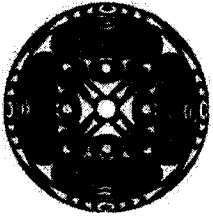
The Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games will take place in the traditional and shared traditional territories of the Four Host First Nations (FHFN) — the Lil'wat, Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh. The 2010 Winter Games mark the first time in history that Indigenous Peoples are equal partners in the planning and hosting of an Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The FHFN, along with the Assembly of First Nations, are using this opportunity to show the world who we are and where we come from — leveraging the Games to showcase our languages, traditions, protocols and cultures, and to promote respect for and recognition of our peoples. We have been working closely with the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC) and other Games partners to achieve our collective goal of unprecedented First Nation participation in the 2010 Winter Games.

We have been using ancient Salish Witness protocol to invite First Nations peoples to participate. A tradition that is in keeping with the oral history of the Salish peoples long before contact with European cultures, being called to witness by the Coast Salish and Interior Salish peoples of Canada is an honour. The role of witnesses is to record the message of the event in their hearts and minds, and to carry the message with them and share it with friends, neighbours and community members.

In order to provide opportunities for First Nations peoples throughout Canada, the FHFN and VANOC have developed programs in the areas of economic development, sport and youth, awareness and education, and cultural involvement. Included in our Aboriginal Participation program areas is an Aboriginal Sport and Youth strategy that recognizes the power of the 2010 Winter Games to inspire youth, and the positive role sport plays in promoting health and wellness in First Nation communities, particularly for youth. The strategy also outlines the goal, identified by VANOC and the FHFN together with national Aboriginal organizations, to provide Aboriginal youth across Canada with first-hand exposure to the 2010 Winter Games and the Olympic and Paralympic Movements.





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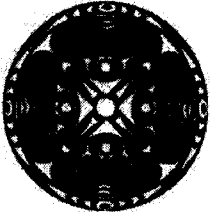
The FHFN and VANOC are planning to host an Indigenous Youth Gathering for Aboriginal youth from across Canada. Programming will focus on healthy living, the Olympic Truce, sport, leadership, sustainability and culture. Special guests will participate, including Olympians/Paralympians, Aboriginal athletes and other role models. The gathering will also include opportunities to experience the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games. Participant funding for this project will be covered by federal and provincial/territorial governments as well as by VANOC and the FHFN.

The following describes the concept for the Vancouver 2010 Indigenous Youth Gathering:

- Held from January 30 through to February 14, 2010
- Gathering of Indigenous youth, including First Nations, Inuit and Métis
- Hosting venues are located in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley regions of British Columbia
- The gathering will contribute to the International Olympic Committee's Olympic Truce objectives, which relate to youth, action, legacy, awareness and peace
- It will showcase FHFN collaboration/partnerships around the 2010 Winter Games, including the relationships that have been developed across Canada
- In addition to the activities programmed as part of the gathering, the youth participants will also have the opportunity to participate and perform in cultural activities and celebrations related to the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

The FHFN and the Assembly of First Nations signed a memorandum of understanding formalizing our joint commitment to collaborate on opportunities related to the 2010 Winter Games. It is our great privilege to invite youth from your community to apply to be considered for participation in the Vancouver 2010 Indigenous Youth Gathering. First Nations youth will be selected from across the country to participate, based on the attached criteria and application form, as well as taking into consideration such factors as regional representation and representation from First Nation language groups.





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We are using the unique world-class opportunities around the 2010 Winter Games to celebrate our cultures, and to promote better relations, peaceful coexistence and opportunities for the young people in our communities.

We hope that you will join us in these efforts by sharing this information with outstanding youth from your community!

Best regards,

Shawn A-in-chut Atleo
National Chief
Assembly of First Nations

Tewanee Joseph
CEO and Executive Director
Four Host First Nations Secretariat

