

COPE stalwart endorses Olympic bid

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VANCOUVER - Vancouver city councillor Jim Green has officially announced his support for Vancouver's bid for the 2010 Winter Olympic games, saying it represents an opportunity for the city.

- INDEPTH: [Road to 2010](#)

Green says he's backing the effort to get the Games, because of the promise of social housing in the Vancouver bid book. He says he likes the commitment to turn part of the athletes' village over to social housing after the Games.

'That government is opposed to social housing, yet we got 300 units from the athletes' village, 100 units from Woodward's' – **Jim Green**



Councillor Jim Green

He also says his support is also the result of the city's recent purchase of the old Woodward's building from the province.

- FROM JAN. 29, 2003: [City buys Woodward's from province](#)

He says he understands some people are opposed to the Olympic bid, because of their unhappiness over the B.C. Liberals' spending cuts – but Green says they need to keep the issues separate.

"If people think that if we lose the bid that Gordon Campbell is going to invest in education and health care, I think they don't understand the ideology that's driving that government."

"That government is opposed to social housing, yet we got 300 units from the athletes' village. We got 100 from Woodward's. So I'm using our position here to try and make this the best city we can and the best Olympics we can."

- FROM DEC. 16, 2002: [Green links Woodward's to Olympic bid](#)

Green is seen as having a lot of influence with traditional supporters of the Coalition of Progressive Electors (COPE), which now controls Vancouver city hall.

He says he won't wear an Olympic bid pin, noting he's not much of a "tap dancer" when it comes to showing support for this sort of campaign for a yes vote in the upcoming referendum.

- FROM DEC. 11, 2002: [City council approves Olympic referendum](#)

However, not all COPE councillors support hosting the Olympics. On Tuesday, councillor Tim Louis took just the opposite stand, telling *The Early Edition* he is not an Olympic supporter.

"I am opposed to the Olympics, because of sound economic concerns. The Olympics, at the end of the day, may end up not producing any net new gain in employment or job creation.

Vancouver residents vote on the Olympic bid in a plebiscite on Feb. 22.