



## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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### Northern BC Winter Games return to Fort St. John

FORT ST. JOHN – The City of Fort St. John has been selected to host the 2007 Northern BC Winter Games, the Honourable John Les, Minister Responsible for Sport announced today. “The Northern BC Winter Games promote this province’s long tradition of amateur athletic excellence and drive local economies by enhancing sport facilities and leaving a legacy of skilled volunteers,” said Minister Les. “Northern BC communities have shown tremendous dedication to amateur sport and community spirit through these Games. The entire province will generate that same spirit and energy when we host the world in 2010.”

The Northern BC Winter Games, held annually since 1975, provide an opportunity for all northern residents to compete in an organized sports festival, which promotes physical fitness, individual achievement, and community pride. The four-day event, held in early February, brings together athletes, coaches, and officials from across northern BC.

"The Energetic City is pleased to have been chosen for a record fifth time as host for the Northern BC Winter Games," expressed Fort St. John Mayor, Steve Thorlakson. "As the original birthplace of the Games, and as host of the 1984 BC Winter Games, our community and volunteers have a wealth of experience to draw on."

In addition to sport competitions and community spirit, the Northern BC Winter Games make a substantial economic impact in the host community. "It is estimated that the Games will generate about \$750,000 in economic activity for our community. This is good news that all of our local businesses will welcome," said Peace River North MLA Richard Neufeld.

The Board of Directors of the Northern BC Winter Games Society looks forward to the Fort St. John 2007 Northern BC Winter Games. President, Bob Irwin added, "This community has shown the northern spirit and hospitality in hosting past Games and we are confident they will do so again."

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