

Whistler Holdings Put Olympic Minister in Potential Conflict NDP Newsrelease Sept 5, 2002

Ted Nebbeling stands to benefit from successful bid, Sea-to-Sky upgrades
- MacPhail

Vancouver-Whistler 2010 bid minister, Ted Nebbeling, stands to personally benefit from the government's plan to secure the 2010 Olympics by upgrading the Sea-to-Sky Highway to Whistler, Opposition Leader Joy MacPhail said today. Nebbeling has considerable property holdings in Whistler, the value of which will increase significantly if the Sea-to-Sky Highway is expanded. "Mr. Nebbeling's aggressive advocacy to expand the Sea-to-Sky highway has, at the very least, the appearance of a conflict of interest," said MacPhail "Mr. Nebbeling should either divest himself of his holdings immediately, or ask to be relieved of his Olympic responsibilities."

In his financial disclosure statement, Nebbeling reports that he owns five pieces of commercial property in Whistler through a privately controlled corporation and a residential property. In media reports last week, Nebbeling said that an upgraded Sea-to-Sky highway could be key to winning the 2010 bid.

"It's well understood that members of Cabinet have a responsibility to steer clear of participating in decisions, or advocating on behalf of initiatives that might benefit them personally," said MacPhail. "The Premier has put Mr. Nebbeling in a very sticky situation and he should relieve him of his responsibilities.

MacPhail said the premier is going to have a difficult job selling the public on the Olympics as a high priority for B.C. while his government is bussing kids to Alberta for school, forcing cancer patients to pay out of pocket for their drugs, and ensuring that low-income single-moms can't afford daycare.

"The situation is clear: Mr. Nebbeling has a personal financial stake in winning the bid and expanding the highway. Surely Mr. Campbell can find someone more credible in his backbench to take charge of the bid."

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