

Whistler Council Fails To Support Vancouver's 2010 Bid
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A motion to officially support Vancouver's bid for the 2010 Winter Olympic bid failed when it wasn't seconded by Whistler city council.

Whistler Mayor Hugh O'Reilly said the municipality's endorsement of the bid depends on the completion of a deal of pre-Olympic legacies and an indemnification agreement with the province.

O'Reilly said the bid corporation hasn't asked Whistler for a resolution supporting the bid.

Although the mini-bid book lists Whistler as the venue for alpine and Nordic skiing events, Whistler is still in negotiations with the province. The B.C. government is expected to provide the municipality with a land bank – the site for an athlete's village – and to permit expansion of municipal boundaries.

Meanwhile, although polls by the 2010 Olympic Bid Corporation show support for the bid, a poll done for the Society Promoting Environmental Conservation says that only 19.7 per cent of British Columbians are prepared to spend public funds on the Olympic Games.

Spending for the Olympics rated last behind transit, environmental protection, police and public safety, education and health care.

But good PR could do wonders for an Olympic bid. Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham was plugging Vancouver's bid during a meeting of G8 foreign ministers in Whistler.

Speaking at the closing press conference Graham said, "I am sure you will all agree with us that this is a magnificent venue for a meeting and I invite you all to come back in the winter and judging by the hospitality you received here this would be an excellent place for the 2010 Winter Olympics with the Vancouver Whistler region".