

olimpic2010

Canadian Winter Olympics The 2010 Winter Olympics is a major international multi-sport event held on February 12–28, 2010, in Vancouver, BC, with some events held in the resort town of Whistler, and in the Vancouver suburbs of Richmond, West Vancouver and the University Endowment Lands. These are the third Olympics hosted by Canada. Previously, Canada was home to the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal, Quebec and the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary, Alberta. Following Olympic tradition, the Olympic flag was received during the closing ceremony of the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy and was displayed at Vancouver City Hall. The flame was lit in Olympia, Greece, on October 22, 2009. In Canada, the torch traveled approximately 45,000 kilometers over 106 days. Celebrity torchbearers included Arnold Schwarzenegger, Steve Nash, Bob Costas, Shania Twain, Sidney Crosby, Wayne Gretzky and others. The lines from the Canadian national anthem – "With Gglowing Hearts" (in English) and "Des Plus Brilliants Exploits" (in French) – are used as the official slogans for the games. Alexey Morozov, an ice-hockey player from the Russian sport team, bore the flag of the Russian Federation during the opening ceremony of the 2010 Olympics. Fifteen winter sports events have been announced as part of the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Concerns and Controversies Opening ceremonies were stalled while organizers recovered from mechanical problems. Speed skating events were delayed for over an hour when both ice resurfacers experienced mechanical failures. About 28,000 tickets for spectator places along the slopes of a number of outside events were recalled for safety reasons. Visitors were also upset by a twenty dollar charge to attend ceremonies to honor medal-winning athletes. Traditionally, these ceremonies had always been free of charge. Opposition Members of the Native Warriors Society pose with the stolen Winter Olympics flag, while holding a Mohawk Warriors Society flag. Opposition to holding the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver has been expressed by many of activists and politicians, including Lower Mainland mayors Derek Corrigan and Richard Walton. Many of the public Olympic events held to date in Vancouver have been attended by protesters. Some of reasons for the opposition are outlined in the documentary film Five Ring Circus and in Helen Jefferson Lensky's books Olympic Industry Resistance (2007) and Inside the Olympic Industry (2000).