



*March 17, 2010*

## **British Columbia and Alberta announce joint Olympic legacy event**

### ***Bobsleigh and Skeleton World Cups in winter 2010 will be first in new series for both provinces***

*Vancouver...* High speed, high-performance competition returns to the Olympic sliding centres in Whistler and Calgary this November and December, for the World Cup Bobsleigh/Skeleton 2010-11 season.

“Our world-class facilities, officials and technicians give us an edge in attracting international competitions and visitors to Western Canada,” said Cindy Ady, Alberta Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation. “These world cup events are great news for sport and for tourism in both provinces. I am very excited to see our vision become a reality.”

Alberta and British Columbia signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2009 to ensure that the provinces’ investment in the legacy venues of the 1988 and 2010 Winter Olympic Games would be fully utilized, through attracting international competitions, supporting high-performance athlete training and ongoing recreational use.

“This is fantastic news for our two provinces,” said BC Minister of Healthy Living and Sport Ida Chong. “The spotlight is shining on Canada and Canadian sport right now and we’re thrilled to be able to host another high profile international sporting event. Providing support for these World Cup events will give Bobsleigh Canada Skeleton and the two Host Societies - the Whistler Legacy Society and WinSport Canada from Calgary - the ability to mount world-class events for our elite athletes at these world-class facilities.”

As the only two Canadian provinces to have hosted Olympic Winter Games, both governments have made significant investments in winter sport venues that meet an international standard. Linking the venues on either side of the Rockies allows the provinces to leverage the venues to attract major international competitions and athletes from around the world to train in Western Canada. “Support from B.C. and Alberta is critical in moving forward with these World Cup events,” said Bernie Asbell, Vice President of Bobsleigh Canada Skeleton. “Our organization looks forward to an ongoing partnership with the two provinces that will grow the sports of bobsleigh and skeleton in Canada.”

Men’s and women’s bobsleigh and skeleton events are included in upcoming World Cup events, which will take place Nov. 22 - 25 in Whistler and Nov. 29 to Dec. 5 in Calgary.

“Whistler looks forward to its first World Cup event following the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic

Winter Games” said Keith Bennett, President and CEO of the Whistler Legacy Society. “These events will again focus the world’s attention on what Whistler, B.C. and Calgary, Alberta have to offer as hosts of major international winter sports events.”

”WinSport Canada is proud to continue more than 22 years of hosting world-class events on our legacy facilities,” said Guy Huntingford, President and CEO of WinSport Canada. “Every World Cup held on home soil propels our athletes and ignites a passion for winter sport in Canadian youth.”

The provinces are now undertaking an in-depth analysis of other potential events, including Biathlon IBU World Cups and a FIS Cross-Country World Cup “Tour de Ski”, for 2012. This analysis will be completed in May 2010.

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