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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Office of the Premier  
Ministry of Economic Development

### **ABORIGINAL ART TO WELCOME WORLD TO B.C.-CANADA PLACE**

VANCOUVER – First Nations artwork will greet visitors to British Columbia-Canada Place in Torino thanks to the carved doors created by Squamish artist *tawx'sin yexwulla*, Aaron Nelson-Moody and unveiled today by Premier Gordon Campbell.

“The unique culture of B.C.’s Aboriginal people is so much a part of our province and it is fitting that a part of that tradition be front and centre in Torino as we introduce the world to the host location of the next Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games,” Campbell said. “We’re honoured and proud to have the Four Host First Nations for 2010 partner with us to showcase all our province has to offer and to give people a taste of what they can expect when they come to B.C. a little over four years from now.”

“The Four Host First Nations have always opened our doors and our homes to share our rich culture and traditions, and we look forward to welcoming the world in 2010,” said Squamish First Nations Chief Bill Williams.

“As a member of the Four Host First Nations, it is a real honour to have worked on these doors, to be able to share my talents and continue this practice of passing on our culture,” said *tawx'sin yexwulla*, Aaron Nelson-Moody.

B.C.-Canada Place was built with beetle-killed lodgepole pine harvested from the province’s interior forests by Sitka Log Homes and the doors are the final piece to be shipped to Torino. B.C.-Canada Place has been designed to exhibit British Columbia’s business, tourism and cultural opportunities at the 2006 Winter Games in Torino, Italy, and is scheduled to open to the public on January 15. The project is managed by the B.C. Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Secretariat.

“When the Winter Games close in Italy and the world looks at our businesses, our people and our culture, we want them to see the entire province. We want to highlight our diversity and numerous assets,” said Economic Development Minister Colin Hansen. “The Olympic and Paralympic Games have always been about excellence, opportunity and inclusion and that spirit will have a strong presence at 2010 Winter Games.”

From the bid phase, First Nations have played an important role in British Columbia’s Olympic involvement. The Four Host Nations Secretariat is working closely with the Province on a number of Olympic projects. Lil'wat First Nations Chief Leonard Andrew, Musqueam First Nations Chief Ernie Campbell, Squamish First Nations Chief Bill Williams and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations Chief Leah George-Wilson, along with the Province, are devoted to creating partnerships that ensure lasting First Nations legacies and showcase the extraordinary First Nations culture to the world.

Any business interested in becoming involved in the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games should register with the 2010 Commerce Centre at <http://www.2010commercecentre.gov.bc.ca/>. Once registered, businesses will receive notices on the economic opportunities leading up to the 2010 Winter Games.

More information on B.C.-Canada Place is available online at <http://www.bccanadaplace.ca/>.

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