
FACTSHEET

February 1, 2010

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Government of British Columbia

Olympic Security

The Province of British Columbia is committed to ensuring a safe and secure Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, while upholding and respecting the Charter rights of all Canadians, including the right to peacefully express opinions. The Province is working with the Government of Canada to ensure that appropriate policing levels will be in effect during the Games. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police are leading security planning for the Games through the Vancouver 2010 Integrated Security Unit.

- To enjoy safe and successful Winter Games, a balance must exist between individual rights and security provided by police to ensure the safety of athletes and the public.
- Police will not restrict peaceful protest. Police will focus on preventing and investigating criminal acts to protect the public's right to attend the Games safely.
- If members of the public have concerns, processes exist to file complaints against either the RCMP or municipal police.
- It is important to keep in mind that police have the right to ask questions and gather information. Police will respect the rights of citizens as afforded them under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
- The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms underscores the right of individuals to peacefully express their opinions and views. While upholding this right, the Vancouver 2010 Integrated Security Unit will balance the demonstrators' democratic right to free speech with the duty to ensure the safety and security of residents, businesses and their property – as well as the safety of visitors to Canada.
- The Vancouver 2010 Integrated Security Unit is committed to and will uphold and respect the Charter rights of individuals in accordance with Canadian laws – while ensuring a safe and secure Winter Games for Canadians and visitors to Canada.

CONTACT

Karen Johnston

Communications Director

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

(250) 356-1196

Karen.V.Johnston@gov.bc.ca

Donna Sitter

Manager, Media Relations and Issues Management
Policing and Community Safety Branch
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
250 387-3520

Donna.Sitter@gov.bc.ca

On behalf of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Policing and Community Safety Branch is responsible for superintending policing and law enforcement functions in British Columbia. The primary responsibilities are to:

- ensure central oversight of all policing;
- administer policing policy;
- oversee the funding and organization of provincial and municipal RCMP police forces through contracts;
- collect, monitor and report on provincial crime and police data;
- conduct research, provide analysis and interpretation of provincial crime data; and
- ensure adequate and effective levels of policing enforcement throughout British Columbia on behalf of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

WEB RESOURCES

Public Safety and Solicitor General: <http://www.gov.bc.ca/pssg/>

Province of BC - Olympics related website:

<http://www.gov.bc.ca/themes/2010olympics/index.html>

Vancouver 2010 Integrated Security Unit: <http://bc.rcmp.ca/> Under “Highlights” section, click on Vancouver 2010 Integrated Security Unit.

MEDIA COVERAGE

Downtown Eastside residents told Games won't disrupt them - Globe and Mail, Page S04, 28-Mar-2009 (transcript attached)

Security chief warns of planned 'criminal' protests - Globe and Mail, Page S01, 08-Jul-2009 (transcript attached)

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For assistance or more information:

Public Safety and Solicitor General
Media line: (250) 356-6961
After Hours Media line: (250) 213-3602