

Victoria Times Colonist - July 29, 2006

Dear Editor:

The provincial government has never been clearer on where we stand on the 2010 Winter Games budget. The Province made a firm \$600 million commitment to the staging of the 2010 Winter Games, a commitment we are honouring to the taxpayers of B.C.

Your editorial suggests I lack confidence the Games budget, which could not be further from the truth. VANOC has not asked for more than the \$600 million commitment we made. Last fall, VANOC did ask for \$55 million from the contingency fund within our \$600 million commitment. I stated then, and will state again now, the Province plans to work in partnership with the federal government in approving these matching funds.

We have learned a lot from the Torino Winter Games but you cannot compare the venue situation in Turin to that in Vancouver. Turin had to build three media villages. Vancouver doesn't. Turin had to build a new hockey arena. Vancouver doesn't. We are using our existing world class facilities. VANOC's strategy also calls for most of the competition venues to be complete in 2008, ensuring we will not face last minute construction costs. Many Olympic construction contracts have already been tendered and work is already underway.

The provincial government has been unwavering in our support for the Games. We will continue to do our due diligence to ensure they will leave positive lasting legacies for the entire province.

Sincerely,

Colin Hansen
Minister of Economic Development
and Minister responsible for the Asia-Pacific Initiative
and the Olympics