

INNER-CITY INCLUSIVITY (ICI)

Update: January 2006



Vancouver is in the unique position of being the first Olympic and Paralympic Games Host City to have developed, during the Bid Phase, a multi-party agreement that commits the local Games Organizing Committee and its government partners (federal, provincial, civic) to specific goals and legacies in the areas of social sustainability and inner-city inclusion.

The Inner-City Inclusive Commitment (ICI) Statement was developed by a working group that included representatives from a variety of inner-city community organizations and government agencies and the Vancouver 2010 Bid Corporation. Made up of 14 commitment areas, and 37 individual commitments, the ICI Commitment Statement was subsequently adopted by Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC) and the federal, provincial and civic governments.

The ICI commitments seek to address issues related to employment and training, business opportunities, housing, civil liberties and public safety, community sports and culture, health and social services, environment, transportation, accessible and affordable Games, financial guarantees, input to decision-making, and neighbourliness.

Development of the ICI commitments was guided by a community assessment associated with the hosting of hallmark events by Ference Weicker & Company under the auspices of the Vancouver Agreement (VA) in cooperation with the Vancouver 2010 Bid Corporation. The intent of this independent assessment was to identify strategies to maximize the benefits of the Games and minimize any potential adverse impacts on three of Vancouver's inner-city communities: Downtown Eastside (DTES), Downtown South and Mt. Pleasant.

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS TO DATE

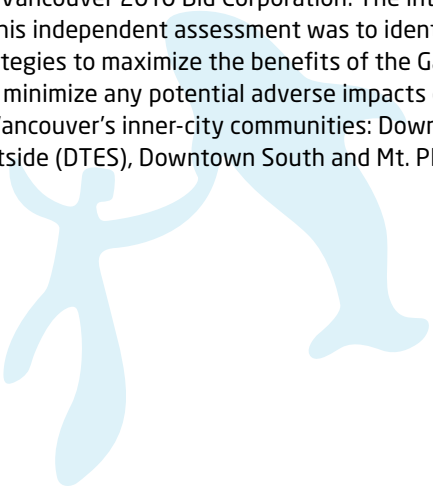
Business development and employment training:

The Vancouver Agreement has led the development of a strategy to implement the ICI commitments relating to business development and employment and training. Highlights of this strategy include:

- The development of an overarching Economic Policy Framework that focuses on the goal of 'economic revitalization without displacement' in the Downtown Eastside.
- The integration of several existing inner-city economic development initiatives into a new independent economic agency (Building Opportunities with Business Inner-City Society) designed to maximize employment and procurement opportunities for inner-city residents and businesses.
- Working with VANOC, the securing of \$2 million in direct funding from Bell Canada, as part of its Games sponsorship, to support strategic economic initiatives in the inner city.

VANOC has committed to purchasing locally through its use of Building Opportunities with Business Inner-City Society's Social Purchasing Portal. More than \$60,000 has been spent on locally purchased computer systems and catering. VANOC has selected a local inner-city company to supply its office and stationary needs. VANOC's member partners and corporate sponsors are also encouraged to join the portal.

VANOC and the Vancouver Agreement have hosted several community workshops to begin to develop goals, action plans and measurable outcomes in trades training, inner-city community engagement and business engagement.





Housing:

New low-income housing has been funded:

- 200 non-market housing units have been allocated to the Woodward's redevelopment.
- 98 units allocated to 55 East Hastings St.
- The Granville Hotel has been renovated with 83 self-contained units.
- Planning has begun for 250 non-market housing units in the False Creek Athletes' Village.
- The City of Vancouver has adopted new by-laws (Single Room Accommodation By-Law; legalization of secondary suites) and policy plans related to low-income housing (the Downtown Eastside Housing Plan and the Homeless Action Plan).

Youth, Sport and Culture:

2010 Legacies Now has launched several initiatives to encourage youth in the inner city to become more active and engage in sports, culture and the arts including:

- The Chill program is a partnership of 2010 Legacies Now, the Vancouver Agreement, Bell Canada and Cypress Mountain, which provides an after-school learn-to-snowboard program for at-risk inner-city youth aged 12-24. Chill provides all equipment, transportation, clothing, lift tickets, and instruction for participants of this six-week program. In addition, 2010 Legacies Now is providing project funding for More Sports, a community initiative that provides volunteer and sports opportunities for East Vancouver youth.
- The City of Vancouver has launched Get Out! grants for new recreation programs and for youth and community partnerships, including research into how to encourage youth to become more active.
- A Downtown Eastside Arts and Cultural Strategy and Investment Plan is being funded through the Vancouver Agreement, 2010 Legacies Now, the provincial Ministry of Tourism, Sports and the Arts, and The City of Vancouver's Office of Cultural Affairs.

NEXT STEPS

Joint responsibility for implementation of the ICI commitments lies with VANOC in partnership with the Government of Canada, the Province of British Columbia, the City of Vancouver, the Vancouver Agreement, and 2010 Legacies Now. As an initial step in delivery of the ICI Commitment Statement, VANOC and its partners are establishing an implementation framework that builds on the original community consultations. In 2006, the framework will involve establishment of sectoral tables that will include community members and agencies, businesses, and government representatives. A mechanism will also be developed for more broadly based community engagement to ensure that inner-city communities are involved in the implementation of the commitments.

The Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, is positioned to leverage business opportunities towards its social sustainability and inclusion goals. VANOC and its partners will continue to be guided by the commitments of the ICI statement in the creation of projects that will support ongoing sustainable socio-economic development in Vancouver's inner-city neighbourhoods.

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