

A **HEALTHY** OLYMPIC GAMES: INTERIM REPORT



VANCOUVER/ WHISTLER 2010



Institute of
Health Promotion Research



January 20, 2003

Ms. Amy Solomon
The Bullitt Foundation
1212 Minor Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101-2825

Dear Ms. Solomon:

Re: Impact Study and Recommendations for Vancouver/Whistler 2010 (A Healthy Olympic Games)

We are pleased to submit this interim report detailing the progress of the proposed *Community Impact Study and Recommendations for Vancouver/Whistler 2010*. This report also includes a refined proposal for our proposed work and adjustments in timing and focus. To better reflect the nature of our work for the duration of this project we are changing the name of this work to: *A Healthy Olympic Games*.

This status report elaborates on the Impact of the Olympics on Community Coalition (IOCC) recommendations (see Appendix A), media coverage and other activities that have been generated by the IOCC (see Appendix C). The proposed research builds upon these principles, exploring the attributes, measures and targets that mitigate the negative impact of the lead up, hosting and legacy of the Olympic Games.

Clearly, the IOCC has had a positive and significant influence on the development of the Vancouver Olympic Bid. This fact is exemplified by the City of Vancouver's plans to hold a plebiscite regarding the Olympic Games on February 22, 2003, as recommended by the IOCC. Many of the IOCC's other recommendations have been adopted by the Bid Corporation, and appear in the official Bid Book. It likely that the IOCC will continue to influence the Bid Corporation's policies, regulations, and activities. This work could not have been achieved without the support of the Bullitt Foundation.

Thank you for the opportunity to ensure that if successful, the Vancouver/Whistler 2010 Winter Olympic games will be healthy Olympic Games that minimize any potential negative impacts and maximize opportunities for the community. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues on this important topic.

Respectfully,

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Impact of Olympics on Community Coalition

A Healthy Olympics

Interim Report

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Background

The Impact of the Olympics on Community Coalition (IOCC) is a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring that social, environmental, housing, transportation, economic and civil rights issues associated with the Vancouver/Whistler 2010 Winter Olympic Bid are addressed from a community perspective. The IOCC officially incorporated as the Burrard Community Response Society in June 2002. For all intents and purposes, we continue to refer to ourselves as the IOCC.

Because we believe that equity is a cornerstone of sustainability, the IOCC is dedicated to ensuring that these issues are addressed from a community perspective. The IOCC aims to maximize community input into how public expenditures are utilized in support of the 2010 Olympic Bid, and to ensure that potential negative impacts of hosting the Winter Olympics are minimized and potential positive impacts are maximized. The IOCC has partnered with the Institute of Health Promotion Research (IHPR) at the University of British Columbia (UBC) on *A Healthy Olympic Games*. The nature of that partnership is the focus of this report. Several premises guide this collaboration:

- An Olympic Games that does not contribute to healthy communities is a problem;
- Effective monitoring of the impact of the Olympics before, during and after the Games has merit;
- A scorecard of the impact of the Olympic Games will serve the public good;
- Community participation in the creation of the scorecard contributes to a healthy community.

The assessment will involve four to six focus groups, a series of key informant interviews, surveys, and collection of data at a series of community fora that have recently been announced by the City of Vancouver. In each case, we propose to ask a series of questions designed to elaborate the IOCC recommendations (see Appendix A). For example, focus groups are especially good for following up on our work to date. They will help to clarify findings and produce data of specific interest to the IOCC and other key stakeholders. Finally, focus groups determine the perceptions, feelings and manner of thinking of participants.

The focus groups and key informant interviews will be stratified and made up of: small business; representatives of affected community members; government and community organizations; youth, and the broader community. Participants' answers will help to clarify the concept of a healthy Olympic Games, operationalize the attributes of such a concept and generate potential indicators of community health that can serve as targets for the bid and organizing committees. We plan to check the credibility of our interim findings with participants. The impact study will be completed in the form of a research paper by the end of April, 2003. Drs. Rob VanWynsberghe and James Frankish, colleagues at IHPR, will conduct the research. Their plans are detailed below, in the section 'Purpose and Scope'.

Project Team

The project team is composed of personnel from the IHPR and will be led by Dr. VanWynsberghe, a volunteer member of B.E.S.T.'s Board of Directors, and an active member of the IOCC since its inception. He is also an Assistant Professor and Assistant Director of IHPR. Dr. VanWynsberghe will be assisted by Dr. James Frankish, Associate Director of IHPR, and member of the IOCC. As Principal Investigators (PIs), Drs. VanWynsberghe and Frankish will be assisted by the research staff

and students of IHPR and will consult with the Institute's Faculty Associates and other colleagues. When appropriate, IHPR will consult with other key informants.

In 1990, UBC established the IHPR aimed at meeting the challenges of improving health and quality of life. The Institute provides an innovative focus for interdisciplinary research, education and multi-sectoral collaboration and service in the field of health promotion. With its strong linkages to the behavioural, biomedical, educational, environmental and social disciplines, this broadly-based Institute brings the University's research and educational programs more closely in line with emerging views on health. The Institute has been involved in more than 160 funded research projects totalling over \$16 million (all funds in Canadian dollars).

Relevant Experience

Dr. VanWynsberghe is an Olympic Games scholar and has extensive experience in community-based research and community engagement. Dr. Frankish is an Assistant Professor in the UBC Department of Health Care and Epidemiology; and the recent recipient of a Senior Scholar Award from the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research. He is also a registered clinical psychologist.

The overall management of the project will fall to the co-PIs who will be responsible for overseeing the administration and budget management of the project, and for the supervision of all project staff. They will also be responsible for the conceptual design and planning of all aspects of the project and for production of the research products. Lastly, they will be responsible for direct liaison with Bullitt Foundation representatives and for co-ordination of project analyses and reports. The Project Research Assistant (to be hired) will be responsible for the day-to-day functioning of the project, e.g., logistics of focus groups and interviews, compiling information, and analyzing findings. He/she will work under the direct supervision of the two PIs. A Consultant Writer will be hired to assist in the compilation and writing of the research paper and preparation of written communications or publications.

Purpose and Scope

The goal of the proposed work is to create a template for conceptualizing and evaluating the impact(s) of a "healthy" Olympic Games. Related research papers and community reports will contribute to the development of the bases of knowledge, expertise and data about this type of hallmark event. Information gained through the project will be shared among all concerned parties. The proposed participatory and collaborative processes for completing the work will strengthen the capacity of communities to address the needs of affected populations by bringing key stakeholders together to address community health issues. The resulting products will be of value and interest to future Olympic communities.

The specific objectives of the project exist in two phases. While we will seek additional funding for Phase II, Phase I will be completed with our remaining Bullitt funding. In Phase I (January-July 2003), our objectives are:

- To organize and synthesize available information so as to identify the quality of available evidence regarding the potential 'characteristics' of a healthy Olympic Games;
- To create a draft list of 'characteristics' of a healthy Olympic Games based on identified IOCC principles and recommendations;
- To 'validate' the relevance of each characteristic through a series of focus groups, surveys, interviews and community fora;

- To refine the draft set of characteristics based on the above data collection;
- To identify an initial set of potential measures of each selected characteristic;
- To develop a report card that will be used to evaluate the bid process and the 2010 Winter Games.

Phase II will follow August 2003, and will likely take one to two years to complete. We will seek additional funding from the Canadian Institutes for Health Research, and government and community foundations for this work. During Phase II, our objectives will be:

- To establish ‘targets’ (i.e., measurable objectives) for each characteristic identified in Phase I;
- To engage key stakeholders and policy makers in the development of an ‘accountability plan’ that will involve the rigorous collection of data for each target and related indicators;
- To create a foundation for collecting reliable, valid data to ensure that the IOCC principles are upheld throughout the planning, hosting and aftermath of the Winter Games to minimize their negative impact;
- To examine and articulate the potential implications of a healthy Olympic Games for policy, practice and future research.

There will be multiple products in the form of a conceptual framework for defining the meaning of a ‘healthy’ Olympics:

- The identification of specific characteristics and related measures/indicators of each characteristic;
- The specification of measurable targets/standards for each characteristic;
- A critical synthesis and discussion of policy and practice implications as they relate to the planning, implementation and evaluation of a healthy Olympic Games.

This work will be disseminated in the form of appropriate community reports, policy briefings, research papers, and media submissions.

Approaches to the Statements of Work

Our approach will address the Bullitt Foundation’s desire for a well-monitored, collaborative process that allows for dialogue among the partners and periodic feedback on the progress of the Statements of Work.

The IOCC has a host of important partners in the community (see Appendix B). These partner organizations are involved in providing programs, resources and services related to a variety of community issues such as poverty and homelessness. They also act to disseminate information on key issues to other stakeholders. As such, the involvement and collaboration of our partners is a crucial aspect of conducting research. A key aspect of the project will be the development of a Project Working Group comprised of representatives of member groups (see Appendix B). The Project Working Group will play a key role in developing a strategy for acquiring the needed information and in facilitating connections to key partners, stakeholders and sources of information.

The IHPR has obtained permission from the City of Vancouver to hand out surveys at the three Mayor’s forums that will be held in February, and are negotiating with the City to include IOCC ‘probes’ or questions in the forums.

There has been concern that an accurate cost benefit study of the Games has not been produced. Therefore, the IOCC, in partnership with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, will conduct a cost benefit analysis of the Games using a multiple account evaluation method. This project (to be completed before the February 22, 2003 plebiscite) will serve to provide Vancouver citizens with critical information they need to inform their vote.

The following section outlines the proposed approach to completing each of the Statements of Work. Completion dates for each item of work are proposed. Detailed information regarding the methods of data collection and analysis are provided.

SW1: Project Orientation

The co-PIs and IOCC representatives will take part in a conference call with the Bullitt Foundation Authority after February 1, 2003, to clarify any outstanding issues regarding the various components of the proposed project. The PIs will be prepared to discuss solutions to any potential problems in order to ensure that the project is completed on time and in the desired manner.

SW2: Development of a Content Outline for the Synthesis Paper

The PIs will submit a draft outline of the characteristics of a healthy Olympic Games by March 15, 2003. A revised submission, which incorporates comments, suggestions and observations from the Project Working Group and community members, will be used to produce the final product that will be submitted by April 30, 2003.

SW3: Data Collection and Project Methods

The plan for collecting the necessary data to produce the characteristics and indicators of a healthy Olympic Games and the resulting products is described in detail in the following sections. Partner groups and community representatives will be close partners in the research with the co-PIs.

Businesses, media, community representatives, youth and marginalized members of our city will be invited to the focus groups. The information contained in the Bid Book will provide the starting place for the focus groups.

Anticipated participants include:

- Vancouver Board of Trade and British Columbia Business Council;
- Greater Vancouver Regional District and City of Vancouver Social Planning Departments;
- Check your Head (an NGO that educates high school students on issues connected to globalization);
- *The Vancouver Sun*, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Co-op Radio, Indymedia;
- Partners in the Vancouver Agreement (federal, provincial and city governments);
- Downtown Eastside Residents Association;
- Dugout (a drop in social centre run by the United Church of Canada).

Key stakeholders will be invited to take part in a brief, semi-structured interview. We anticipate that interviewees will include key community leaders, and representatives of government and the respective Olympic Bid committees.

We also recognize that relevant contributions may reside in agencies or sources that are not immediately obvious. For example, work on street youth may hold valuable information. We will

work with the Project Working Group to develop a systematic search strategy that comprehensively examines a broad range of potential sources of information.

The proposed data collection involves multiple strategies that go into the process of creating useful questions for interviews and focus group including compilation of existing research-related documents and program/service descriptions and selecting stakeholders.

Research documents that reference the Olympic Games will be assembled for content analysis. Examples of documents to be collected include research on:

- The definition and scope of hallmark events;
- Research materials on how the approach to hosting the Olympic Games has been developed;
- Documents describing programs, services and resources to maximize the positive and minimize the negative elements of hosting the Olympic Games;
- Documents representing process and/or impact evaluations of the Olympic Games;
- Strategic plans for addressing social, economic and health problems associated with the Olympic Games (e.g., homelessness).

An overall research protocol will be circulated to a panel of project partners. Input from the panel will lead to revisions. An ethics review will be undertaken at UBC (Dr. Frankish is the Head of UBC's Ethics Review Committee).

Interview and focus group data will be transcribed and analyzed using NUD.IST software. Results will be of value and interest to the policy makers, service providers, community organizations, and researchers. IHPR has conducted similar interviews and focus groups with policy makers and service providers on their involvement in research, their use of research and their perceptions of needs for research.

SW3: Submission of an Outline for the Report

An outline of the proposed research report will be submitted to the Bullitt Foundation by March 15, 2003. The outline will recommend design specifications for the publishing and layout of the report. The PIs will submit recommendations for disseminating the report to key stakeholders. The plan will identify targets (researchers, policy-makers, community service, and program providers) and strategies (mailing lists, e-mail, bulletin boards, public health and government channels, etc.) for dissemination to both traditional (i.e., academics, government) and nontraditional partners (i.e., community-based groups). An effort will be made to produce a document suitable for submission to a peer-reviewed journal. An annotated bibliography will be produced.

SW4: Submission of the Final Research Paper

The final research paper report will be submitted to the Bullitt Foundation by April 30, 2003.

Anticipated Project Outcomes

The present project will lead to a framework for monitoring the Olympic Games from a community health perspective. In turn, this information will provide a conceptual architecture and empirical grounding for future Olympic Games and other hallmark events. More specifically, our work will produce a conceptual framework for defining the meaning of a 'healthy' Olympics. The framework will include the identification of specific characteristics and related measures/indicators of each characteristic. In turn, these will be connected to the specification of measurable targets/standards. The overall work will contribute to a critical synthesis and discussion of policy and practice

implications as they relate to the planning, implementation and evaluation of a healthy Olympic Games. This work will be disseminated in the form of appropriate community reports, policy briefings, research papers and media submissions.

The following conditions pertain to the reproduction, publication and/or distribution of the products of this project. These conditions have been used in previous work undertaken by IHPR.

The PIs will obtain written permission from the Bullitt Foundation and our community partners for use (including presentation, publication) of materials or products generated by this project for the period of this contribution agreement and three months beyond this agreement or any extensions.

Subsequent to the lapsing of the three months, IHPR will acknowledge the contribution of Bullitt Foundation in all publications or presentations. We will also provided the Bullitt Foundation with copies of relevant materials. IHPR and IOCC will be responsible for initial printing and distribution of the research report and related documents. IHPR and IOCC will be free to reproduce and distribute subsequent copies of the project products on a cost recovery basis.

Appendix A. IOCC Recommendations

The IOCC has been successful in ensuring that a number of the following recommendations are included in the Bid Corporation's Bid Book that was submitted to the International Olympic Committee on January 9, 2003. The IOCC, in collaboration with IHPR, will operationalize these recommendations, obtain community and stakeholder feedback and develop a report card that we will use to monitor the success of creating a healthy Olympic Games that benefit all community members.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY:

1. Give people a choice. Hold a referendum to let B.C. tax payers decide whether or not we should spend up to \$6 billion on the 2010 Vancouver/Whistler Olympic Games.
2. Provide information on the true cost of the bid. The Bid Corporation and its member partners must every quarter, fully disclose costs related to the Olympic bid.
3. Maximize benefits for all British Columbians. Guarantee that any returns on investments go back into social programs, health and education.

HOUSING:

1. Introduce SRO (Single Residence Occupancy) conversion and demolition regulations in the City of Vancouver. Low-income tenants in SRO hotels in the downtown core are vulnerable to Olympic related homelessness by the conversion of their homes to tourist use prior to and during the Games. The City of Vancouver has the ability, and is responsible to ensure, that the 2010 Olympic Games do not increase homelessness in Vancouver. Regulations need to be in place prior to the Games to prevent this from happening.
2. Prevent market driven displacement of tenants prior to the Games. Prior to most hallmark events, many tenants are subject to substantial rent increases or eviction for minor cosmetic renovations. This displacement enables landlords to cash in on Olympic-related temporary residents who are willing to pay inflated rents. The provincial government must maintain rent increase protection and close the loophole in the Residential Tenancy Act permitting eviction for cosmetic renovation.
3. Create a meaningful Olympic housing legacy. A percentage of housing at the proposed Athletes Village will be converted to future affordable housing. Provincial housing programs were recently cancelled and the waiting list for available units continues to grow. The Province should work with senior levels of government, the private sector and the community to create 2,010 units of affordable housing around the province for low-income families, singles, seniors, and people with disabilities prior the Games taking place.

TRANSPORTATION:

1. Make sustainable transportation legacies. The Bid Corporation advises that this bid is all about legacies. Ensure that legacies from the Olympics include at least as much long-lasting transit and active transportation investments as road investments. It is not acceptable, for example, to build roads on the one hand, and rent temporary transit services on the other hand. The bid should leave a legacy of transportation investments that are environmentally-sensitive and appropriate to a major sporting event, for instance a network of greenways, urban trails, etc.
2. Those who benefit, pay. Ensure that areas, companies and individuals who benefit from transportation investments shoulder the costs of those investments.

3. Environmental Assessments for major projects. Any proposed investments in projects costing more than \$100 million must, before proceeding to a detailed planning stage, undergo a review by the Auditor General, and a full environmental assessment by an independent body that considers:

- The impact of the project and alternative ways of meeting the needs the project is meant to address;
- The impacts of carrying out the project and of alternative ways of carrying out the project;
- The impact of the costs of construction and operation of the project on the future moneys available for buses and other transit and active transportation investments in the region.

4. Improve regional rail capacity and service. Improve the speed, frequency and capacity of passenger rail from Vancouver to Whistler and Seattle.

ENVIRONMENT:

1. Olympic bid efforts should not detrimentally affect air and water quality in the region. Winter Games can be particularly destructive to the environment since they take place outdoors in relatively isolated, snow-covered mountains that are suddenly overwhelmed with increased automobile traffic, waste production and energy consumption. Increased infrastructure, attractions and accommodations will undoubtedly have environmental repercussions. The bid process should incorporate waste reduction and recycling systems with respect to planning for its multiple sites. In addition, the bid process should consider more environmentally friendly methods of transportation (walking, transit and ridesharing).

2. Environmental legislation should not be vetoed in the name of Olympic development. Environmental studies are frequently deemed too lengthy during the accelerated period of development that occurs with the Olympics. As a result, the Bid Corporation and its partners must ensure that any development resulting from the 2010 Winter Olympics be subject to the environmental assessment act. Environmental legislation and enforcement of that legislation is necessary in order to maintain environmental standards.

3. Energy conservation strategies must be incorporated from the onset of planning for the Games. In order to ensure that environmental impacts are minimized, the Bid Corporation and its partners must develop a comprehensive waste management program including the minimization of waste generation and recycling all appropriate materials.

CIVIL LIBERTIES:

1. The Olympic Bid Corporation and its partners, in cooperation with the Vancouver Police Department, must put in place protocols that respect the rights of homeless and other marginalized persons affected by events in their area. The impact of a successful bid on the civil liberties of all Vancouver residents, especially those of marginalized persons who are most likely to be adversely affected, must be minimized. The fundamental liberties of persons to reside, move about and engage in their livelihoods should be protected. This means that there should be no ‘street sweeps’ to remove homeless or drug-addicted persons from city streets, nor should sex trade workers be harassed or otherwise forced to move from their regular places of business without adequate compensation.

2. Uphold the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms that protects fundamental freedoms such as freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom of peaceful assembly. These fundamental freedoms must be respected. There must be no bans on expressions of dissent and protest and meaningful opportunities for persons who wish to protest must be provided, as for

example by providing designated protest areas within reasonable proximity to the events and people against which persons wish to protest.

3. Implement the Four-Pillar Plan (prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and enforcement).

The City of Vancouver has been a leader in formulating progressive means to address the problems associated with drug use. A successful Olympic bid would provide the City, together with the senior levels of government, with an opportunity to showcase its leadership in this area through the full implementation of the Four-Pillar plan, in particular through the provision of adequate and effective prevention and treatment and harm reduction programs. All levels of government, with the support of the Olympic Bid Corporation, should act immediately to demonstrate their commitment to overcoming one of Vancouver's most pernicious social problems.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

1. Protect small businesses. Small businesses in the downtown core can be negatively impacted by hallmark events such as the Olympics. For example, restricted access to Olympic areas both before and after the event can result in loss of business. The Bid Corporation and its partners should create an insurance fund to protect local small businesses against losses incurred due to the Olympics.

2. Leverage community economic development initiatives for under-employed individuals and First Nations. The Olympics provide a world stage for local business, art, culture, and tourism. The Bid Corporation and its partners should use their purchasing power, as well as adapt progressive local procurement policies, to support small, local and emerging businesses. The Olympics should also be used to showcase the rest of the province's art and culture and tourism opportunities so that economic benefits flow to all areas of the province.

3. Provide training and employment for local under-employed citizens and First Nations. Mega-projects such as the expansion of the convention and exhibition centre (an integral component of Vancouver's 2010 Bid) provide excellent training and skill building opportunities for local under-employed and First Nations residents. The Bid Corporation and its partners should establish training and skill building programs for individuals currently out of the workforce in construction related trades, as well as service jobs. In addition, the Bid Corporation and its partners must ensure that these trained individuals are given the opportunity to find employment before the Games (during construction), during the Games (hotel and other service jobs) and after the Games (in the ongoing operation of the expanded Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre).

SECURITY, SAFETY AND SOVEREIGNTY:

1. Ensure the safety of the athletes, spectators and the residents. Implement measures to ensure the safety and security of all Olympic venues and services (e.g., transportation). The safety of residents in communities surrounding Olympic venues must be also be considered in all safety planning measures.

2. Canada must be in control of all security forces. Ensure Canadian sovereignty at all times. At no time should our internal security rest in the hands of non-Canadians.

Appendix B. IOCC Members

Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (B.E.S.T.) is a non-profit charitable organization that has been promoting environmentally sound transportation alternatives since 1991. B.E.S.T. strives to make our communities healthier places to live by promoting sustainable transportation, land-use planning and pedestrian, cycling, and transit oriented neighbourhoods. B.E.S.T. promotes a new vision for the unique beauty and diversity of our region—a vision inspired by imagination, passion, and cutting-edge models of sustainable transportation planning from around the world. www.best.bc.ca

Bus Riders Union www.tao.ca/~busriders/

The **Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA)** offers an alternative to the message that we have no choice about the policies that affect our lives. CCPA undertakes and promotes research on issues of social and economic justice. They produce research reports, books, opinion pieces, fact sheets and other publications, including *The Monitor*, a monthly digest of progressive research and opinion. www.bcpolicyalternatives.org

Carnegie Community Action Project (a project of the Carnegie Community Association) is committed to strengthening community participation in planning and development issues in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. The Carnegie Centre provides a range of social, recreational and educational programs for the residents of the Downtown Eastside. It is often described as the community's living room—a place where people can come to participate in programs or to simply relax and socialize with others.

The **Society Promoting Environmental Conservation (SPEC)** is a non-profit, charitable organization, supported mainly by members and volunteers. Since 1969, SPEC has been a leader in the effort to protect the ecology of British Columbia. In recent years, it has focused on environmental issues that affect urban communities, especially in the Lower Mainland. SPEC actively promotes environmental responsibility through education programs, publications, research, press releases, media presentations, public events and by being involved in the development of environmental policy. www.spec.org

The Tenants Rights Action Coalition (TRAC) is a Vancouver based coalition of groups and individuals working on tenants' rights and housing issues in British Columbia. TRAC works to improve legal protection for tenants, and to promote community action for the purpose of protecting and increasing the supply of affordable rental housing in B.C. www.tenants.bc.ca

The West End Residents' Association pursues liveability issues with governments and other organizations for residents of the West End neighbourhood of Vancouver.

Appendix C. IOCC Activities in 2002-2003

In 2002 the IOCC conducted three news conferences and was featured in the print media over 20 times, and on local radio and TV news over 20 times. The IOCC has revised and improved our Web site (www.olympicsforall.ca) featuring a wealth of information including our principles and recommendations, Coalition members and their contact information, as well as archives of media coverage. Also, in an effort to present the public with as broad a picture as possible, we have posted reports from the Bid Corporation, the provincial and civic governments, and relevant news articles from the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Games.

January 2002 Official public launch of the Impacts of the Olympics on Community Coalition. News conference attended by major media outlets. IOCC unveiled membership and goals, made recommendations regarding key issues surrounding the bid for the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic Games.

The IOCC met bi-weekly to broaden our research of the impacts of the Olympics on other cities and to further strengthen our recommendations to the levels of government involved in the bid process and the Bid Corporation.

February 2002 IOCC's first Community Forum on the Olympics held at the Sunrise Hotel, a social housing complex in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Presentations on key issues of housing, the environment, transportation, social impacts and the lessons learned from other hallmark events were made by IOCC partners, Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (B.E.S.T.), the Tenants Rights Action Coalition (TRAC), Rob VanWynsberghe (who was then with UBC's Sustainable Development Research Institute), Jim Green of the Downtown Eastside Residents' Association and Am Johal. About 75 people attended the forum.

March 2002 Members of the IOCC meet with development and communications staff of the Vancouver 2010 Bid Corporation to set out recommendations.

IOCC delegations make recommendations to Vancouver City Council on initiatives to regulate the demolition and conversion to other uses of Single Room Occupancy hotels (SRO). SROs play an important role in the housing needs of low-income inner city residents. SRO housing stock is vulnerable to conversion to tourist uses leading up to the Olympics. Vancouver City Council defeats a motion to protect SROs.

IOCC hosts public forum at Vancouver Community College. Keynote speaker is Glenn Bailey of Crossroads Urban Center, a community based social service agency in Salt Lake City. Mr Bailey spoke about the Salt Lake City experience leading up to and including the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympic Games. The IOCC facilitated meetings with Mr. Bailey and officials of the 2010 Bid Corporation.

IOCC calls for a public referendum on the 2010 Winter Games and an independent arms-length social impact study.

April 2002 As a result of IOCC calls for an impact study the Vancouver 2010 Bid Corporation partners, the City of Vancouver and the Province of British Columbia agree to fund a community impact assessment. The Bid partners also strike a working group to investigate impacts and opportunities as they relate to the winter games. Members of Vancouver's inner city, including members of the IOCC, are invited to sit on the Inner City Inclusive Work Group.

May 2002 The IOCC hosts another public forum on the Olympics with Dr. Helen Jefferson Lenskyj as keynote speaker at Simon Fraser University Harbour Centre. Dr. Lenskyj has written a number of books on the Olympics.

IOCC members meet with *Vancouver Sun* editorial board.

June 2002 IOCC attends tri-lateral announcement of government funding for Vancouver 2010 Winter Games, makes repeated call for a provincial referendum.

July 2002 IOCC members from B.E.S.T, TRAC and individuals Am Johal and Jim Green meet with Chair of Olympic Bid Corporation and selected Bid Directors.

August 2002 IOCC meets with leaders of First Nations to determine areas of mutual concerns and agreement. Agree to work together on common issues.

IOCC attend announcement of Vancouver being short listed as candidate city, at the same time the IOCC releases its recommendations to the Bid Corporation, Olympic partners and media.

October 2002 IOCC co-sponsored a two-day public forum on the impacts of the Olympics. The IOCC facilitated the attendance of two of experts on the impacts of Olympic Games on rental housing: Kris Olds is a professor of Urban Planning at the University of Wisconsin and author of *Hallmark Events, Evictions and Housing Rights*; Michael Shapcott is a Toronto based housing advocate and chair the National Housing and Homelessness Network. Both speakers presented keynote speeches and conducted workshops on the issues relating to the Olympic Games.

December 2003 New IOCC Chair, Kevin Shoesmith, participated in numerous radio and television interviews discussing the decision of the newly elected Vancouver City Council to hold a referendum. The interview provided excellent venues for the IOCC to express our hopes and fears regarding the 2010 Winter Games, while also affording us the opportunity to detail the ways in which we believe the 2010 Winter Games could be the best Olympics ever.

January 2003 IOCC briefs the newly elected Coalition of Progressive Electors City Council to give a history of our organization and to provide an overview of our recommendations and the ways in which the City of Vancouver could play a positive role in creating a healthy Olympic Games. Members of the IOCC also met with the Mayor to elaborate on our recommendations and to encourage the City to support our recommendations. Since October IOCC has also participated in the InnerCity Inclusive Work Group, which was formed by the Bid Corporation and its member partners (the City of Vancouver, the Provincial and Federal Governments). The aim of the InnerCity Inclusive Work Group is to make recommendations and look at impacts and opportunities the Games will have on the Inner City. We believe it was through the pressure the IOCC put on the Bid Corporation that the working group was established.