

March 2, 2010

BACKGROUND

A RENEWED EMPHASIS ON SPORTS AND THE ARTS

Budget 2010 builds on the momentum of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games by providing \$60 million over three years to support community engagement in the arts and youth sports.

The new 2010 Sports and Arts Legacy will dedicate \$30 million, or 50 per cent of the funding over three years to increased participation in sport, with an emphasis on youth, and improved athlete and coach development. Funding being considered under the sport legacy program includes:

- Enhanced after-school programs and funding for coach development.
- An expanded KidSport program to reduce the financial barriers faced by families whose children wish to participate in organized sport.
- Establishing a “Sport on the Move” program to help school teams, particularly those in remote areas, with travel costs.
- Creating new regional sport academies that expand the role of B.C.’s regional centres focused on the province’s next generation of elite athletes.

The other \$30 million of the 2010 Sports and Arts Legacy will enhance opportunities for all British Columbians in the arts, including participation in music, theatre, visual arts, dance and digital media. Programs may include:

- Regional events that reflect the diversity of communities and include multi-disciplinary arts presentations and performances by artists and performers in various communities, with a possibility of showcasing in larger centres.

- Developing community cultural initiatives by supporting ideas for local employment with the potential for internships, mentorships, and collaboration to enhance local cultural development.
- Developing new arts or cultural product idea “incubators” (digital media, for example) to generate economic benefits. By integrating creative ideas in education and business and with the appropriate nurturing, ideas could become commercialized within a specified time frame.

The programs are still under development and eligibility criteria will be finalized in the coming weeks.

Building a Legacy: Investments in Sport in B.C.

Budget 2010 also provides for a strong and coordinated sport structure in B.C. by encouraging broad participation in sport and physical activity, and supporting elite athletes in their pursuit of excellence. In 2010/11, funding to support sport, recreation and ActNow BC activities will total \$14.8 million, and \$22.9 million will be provided to sport organizations through Community Gaming Grants. The total provincial contribution, including the \$10 million in new 2010 Sports and Arts Legacy funding to sports and recreation, will be \$47.7 million in 2010/11.

B.C.’s Commitment to Arts and Culture

Government recognizes arts and culture as core values in our society. In 2010/11, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts funding to support arts and culture will total \$24.6 million, and a further \$11.5 million will be provided to organizations through the Community Gaming Grants program.

The 2010 Sports and Arts Legacy funding sets the foundation for the province of tomorrow, today. The total provincial contribution, including this additional \$10 million in funding for arts and culture, will be \$46.1 million.

Government has also distributed over \$134 million through the B.C. Arts Council since 2001 to help individuals and organizations involved with the arts. In addition to annual Arts Council funding, the Province has also provided significant funding to arts and culture groups in B.C. through gaming grants, and in 2008 established a \$150 million endowment to create the BC150 Cultural Fund.

To keep B.C. competitive in the digital marketplace, the Province has also introduced a new tax credit incentive package for digital media that recognizes the convergence taking place within the film, television, video game and animation sectors. The Province also intends to establish a new campus for the Emily Carr University of Art + Design in the Lower Mainland to support the growth and development of new talent and the creative industries.

Funding Sustains Olympic Legacies

Budget 2010 builds on direct investments of over \$1 billion in sport since 2001, including infrastructure (more than \$655 million), support for community clubs and teams (more than \$200 million) and sport programming (more than \$155 million including sport event hosting). The Province's investment has leveraged an additional \$580 million from Canada and brings the total investment in sport to more than \$1.5 billion since 2001.

Our strong and vibrant sport system has enabled the 35 Olympic athletes from B.C. to achieve success at the 2010 Winter Games, thanks in part to support from the Province's \$10-million investment in Own the Podium and \$40-million Olympic legacy funding for B.C.'s Integrated Performance System.

B.C. has also invested \$17 million in First Nations' Olympic Legacies including the Aboriginal Youth Sport Legacy Fund. Through the Aboriginal Youth Sport Legacy Fund more than \$1 million has been distributed to Aboriginal communities, organizations and high-performance athletes throughout B.C.

There is also an existing endowment of \$20 million comprising the Arts Legacy Fund, the earnings of which support increased arts and cultural activities leading up to and beyond the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. The Province also provided over \$16 million in funding for arts to 2010 Legacies Now, and invested \$1.3 million in the Cultural Olympiad.

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For the Finance Minister's speech and more details on *Budget 2010*, visit www.bcbudget.ca.

Visit the Province's website at www.gov.bc.ca for online information and services.

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