



Watchdog group calls for Olympic referendum

Vancouver - A Vancouver community group is calling for a referendum on Vancouver's 2010 bid for the 2010 Winter Olympics.

The group, Impact of the Olympics on the Community, says B.C. taxpayers should be formally consulted before billions of dollars are spent on bringing the Olympics to our province.

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Spokesperson Am Johal says he isn't opposed to the bid, but says there are questions about public spending priorities.

"In the context of hospitals being shut down in rural B.C., courthouses, legal services being cut back, massive cutbacks to welfare services, we think that there needs to be a public dialogue," he says.

Johal says a referendum would allow voters to decide whether the games are worth \$4 billion.

An Olympic referendum has been held before – in Denver, Colorado in 1970.

Residents there voted 57 per cent against hosting the games, making Denver the first city to decline an invitation to host the Olympics.