



## **Press Release Northern BC Winter Games Society**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 18, 2007

In February 2007, the Northern BC Winter Games Society unanimously approved a motion to move their Games from an annual celebration of sport and community to a biennial event. The change will take effect in February 2011, as communities for 2008, 2009, and 2010 have already been named.

The change in hosting rotation recognizes the energy and resources required to host a Northern BC Winter Games, and the limited communities available to host the Games in the north.

Moving the Games to every second year provides time for host communities to build up their internal resources while considering all sport and cultural events available for hosting across the north. An overall review of sport participation will be conducted in late 2009 to determine how provincial sport organizations will fit within this two-year cycle.

The Northern BC Winter Games are the fourth Games to move to a biennial model, with the BC Winter and BC Summer Games having moved in 1997 and the BC Disability Games realigning in 2006.

“We are proud of the many volunteers who provide a system of support for those athletes’ training for the Games,” said Stan Hagen, Minister Responsible for Sport in B.C. “The move to every other year will enable communities to build up their volunteer base and provide an even better experience.”

To bridge the gap of a “no Games year”, the society plans to host an educational event in the even-calendar years to enhance the contributions of volunteer and sport resources available in northern BC. The society envisions the off-year event as a large-scale sport-related educational forum focused on building upon the skill sets of athletes, coaches, and volunteers throughout the region. This event will not only enhance and compliment many aspects of the Games related to hosting, volunteering, and participating, but it will draw additional interest in the Games themselves and will also serve as a catalyst for sport development in northern BC

in general. A city has not yet been selected to host this pan-Northern BC Sport Summit.

“Staging Games every other year respects the community volunteer and their commitment and dedication, while allowing us to do something different and new.” said President of the Northern BC Winter Games Society, Bob Irwin. “Our mandate is ‘to be the northern opportunity for sport and community development’ and the sport summit fits perfectly within that scope.”

The decision to move to biennial Games was made with the support of the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts, the Northern Society’s principle funder and the BC Games Society, our partner in the delivery of the Games.

The Northern BC Winter Games provides many British Columbian athletes with a top-quality multi-sport experience, the first for many. The Sport Summit will enhance this experience and create new opportunities.

The bid package for the 2011 and 2013 Northern BC Winter Games will be released in late January 2008 with applications due that spring. Further details on the sport summit will be released in early 2011.

For further information, contact Bob Irwin, President, 250-632-1507, [info@northernbcwintergames.org](mailto:info@northernbcwintergames.org).

For information about the Games or to get involved, go to [www.northernbcwintergames.org](http://www.northernbcwintergames.org).