

VANCOUVER-WHISTLER WARNED OF OLYMPIC DOWNSIDE
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VANCOUVER--

A Salt Lake City community activist says the social cost of hosting the Winter Olympics there this year outweighs the benefits, and warns that hosting the 2010 Winter Olympics would be bad news for Vancouver and Whistler.

Linda Hilton who sits on the Humanitarian Services Committee of the Salt Lake City Olympic Committee says this year's Olympics are already causing problems.

"We are starting to see people being evicted from their apartments to make way for Olympic visitors," she says. "We are starting to see street closures and security fences going up, which is making it harder for some of our homeless people and pedestrians to get around."

A spokesperson for the Vancouver-Whistler bid argues that the B.C. Olympic bid will generate funding for new infrastructure and become a positive legacy for the Lower Mainland.

"You have to think of the long-term benefit of hosting and the legacies that are left for the community, the tangible legacy such as housing or new sport venues and the intangible legacies of community spirit," says Sam Corea.

He says community concerns will be taken seriously before the B.C. bid is finalized.